

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869



Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Blacksburg High School Band experiences an “awe inspiring” performance at Carnegie Hall



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DARRELL PEARMAN
The Blacksburg High School Band, under the direction of director Darrell Pearman, performs at Carnegie Hall in New York City last week.

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City is joining the ranks of some of the most internationally recognized and talented performers in history, and

now the Blacksburg High School Band is among them.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Billy Holiday, Bill Withers, and rock bands like The Allman Brothers and The Beatles are just some of the renowned and diverse entertainers that have appeared at this architectural

marvel since its opening in 1891, according to Carnegie Hall's website, www.carnegiehall.org.

“Last spring, about a year ago, we received an invitation to apply, based on the previous reputation

See **Carnegie Hall**, page 4

Conditional Use Permit requested for Blacksburg hotel project

BLACKSBURG - The Blacksburg Planning and Building Department has received a Conditional Use Permit request for hotel use and increased height above 60 feet in the Midtown Development at 501 South Main St.

The request is for a 155-room hotel in the Downtown Commercial (DC) zoning district. The Conditional Use Permit for hotel use and additional height is for an AC Hotel by Marriott and is proposed to be located on the parcel known as Midtown DC Parcel 2. The proposed development fronts on South Main Street. The height of the building is proposed to be a maximum of 75 feet which is greater than the maximum 60 feet permitted in the DC zoning district thus a Conditional Use Permit must be granted per §3141 (c) of the Blacksburg Zoning Ordinance. A Hotel/Motel use is permitted as a CUP in the DC zoning district per §3141 (b). The Future Land Use (FLU) is Downtown Commercial. The proposed use is consistent with the FLU designation.

The following meetings have been scheduled to consider this application:

Neighborhood Meeting: Thursday, April 6, 2023; 6 p.m.; Blacksburg Motor Company building at 400 South Main St.

Planning Commission Work Session: April 18, 2023; 5 p.m.; Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers, Second Floor Municipal building, 300 South Main St.

Planning Commission Public Hearing: May 2, 2023; 6:30 p.m.; Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers, Second Floor Municipal building, 300 South Main St.

Please visit www.blacksburg.gov/publichearings for more information or contact the Planning and Building Department at 540-443-1300.

-Submitted by the Town of Blacksburg

MountainTrotter Arts announces the debut of West End Weekend

The three-day celebration of music, art, food, and community on May 12 - 14



RADFORD - MountainTrotter Arts had announced a big change in their summer programming.

West End Wednesdays is now West End Weekend, what organizers are calling a “jam-packed, art-filled celebration” taking place at Glencoe Mansion and Long Way Brewing during the weekend of May 12 - 14, 2023.

The festivities will kick off with an opening reception for the Radford Photo Club at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery from 5:30 - 7 p.m. on Friday, May 12. Visitors will be able to meet the local photographers while browsing works that will be on exhibit through the end of June.

On Saturday, May 13, MTA will launch its West End Weekend Festival from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The event

is modeled after MTA's popular Craft & Draft festival, scheduled for October 21, 2023. The West End Weekend Festival will feature more than 30 artisan vendors, live music from The Breakfast Club and FloydFest On-the-Rise band Appalachian Space Train, four food trucks, and an array of craft beers. The event will take place on the upper lawn at Glencoe Mansion. As always, admission is free, but donations are welcomed.

“Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and well-mannered dogs, too!”

On Sunday, May 14, Long Way Brewing will wrap up the weekend with Market Day at Long Way from 1 - 5 p.m. A dozen artisan vendors will be on site to browse and shop as visitors sip on Long Way Brewing's signature craft brews.

Throughout the weekend, MTA will be selling flowers as a fundraiser in conjunction with Gates Flowers & Gifts. Proceeds from these sales will be donated to the Women's Resource Center. These single stems will make a great gift for Mother's Day and will help support victims of domestic and sexual violence in the New River Valley.

For more information, visit www.mountaintrotterarts.com, find “West End Weekend” on Facebook, email MTA at mountaintrotterarts@gmail.com, or call Michelle Beale at 540-239-4350.

-Submitted by MountainTrotter Arts

Virginia's oyster population boom driven by complex factors



PHOTO BY KERI ROUSE FOR VIRGINIA TECH
Fernando Gonçalves (at right) visited oystermen and worked with players at every level of the seafood supply chain to collect survey data for an economic impact assessment.

See **Oyster Boom**, page 4

Free prom dresses available to local students through library program

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Meadowbrook Public Library has been collecting new and gently used prom dresses since 2012, providing a no-cost option to the students of New River Valley and beyond.

The event originally started out as a one-day program where local students could receive a free prom dress. When the pandemic hit, high school proms, along with the library's prom dress collection program, had to take a hiatus. As school activities began to return to normal, the library decided to have students come on their own by making appointments, which has proved to be a better process for everyone. Students may simply call the Meadowbrook Library and make an appointment with a staff member, allowing for at least 45 minutes to select a gown from the variety of sizes, styles, and colors available.

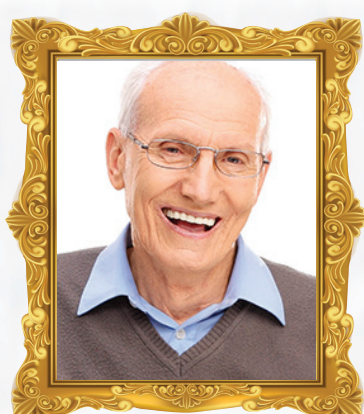


PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM
Meadowbrook Library's free prom dress program includes two rooms of dresses in many sizes, styles and colors.

See **Prom Dresses**, page 4

Grandpa's Coming Out of the Closet...

KNOW YOUR MEMORIAL OPTIONS
IN OUR CEMETERY



MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY

2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg • (540) 552-7800 • www.memorialgardensnrvalley.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 22:

Lunch and Learn

At the Blacksburg Library; noon – 1 p.m. Lunch and Learn: Circular Materials Flow in a Living Laboratory. Daniel Heaton, with Envision Charlotte, will speak about zero-waste initiatives and entrepreneurial businesses in the Innovation Barn in Charlotte, NC. Presenter will be virtual. Audience may be in-person or via Zoom. Register to participate via Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/CircularFlows>

Thursday, March 23:

Get Buggy at the Library

At the Radford Public Library; noon – 1 p.m. We're celebrating award-winning author Sue Fliess' upcoming visit with a program all about bugs. We will be handing out copies of "The Bug Book" by Sue Fliess to attendees, while supplies last. Entomology is the study of insects - and students from the Virginia Tech Entomology department will be here to talk about all things BUGS and maybe bring a creepy crawly or two!

Saturday, March 25:

Spring Children's Consignment Sale

Blacksburg United Methodist Church will hold its spring children's consignment sale on 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Whisner Building at the Church Street campus, accessed through the rear entrance at Lee and Penn Streets. Families will be able to get great deals on seasonal kids' clothes and shoes, toys, books, baby gear, sports equipment, maternity clothing and more. Many items are like-new (some even brand-new). Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. but you will want to shop early for the best selection! Cash or checks only. No card or electronic payments.

Free Tax Assistance with NRCA

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 – 4 p.m. Come in for free tax prep assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and NRCA. Income limits may apply. Walk-in only. For more information visit <https://newrivercommunityaction.org/vita> or call 540-320-3217.

Vegetable Gardening

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1 -2 p.m. Want to grow your own vegetables but aren't sure where to start? Join Dr. Emma Patterson, VCE Volunteer Master Gardener to find out more about planning a vegetable garden, caring for it, and keeping it going through year's end. Ages 12 and up. Free seeds and soil testing kits will be provided.

Sunday, March 26:

Community Quilting Bee - Rotary Cutting Fabric

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 -3 p.m. Join fellow quilt enthusiasts. This month we will learn how to use a rotary cutter and ruler to make accurate fabric pieces. Everyone welcome!

Monday, March 27:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Book Tasting: Juvenile Chapter Books

At the Radford Public Library; 5 – 6 p.m. Come on out to the Rock n' Read Diner at RPL. RPL is hosting its first ever Book Tasting event. A book tasting is an event during which students "taste", or sample, a selection of books that you've chosen ahead of time. They can rotate among tables to sample the books and record notes about the ones that interested them. We'll have tables of middle grade books set up, so make sure your appetite is ready! All books will be pulled from the J-Fiction and J-Nonfiction sections of the library.

Tuesday, March 28:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Wednesday, March 29:

Radford budget presentation

In City Council Chambers; 5:30 p.m. City Staff will present the 2023-24 fiscal year proposed budget to members of Radford City Council and the public.

Wednesday, April 5:

Coping Techniques for Caregivers

Commonwealth Senior Living at Radford will be hosting seminar titled "Coping Techniques for Caregivers." The seminar will discuss ways to care for a senior loved one while also caring for yourself.

Thursday, April 6:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Tuesday, April 11:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Camp Member James Evans will speak on "Life in a Northern Prison Camp". For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Wednesday, April 12:

Coping Techniques for Caregivers

Commonwealth Senior Living at Christiansburg will be hosting seminar titled "Coping Techniques for Caregivers." The seminar will discuss ways to care for a senior loved one while also caring for yourself.

Thursday, April 13:

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn from others, this guild is for you. We welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

New River Valley Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists At Radford Library; 6-7:30 p.m. Join us to learn more about becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist and our upcoming training program which starts in August 2023.

On-going:

Cap and Gown Drive

The Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office is partnering with Blacksburg High School and Sustainable Blacksburg to encourage re-use of previous years' graduate gear for the 2023 senior class. Gowns (blue only - from 2018 and later), caps, stoles, and cords are accepted. Donations can be made between 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Main Entrance of Blacksburg High School. It is appreciated if materials are dry-cleaned, but not required. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or sustainability@blacksburg.gov.

Free GED Classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 – 8 p.m. The classes began on Tuesday, Jan. 17 and end on Thursday, May 11. For more information or to sign up please call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.



SOUTHERN STATES®

FILL UP NOW

WITH OUR LIMITED TIME SPECIAL!

Propane Fill Special!

\$2.79*

gal.

Your Christiansburg Southern States is offering a limited time special on propane fills. From now until May 31, 2023, fill up your propane tanks for just **\$2.79 PER GALLON*** with any purchase.

885 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, VA 24073 • (540) 382-2984
Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm • Saturday: 8:00am-1:00pm

*Propane fill special valid with purchase only now through May 31, 2023 at your Christiansburg Southern States. Propane fill regular price is \$3.79 per gallon. Offer limited on fills up to 100 lb. DOT cylinders. Not valid on fills over 100 lbs. All tanks must be certified in date to be filled. No expired tanks.

SOUTHERNSTATES.COM   

OBITUARIES

Starnes, Sharron Vance

Sharron Vance Starnes, 80, of Radford, passed away Saturday, March 18, 2023. Sharron was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Colleen Vance; and brother, Tom Vance. Survivors include her husband of 62 years, Tom Starnes; son and daughter-in-law, Craig and Kristen Starnes; daughter and son-in-law, Stephanie and Kirk Sutphin; grandchildren, Seth Gillespie and wife Kristie, Alex Gillespie, Andrianna Starnes, and Thomas Starnes; great granddaughter, Kennedy; brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Neta Vance; nephew, Joel Vance; and many other relatives and friends.

Sharron graduated from Ketron High School in Kingsport in 1960 and attended Radford University.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and recently, a great grandmother. Her family was the greatest joy

of her life as she spent countless enjoyable hours observing her children and grandchildren participate in little league and high school sports and other



activities.

Sharron worked for the athletic department at Virginia Tech and also worked at Radford University. She enjoyed traveling and was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit many countries around the world. She was an excellent cook and thoroughly enjoyed having the family and friends together for a great

meal. She also enjoyed decorating the house, especially the dining room table for special occasions. She was very supportive of her husband and grandson's political activities. She was a long-time member of Central Methodist Church.

She was loved and will be missed.

The family received friends on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at Central United Methodist Church in Radford. Funeral services followed visitation with Rev. Don Smith and Pastor Brian Cochran officiating. Interment was private.

Flowers are welcome and other contributions can be sent to Central Methodist Church, PO Box 611, Radford, VA 24143, or The St. Jude's Foundation, 262 Danny Thomas PL, Memphis, TN 38105.

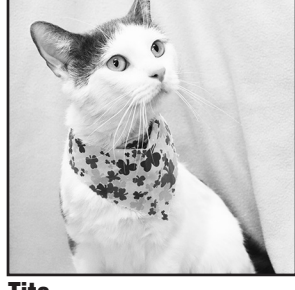
The Starnes family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Oso

Oso is a happy, young pup who can't wait to meet his new human(s)! He is a friendly dog and likes the company of other dogs. This pawsome boy also does well with humans of all ages. He's pretty sharp, too, and knows some basic commands—in Spanish!



Tito

Meet Tito! He's a shy kitty who's hoping his lucky day is coming soon. He has a sweet personality and enjoys his independence. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet him. He could be your purrfect match!

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Submitted by Montgomery County

visit www.ourvalley.org

Search engines are today's Encyclopedia Britannica

**Evans "Buddy"
King
Correspondant**

Like most people these days I go to Google whenever I want to find out something. I then usually think about my dad and how much he would have enjoyed the internet age and to have had the ability to find answers immediately and to know what was going on in the world.

I think the substitute for search engines in my youth was the Encyclopedia Britannica and the Junior Britannica. They were hard bound books which came in multiple volumes. I remember we had both when I was growing up in Christiansburg, but I think we bought them "over time," my parents being frugal, and the books expensive. I recall our research capabilities being limited by the first letter of the subject we wanted to research. But I do remember the excitement of opening big brown packages when they arrived on Cherry Lane and smelling the new books. I also remember that whatever subject you went to, you were referred to another section. Most of what I recall was "See Volume IX, Lawyers for information on Attorneys". When you got there (if you had the volume, it would say "See Volume I, Attorneys").

I also remember our capabilities to expand our knowledge being further limited by the fact that the Britannica was updated and reissued about every 10 years (I exaggerate, probably), unlike Wikipedia, which takes about 30 seconds. But I suspect the Britannica folks did a better job of fact-checking than Wikipedia. In my mind's eye, I envisioned hordes of balding, white-haired old men wearing "spectacles, sitting in a dusty library near London, looking at even dustier old books and newspapers and scribbling on note pads. Occasionally, they would whisper at each other, nod solemnly, and then stick their noses back in their books. Voila, in five years you would have a new volume!

The effect of this process was that by the time you got the edition of the new Britannica, which could tell you who the prime minister of some Eastern European country was, the country had become part of the Soviet Union. These days you can find out who Tom Brady's ex is dating in a matter of 10 seconds.

I digress, as is what I usually do in my columns. Digression feeds the beast within. I was intending to write about a recent experience going to Google. I forget what I was trying to research. As usual, my concentration was sidetracked by teasers showing which Royal was falling out with another and how little

clothing one of the Kardashians had worn the day before. My short-term memory is not what it used to be, internet surfing and losing focus being the (current) version of putting my telephone in the refrigerator.

What caught my eye was a story with a headline that said something like "Amazon Shopping Becoming More Difficult." I didn't read the article. I wasn't that curious. Probably another "supply chain" issue. What the subject brought to mind though was "ordering from catalogues" like my parents did in the day.

Most of the stuff we bought when I was a kid was purchased from stores on Main Street in Christiansburg or, for more difficult to find stuff, from larger businesses in downtown Roanoke. But I recall that, like most small town and rural Americans of the era, my rents eagerly browsed the tomes mailed out periodically by Sears and Montgomery Ward and a few other "catalogue stores." Several inches thick and containing thousands of items and a page or two of an "ordering form." I remember you had to be careful removing the form from the book. If it was torn beyond use, you had to wait another six months before you could send in an order.

In placing their order, after carefully tearing the order form from the center pages, my parents (actually my mom, I don't remember my dad shopping much) would print the description of the item and its number on tiny lines on the form and then fill in the name and mailing address line, cut a check and place it in the envelope furnished by the nice folks at Sears, and drop it in the mail to Chicago. Six weeks later a package or an envelope would end up on Cherry Lane, containing either your merchandise or a note that your items were on "back order." I vividly remember checking the mail every day after school for two months longing for the arrival of several Archie and Veronica comic books that couldn't he had at Lawrence & Shelton Drug Store that I had found in a catalogue.

My mom and dad would marvel at the ease of shopping online today, notwithstanding whatever problems Amazon is currently encountering. Probably not able to have same day deliveries in some midsize cities. And the ability to have your credit card on file with every business in the world at the stroke of a key would floor them.

In my brief banking career, Visa and Mastercard were relatively new creations and I was required to try to sell them to our customers. I remember discussing this with my dad and whether he was interested. He wasn't. I also recall him saying, "I think people could get in trouble with those things."

Ya think?

-Evans "Buddy" King

Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.

Local finance expert explains Silicon Valley Bank fallout for the banking sector

The rapid collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, the second-largest bank failure in U.S. history, has caused ongoing worries about the stability of the nation's banking system even as federal authorities step in to manage the crisis.

Further anxieties arose with the federal takeover of cryptocurrency-focused Signature Bank — the third largest bank failure in U.S. history.

Virginia Tech finance professor George Morgan explains that Silicon Valley Bank had a distinct business model, not like a typical bank.

"Bank regulation does not need a big overhaul, nor do individual depositors in retail banks need to take any additional action to be safe," he said.

Morgan says the atypical business model directly contributed to the bank's failure.

"The SVB situation is one of concentrated risks of two types — interest rate risk, due to a duration mismatch between long-term assets and short-term liabilities, and credit risk, through lending to borrowers with a greater chance of payment delays or outright default, he said. "Few other banks have anything similar in scale or concentration."

"The clients of SVB belonged mostly to one industrial sector, tech startups, that were burning through their cash stockpile

faster than expected," he continued. "That made the bank vulnerable when those clients withdrew their deposits in response to the bank's unusual 'mid-quarter report' that provided more details on the bank's status while soliciting new equity investors," Morgan said. "The tech startup risks need to be controlled better, but being a bank chartered in California, there was slack cut for them."

Despite the continuing economic worries, the immediate crisis was quickly resolved. "The typical process to resolve closures has for almost all banks protected all the depositors. The FDIC either takes over or via an 'auction' finds a buyer who assumes all the deposit liabilities. That guarantees the security of deposits, not by some declaration, but by action. The SVB case is really no different," Morgan said.

"The new wrinkle is adding the new emergency term loan facility for them and other banks," Morgan said, noting that the swift federal intervention raises long-term policy questions. "Should the government be pumping money into the system at this point? Is the added layer of action going to create problems in the future, including emboldening banks and companies to take more risk?"

-Mike Allen for Virginia Tech

Motorists are encouraged to stay alert, drive safely this spring

WYTHEVILLE—Farmers are busy planting their crops, and that means motorists will likely encounter slow-moving farm equipment on roadways.

Spring planting season can be a dangerous time for farmers and motorists traveling on rural roads. Though only 19% of people in the U.S. live in rural areas, almost half of fatal roadway accidents occur in these areas. Additionally, a 2021 report published in the Open Journal of Safety Science and Technology stated that the percentage of fatal crashes involving farm equipment "can be nearly five times higher" than the average for all road crashes.

"We had a fatality last year in Wythe County when a farmer was hit," said Jonathan Grimes, Wythe County Farm Bureau president and member of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Farm Safety Advisory Committee. "He was on his tractor moving from one field to another when he was hit and killed."

Grimes explained that motorists driving fast can quickly close the distance between themselves and slow-moving farm equipment. Farmers often have limited visibility when operating equipment, and some of the machinery can be much larger than drivers expect, taking up more than one lane or an entire narrow rural road.

Virginia law requires operators of vehicles that travel slower than 25 mph to rear-mount triangular slow-moving vehicle signs when equipment is being driven on

public roadways. Many farmers also use flashing amber lights and reflective decals to alert approaching drivers.

Farmers will pull over when it's safe, Grimes said. "Just take your time, slow down and follow state laws. I've seen people pass farm equipment on the double yellow line when they should wait until the dotted line to pass legally."

In Loudoun County, hay and grain farmer Chris Van Vlack echoed Grimes' concerns. Like many producers, his farm's properties are not contiguous, and he often takes equipment on roads during planting and harvest seasons. He said while 95% of drivers are courteous and patient, it's the other 5% that can be hair-raising, especially if they don't understand when it's safe to pass.

"I'll signal that I'm turning left at the next intersection," he explained. "I'll start to turn, and they'll get upset and try to pass me at the same time. That's been the scary part."

He added that drivers should be mindful of their surroundings, especially if they see crop fields and pastures.

"If you see farm things, expect farm equipment," he noted.

For farmers getting ready to travel on roadways, Grimes advised that they also be patient with drivers and "make sure you have your SMV emblems on all your equipment, and that your hazard and warning lights are all working."

-Submitted by the Virginia Farm Bureau

AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: Social Security scams

This year Social Security payments are being boosted by the biggest cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in more than 40 years, and beneficiaries aren't the only ones looking to cash in. Social Security impostor scams are among the most reported scams each year and criminals are already seeking to use the COLA boost to their advantage.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has reported that scammers have been contacting people claiming that they have to pay a fee or share personal information in order to receive the higher payments. The truth is that COLA adjustments happen automatically.

Majority of middle-income houses deal with food insecurity, survey finds

According to new survey findings released by No Kid Hungry, 58% of middle-income households reported experiencing food insecurity over the last year, and of those, 95% reported struggling to afford enough food for their children at least monthly.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that food prices rose 9.5% in February 2023 compared to February 2022. Although families with lower incomes have been hit hardest by rising food prices, food insecurity has become a pressing issue affecting more families with middle incomes across America.

Sarah Steely, Director of No Kid Hungry Virginia, said it is getting harder for families to feed their children.

"Child hunger is in every Virginia community, and unfortunately what we're learning is that it's only getting harder for families to afford food," said Steely. "The tough reality is, we all have a neighbor, a colleague or a friend

The best way to fight back against Social Security impostors is to remember that SSA will not contact you out of the blue. Any unsolicited call claiming to be from Social Security is likely to be fraud — especially if they ask for personal or financial information or payment.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

-Submitted by the AARP

Radford school board considers new bell schedule for elementary schools

Heather Bell
Editor

RADFORD - The Radford City School Board is considering a late start time twice a week for elementary school students next school year in order to provide teachers with additional planning time.

The Board heard from teachers and parents regarding the potential change at its recent school board meeting, held March 7. The issue is listed under the Superintendent's Report portion of the upcoming school board meeting, set for Tuesday, March 21 at 6 p.m., which means it is not currently listed as an action item that will be voted on.

If the change is approved, students at McHarg and Belle Heth elementary schools would not start the school day until 10:15 a.m. (tardy bell time) two days per week. Ending times would remain the same each

day.

Kindergarten teacher Lindsay Lesko appeared before the board in support of the change, saying her mental health has been negatively affected trying to keep up with all the requirements of today's teaching world without adequate planning time during the school day, leading to her having to work outside her contract hours, including many nights and weekends.

"The two delayed starts for uninterrupted planning time and collaboration would be utilized in so many ways to give our best to the kids we love," she said.

Melissa Jarrells, president of the McHarg PSA, emailed the school board to say while she thinks the extra planning time would be useful to teachers, she has concerns about the change because younger children thrive with a consistent schedule. She also expressed

concern for working families who would have to deal with the differentiated start times.

"There are hundreds of families that would be affected by this change," she wrote.

Parent Megan Martin echoed Jarrells concerns via email, and kindergarten teacher Nicole Watson expressed her support for the time change via email.

Board Member Chris Calfee said he supports the teachers and their needs, but is concerned that, especially for the youngest students, they will be missing out on the early part of the school day when they are sharpest and ready to learn. He also expressed concern that working families would be negatively affected.

"How many families would be affected?" he asked. "We don't know, because we didn't ask."

Calfee asked that a survey be put out to families. The

administration released a survey on March 9 and gave the public until March 16 to respond, so the survey window has already closed.

Superintendent Robert Graham said if the change is made, the school division will provide a morning program for students who need to be dropped off earlier.

FISH DAY

 **It's Time to Stock Your Pond!**

DELIVERY WILL BE:
Thursday, April 6th
Christiansburg 12:00-12:45
@Southern States
Wytheville 1:45-2:30
@Farmers Milling & Supply

"LIKE" us on Facebook!

FISH WAGON

To Place an Order Call:
1-800-643-8439
www.fishwagon.com

Carnegie Hall from page 1

of our quality band program,” Director of Bands at Blacksburg High School, Mr. Darrell Pearman commented on Friday, March 17, just returning from their trip at 2 a.m. the previous morning.

The high school band applied to the 2023 New York Invitational Music Festival with the submission of an audition tape, and then received the exciting news over the 2022 summer that they had been accepted. Fundraising to pay for the trip included train tickets for their means of travel, which resulted in a more cost-effective method of transport for the students. Sunday, March 12, the band arrived in

Manhattan, NY, where they stayed at the Park Central Hotel, located directly across from Carnegie Hall.

On stage, the band ensemble played two musical pieces, “March to the Scaffold” by Hector Berlioz, and “Love and Light” by Brian Balmages. These selections were performed by the BHS Band at a local district concert assessment one week before, receiving the highest level of excellence, the Gold standard, from judges. Along with their performance in Carnegie Hall, they participated in a clinic with Dr. Terry Austin of Virginia Commonwealth University.

When not performing, students had another once-

in-a-lifetime opportunity to take in the longest running Broadway show in history, The Phantom of the Opera, which will be closing soon. The students also toured the 9/11 Memorial, viewed the top of a snowy and very cloudy Rockefeller Center, and of course, shopped in Times Square.

“Students were just excited to be in the concert hall,” said Pearman. “The sound is everything that musicians dream of. To just hear the difference of playing in that space compared to a high school auditorium . . . awe inspiring, just such a wonderful experience.”

Oyster Boom from page 1

A recent boom in Virginia’s oyster population can be attributed to a complex interplay of natural and human-driven factors, says a Virginia Tech expert.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission moved to extend the oyster season in portions of waterways where oyster populations are strong, as outlined in Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s 2022 State of the Bay report, which found the commonwealth’s oyster stock at its best condition in a generation. Virginia’s is expecting its largest oyster harvest in over three decades, due to a growing stock and an extended harvesting season.

“While it is impossible to attribute this success to one variable, several anthropogenic factors played a crucial

role,” said Fernando Gonçalves, a research scientist at the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center. “These include a labor shortage and supply chain disruptions during the pandemic, changes in regulations, harvesting closures, and increased production from aquaculture, all of which collectively reduced the pressure on the oyster stocks in the bay.”

Natural factors such as weather, rainfall, salinity, primary productivity of plankton, nutrient levels, and water temperature are vital to the survival and productivity of oysters in Virginia.

Virginia Tech economics and marketing experts at the research and extension center work to provide insights to better understand and support the seafood

industry. An economic impact analysis conducted by the center revealed that the Virginia seafood industry contributed over \$1.1 billion to the state’s economy in 2019. The oyster sector is a crucial component of the Virginia seafood industry, providing valuable employment opportunities and supporting other economic sectors within and beyond Virginia.

“It is encouraging to observe the natural stocks recovering, allowing for sustainable management such as extending the oyster harvest season. This will benefit not only the watermen but also the state’s economy and keep its position as the leading oyster producer on the east coast,” Gonçalves said.

-Submitted by Virginia Tech

Prom Dresses from page 1

“The staff and community here are just wonderful and it is for all of the New River Valley, and even some people come from outside of the NRV,” said Director of Meadowbrook Library, Cindy Minnick. “If they want to make the trek here, we will show them the dresses we have.”

Interested students that arrive for their appointments will find dresses neatly arranged on rolling racks and identified with their sizes. There

are closed rooms provided for trying on dresses, and if a student has dress shoes that they want to try on with the dress, they are encouraged to bring them.

“The community has been so wonderful about donating the dresses,” said Minnick. “We have gone out in the past and purchased some at consignment stores. Last year we had A Little Bit Hippie and Paparazzi Bling that donated jewelry.”

The cost-free program is not based on income. “We feel if the young ladies want to come and they need a dress, they can spend their money on something else,” said Minnick.

Collections are accepted all year long, not only during prom season. The library is hoping to expand their options for men’s suit coats, dress pants, and other men’s formal wear as well. All donations should be new, gently used, and preferably match with recent clothing trends.

Students can make appointments by calling (540) 268-1964 until the end of April, but as there might be a few proms into May, students should contact the library if they are still in need of a dress. Monday-Sunday appointments can be made during library hours; Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.- 6:30 p.m., Friday 10- 4:30 p.m., Saturday 10- 4 p.m., and Sunday 1- 5 p.m.



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM
Free dresses are available to any high school prom-goer who needs one.

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*
Ed McMinn, *Editor*

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*
communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*
lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*
advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$46 a year in Montgomery County, \$55 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$59 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

Virginia gas prices fall in the last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 3.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.22/g today, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 2.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 88.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 5.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.25 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.75/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.24/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.75/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.24/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 4.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.40/g today. The national average is up 4.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 82.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

- March 20, 2022: \$4.10/g (U.S. Average: \$4.23/g)
- March 20, 2021: \$2.76/g (U.S. Average: \$2.88/g)
- March 20, 2020: \$2.00/g (U.S. Average: \$2.11/g)
- March 20, 2019: \$2.41/g (U.S. Average: \$2.60/g)
- March 20, 2018: \$2.38/g (U.S. Average: \$2.56/g)
- March 20, 2017: \$2.09/g (U.S. Average: \$2.29/g)
- March 20, 2016: \$1.83/g (U.S. Average: \$1.98/g)
- March 20, 2015: \$2.24/g (U.S. Average: \$2.43/g)
- March 20, 2014: \$3.33/g (U.S. Average: \$3.53/g)

March 20, 2013: \$3.58/g (U.S. Average: \$3.70/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.16/g, down 3.2 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.19/g.

Richmond- \$3.20/g, down 3.8 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.24/g.

West Virginia- \$3.33/g, down 6.4 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.40/g.

“The broad concern over recent failures of the U.S. and global banking system has put enough downward pressure on oil prices that we saw a reprieve in rising gasoline prices in the national average last week. But, it may be temporary in nature, and is unlikely to be a long lasting trend,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “While California and areas of the West Coast saw some moderation in price, supply challenges amidst the transition to summer gasoline have led to sharp price increases in Arizona, and other markets saw varying impacts at the gas pump over the last week. Should the outlook for the banking sector improve, we could again see gasoline prices race higher, while continued or additional distress could raise the possibility of a broader economic slowdown, keeping gasoline prices in check. Overall, there are a lot of possibilities.”

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy’s survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12		13		14		
15					16		17		
	18			19		20			
				22	23		24		
25	26	27	28	29					
30						31			
32							33	34	35
			38	39	40		41	42	
			43				44		
	45	46	47						
48				49			50	51	52
55				56			57		58
59				60			61		
62				63			64		

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One who regrets 5. Time zone 8. Subway dweller 11. Bend in a river 13. Alias 14. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist 15. Very (music) 16. Zero 17. Phil __, former CIA 18. Competitions 20. Unwell 21. Puts in place 22. Gets rid of 25. Allows light to pass through 30. Climbed quickly 31. We all have it 32. There’s a North & South 33. Emaciation 38. Supervises flying | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 41. Very dark colors 43. Unwanted 45. Grants 48. Three visited Jesus 49. Wife of Amun 50. Broadway actress Daisy 55. A Spanish river 56. I (German) 57. French opera composer 59. Six (Spanish) 60. Last letter 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation 62. A curved shape 63. Make a mistake 64. Tall plant <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Computer memory 2. “Et __”: “And wife” (Latin) 3. Ancient Syrian city 4. College army | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Cassava 6. Talented 7. Capital of Estonia 8. Finger millet 9. In a way, assists 10. Men’s fashion accessories 12. Misery 14. Skin disorder 19. Selling at specially reduced prices 23. Good friend 24. Stationary portion of a generator 25. Expression of disappointment 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet 27. Where birds fly 28. Midway between north and northeast 29. Chaotic states | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 34. Comedic actress Gasteyer 35. Kids’ dining accessory 36. Snakelike fish 37. Midway between south and southeast 39. Assign lifelike qualities to 40. One who cites 41. Midway between east and southeast 42. North wind 44. One or the other 45. Cavalry sword 46. Of the Hungarian language 47. Life stories 48. Flat tableland with steep edges 51. Swiss river 52. Plant that makes gum 53. French cleric 54. One point east of northeast 58. Free from |
|---|---|---|---|

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

DIGITAL ONLY

One Year Digital Subscription (recurring) **\$29.00**

DIGITAL & PRINT

Yearly Print & Digital Subscription **\$72.00**

PRINT ONLY

Yearly Print Only Subscription **\$46.00 Montgomery County**
\$55.00 Virginia
\$59.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at montcova.com or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed _____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER,
P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.



Marketplace



The Fincastle Herald

The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

Radford News Journal

Help Wanted - Clerical

Professional Office Assistant
Bookkeeping skills & MS Office required. 30+ hrs wk. \$16-\$17 hourly depending on experience. Send resume to noonynrealstate@hotmail.com

Help Wanted - General

Field Engineer - Process Automation sought by TMEIC Corporation Americas
in Roanoke, VA to provide Tech Advisory Services (TAS) to coord installation & commissioning activities for assigned projects while meeting project schedules & performance criteria. Must travel, domestically & internationally, up to approximately 75% of the time, w/ limited notice. Min Req: Bach's Deg in Electrical Engg, Mechanical Engg, Material Science or related field or foreign equiv. 24 months of exp in dsngn &/or commissioning process automation/models s/ware in heavy industry, such as steelmaking, aluminum, or other process industries. Knowl of C++ & object-oriented pgmg using Microsoft dlvrnt environment. Proficiency in MS Office. Send resume to recruitment@tmeic.com. Ref# 8006

Chief System Design Specialist - Energy Storage System sought by TMEIC CORPORATION AMERICAS
in Roanoke, VA to provide tech leadership & direction for the deployment of electrical control systems applied to energy storage mktks, w/time horizons up to 2 years. Availability to travel domestically, approximately 20%, & internationally, approximately 10%, often w/ limited notice. Telecommuting allowed. Min Req: Bach's Deg in Electrical Engg, Mechanical Engg or related field or foreign equiv deg. 36 months of direct exp dsngn utility-scale energy storage systems. Knowl of different types of batteries, inverters, & approaches to PV/storage coupling. Knowl of applicable standards for storage incl NEC, NFPA, & UL. Understanding of economics storage systems incl LCOE calculations. Send resume to recruitment@tmeic.com. Ref# 8009.

Help Wanted - Construction

DD Kerns Construction Co., Inc.
is currently accepting applications for skilled carpenters, carpentry foreman, experienced dry wall workers, experienced industrial concrete workers, block-layers, welders/fabricators, fabrication foreman, and a diesel/heavy equipment mechanic. All work is local and benefits include: health, vision, dental, life insurance, short-term/long-term disability insurance, paid vacation and retirement IRA. Pay is based on experience. Candidates must have a valid drivers license and be able to pass a drug screening. We are accepting applications Monday-Thursdays 8:00am to 5:00pm at 505 S. Lexington Ave. Covington, VA 24426. 540-962-4994

Positions Wanted

Quality Inn
Hiring Full/Part Time Housekeeping and Front Desk. Apply in Person. Ph-540-639-3000

Auctions

STORAGE AUCTION Salem Storage
736 Roanoke Street Salem, Va. 24153 March 30, 2023 at 11:30 AM Salem Storage will conduct a public sale of merchandise to collect liens from the following delinquent building.

Auctions

Owner: Christie Key Unit 73. Cash Only. We reserve the right to refuse bids.

Lost & Found

ISO: Looking for family or friends of Edward Shanklin, formerly from Radford, VA. His mother's name was Ruth, sisters name Barbara, previously married to Deuncan family. I am in possession of documents and photos that belong with his family. Contact Steve: after 5pm. Cell 540-246-2963 Home 540-298-8054 Collect calls will be accepted.

Legals - City of Radford

City of Radford Community Development Block Grant 2023 Action Plan
Public Input Meetings
The City of Radford invites you to public input sessions that give citizens an opportunity to offer suggestions for projects that they see a need for in the community that are related to decent housing, suitable living environment and economic opportunity. The Action Plan serves as the City's grant application for the Community Development Block Grant Funds and sets the goals and budgets for the use of funds from the program. The public input meetings have been scheduled as follows:
Friday, March 24, 2023 - City Council Chamber, 11:00 am Questions should be directed to Ms. Melissa Skelton, at Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov or at (540) 267-3188.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
321 South Market Street, Salem, VA 24153. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated May 18, 2015 and recorded as Instrument Number 150001592 in the Clerk's Office for the City of Salem Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$57,400.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front steps for the Circuit Court for the City of Salem located at 2 E Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153-7933. April 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT, WHICH POINT IS ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF SOUTH MARKET STREET, SAID POINT BEING 137.5 FEET FROM THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF SECOND STREET AND SOUTH MARKET STREET; THENCE S. 78 DEGREES 00'00" W. 84.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, N. 12 DEGREES 00'00" W. 37.50 FEET TO A POINT; thence N. 78 DEGREES 00'00" E. 84.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE S. 12 DEGREES 00'00" E. 37.50 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 0.723 ACRE AS IS MORE SPECIFICALLY SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED FOR ANTOINE B. STALLINGS BY ROBERT S. LANG, LAND SURVEYOR AND BALZER AND ASSOCIATES, SAID PLAT BEING DATED APRIL 2, 1990. AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's

Legals - City of Salem

check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustees fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Legals - Montgomery County

TRUSTEE SALE OF 1801 4th Street, Radford, VA 24141
In execution of the Deed of Trust dated March 20, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$124,019.00, recorded as Inst. 0600326, modified to the amount of \$108,447.79 as Inst. 1600936, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the City of Radford, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, any of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the City of Radford on March 29, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 8, Section 13, Plan D, as shown in Deed Book 42, page 7, County of Roanoke. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$9,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale

Legals - Town of Vinton

INVITATION FOR BIDS
The Town of Vinton is accepting SEALED BIDS from interested landscaping contractors to perform mowing, general landscaping and snow removal services for the Vinton War Memorial. The term of the mowing contract shall be for one year, with the option to renew for an additional four (4) one-year term. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Vinton War Memorial, C/O Chasity Barbour, 814 E. Washington Ave, Vinton, VA 24179, on or before Monday, April 3, 2023, at 3 p.m. Bids must contain the Bidder's company name and address, and be signed by the appropriate company representative. No bids will be accepted after said time and date. Bid opening will occur after 3 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial, 814 East Washington Ave, Vinton, VA. Bid information can be acquired by contacting the Town Manager at (540) 343-1508. The Town of Vinton reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Town also reserves the right to award an individual or company who is not the low bidder if in its judgment, it would be in the best interest of the Town to do so.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. **CL23000348-00** ROANOKE COUNTY Circuit Court, 305 EAST MAIN STREET, SALEM, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MAILEIGH MCKENNA REDMOND v. MAILEIGH MCKENNA CULVER
The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE OF MINOR It is ORDERED that RANDOLPH ALLEN REDMOND JR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before April 27, 2023 @ 11:00 AM.
MARCH 15, 2023 Benjamin Guerrant, DEPUTY CLERK

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316, -317 Case No. **CL23-344** ROANOKE COUNTY Circuit Court, Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Elizabeth Paige Lyles v. Cody Chandler Lyles
The object of this suit is to: obtain a decree of divorce pursuant to Virginia Code Sec. 20-91(9)(A). It is

Legals - Montgomery County

immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosuresales. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For Information Contact: DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. C, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255

Public Notice EBI Project #6123000081

AT&T Mobility LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing monopole located at T-3 Roanoke Street (37 R 20.8N, 80 23 6.85W), Christiansburg, Montgomery County, VA 24073. The modifications will consist of the collocation of antennas at a centerline height of approximately 97 feet above ground level on the 99.5-foot-tall monopole. ANY INTERESTED PARTY wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6123000081 - JLD EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (203) 231-6643

Legals - Town of Vinton

ORDERED that Cody Chandler Lyles appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MAY 9, 2023. March 15, 2023 Jennifer Vest, Deputy Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Vinton: Gus Nicks Boulevard Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project Between: Glade Creek Greenway Trailhead Parking And: West Madison Avenue

Willingness to Hold a Public Hearing Find out about a proposal to provide a mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Gus Nicks Boulevard, to connect the Glade Creek Greenway to the Gish Mill Property (formerly Holdren's Country Store), as approved by the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) on July 2, 2020, and again on May 27, 2021, and by Vinton Town Council on March 1, 2022, respectively. The Project will reduce the likelihood of accidents involving pedestrians attempting to cross Gus Nicks Boulevard, a very heavily-traveled right-of-way. The Project will provide a safer connection for pedestrians and/or greenway users from Glade Creek Greenway, located to the south of Gus Nicks Boulevard to the Gish Mill Property, located to the north of Gus Nicks Boulevard. You may view the Project information on the web at <https://www.vintonva.gov/509> or by visiting the Town of Vinton Municipal Building, Planning and Zoning Department, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, between 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM local time. Please call 540-983-0605 in advance of your visit to ensure that staff is available to meet with you and answer your questions. If your concerns cannot be satisfied through informal discussion via a call, email or a meeting, the Town of Vinton is willing to hold a public hearing. You may ask that a public hearing be held by sending a request in writing to Anita McMillan, Planning and Zoning Director, Town of Vinton Municipal Building, Planning and Zoning Department, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179. Your request must be received on or prior to April 20, 2023. If a request for a public hearing is received, a notice of date, time, and place of the hearing will be publicly posted. The Town of Vinton ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this Project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact Anita McMillan at the phone number listed above. State Project: U000-149-S51, UPC: 113322

Legals - Town of Vinton

ORDERED that Cody Chandler Lyles appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MAY 9, 2023. March 15, 2023 Jennifer Vest, Deputy Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Vinton: Gus Nicks Boulevard Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project Between: Glade Creek Greenway Trailhead Parking And: West Madison Avenue

Willingness to Hold a Public Hearing Find out about a proposal to provide a mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Gus Nicks Boulevard, to connect the Glade Creek Greenway to the Gish Mill Property (formerly Holdren's Country Store), as approved by the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) on July 2, 2020, and again on May 27, 2021, and by Vinton Town Council on March 1, 2022, respectively. The Project will reduce the likelihood of accidents involving pedestrians attempting to cross Gus Nicks Boulevard, a very heavily-traveled right-of-way. The Project will provide a safer connection for pedestrians and/or greenway users from Glade Creek Greenway, located to the south of Gus Nicks Boulevard to the Gish Mill Property, located to the north of Gus Nicks Boulevard. You may view the Project information on the web at <https://www.vintonva.gov/509> or by visiting the Town of Vinton Municipal Building, Planning and Zoning Department, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, between 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM local time. Please call 540-983-0605 in advance of your visit to ensure that staff is available to meet with you and answer your questions. If your concerns cannot be satisfied through informal discussion via a call, email or a meeting, the Town of Vinton is willing to hold a public hearing. You may ask that a public hearing be held by sending a request in writing to Anita McMillan, Planning and Zoning Director, Town of Vinton Municipal Building, Planning and Zoning Department, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179. Your request must be received on or prior to April 20, 2023. If a request for a public hearing is received, a notice of date, time, and place of the hearing will be publicly posted. The Town of Vinton ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this Project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact Anita McMillan at the phone number listed above. State Project: U000-149-S51, UPC: 113322

Legals - Town of Vinton

Vinton Municipal Building, Planning and Zoning Department, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, between 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM local time. Please call 540-983-0605 in advance of your visit to ensure that staff is available to meet with you and answer your questions. If your concerns cannot be satisfied through informal discussion via a call, email or a meeting, the Town of Vinton is willing to hold a public hearing. You may ask that a public hearing be held by sending a request in writing to Anita McMillan, Planning and Zoning Director, Town of Vinton Municipal Building, Planning and Zoning Department, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179. Your request must be received on or prior to April 20, 2023. If a request for a public hearing is received, a notice of date, time, and place of the hearing will be publicly posted. The Town of Vinton ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this Project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact Anita McMillan at the phone number listed above. State Project: U000-149-S51, UPC: 113322

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment to the Town of Vinton's FY 2022-2023 budget to appropriate funding for the Grant Fund and the Woodland Place Stream Restoration Project in the total amount of \$285,000. Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Antonia Arias-Magallon Administrative Manager

STATEWIDE ADS

STATEWIDE ADS

GENERAC
Prepare for power outages today
WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR
\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS
Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions
REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(844) 947-1479
FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* - A \$695 Value!
*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION
BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE
EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!
20% OFF + 10% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE SENIORS & MILITARY!
FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
USA
FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-877-614-6667
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST
A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME

Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF
SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB
1-877-591-9950
With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445
EASE OF USE CERTIFIED, MADE IN THE USA, BBB ACCREDITED, LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY
FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

STATEWIDE ADS

STATEWIDE ADS

STATEWIDE ADS

STATEWIDE ADS

STATEWIDE ADS

STATEWIDE ADS

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS
ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

Now Offering Financing! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-877-636-0738

Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - \$500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

\$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 www.dental50plus.com/virginia #6258

DOGS, PET CARE

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-833-688-1378

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

G&E Virginia Premium Assured Heifer/Cow Sale. March 25th, 2023, 12:00 noon. G&E Test Center Gretna, VA. Call George Winn at 434-489-4458.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxisp Telecom today! 1-855-970-1995

HOME IMPROVEMENT

GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$450+\$86 court cost.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance -

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

To place your ad, call 389-9355

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY
\$1000 OFF
AND
No Payments & No Interest For 18 Months*
OFFER EXPIRES 3.30.2023
BCI BATH & SHOWER
CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

Upgrade Your Home with a **NEW METAL ROOF**
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!
60% off YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% off
Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders
ERIE Metal Roofs
Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE**
1-844-902-4611

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money
GENERAC PWRCELL
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM
REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!
(833) 688-1378

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

DR FAME ALLERGY
ASTHMA
540-404-9598
1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM

SENIOR FOR SENIORS
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE
Cell: 540-293-4271

Are you turning 65? Or new to Medicare?
Call your local licensed Humana sales agent.
Humana!
Y0040_GHHXDHEN23_SMAD_M
WHITNEY HOSEY
540-355-0894 (TTY: 711)
Monday-Friday
9 a.m - 5 p.m.
Whosey@humana.com

BONNIE JOYCE REALTOR®
CELL: 540-309-5181
BonnieJoyceRealtor@gmail.com
BonnieJoyce.C21.com
CENTURY 21
Wampler Realty

FOX RADIO 910
Roanoke and 104.3 FM
CBS SPORTS RADIO
ATLANTA BRAVES
ROANOKE'S #2 NEWS TALK AND SPORTS RADIO STATION
(Nielsen Fall 2022 book)
www.foxradioroanoke.com
(540) 343-7109

Lisa Martin, REALTOR®
Serving the industry for 30+ years
Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains
Premier, REALTORS
(540) 597-0480
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com
1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101
Daleville, VA 24083
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

MHC Monroe Health Center
Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA
Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356
*Physical Exams * X-ray Services
* Laboratory Services * Acute Care
*Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARPET RE-STRETCHING!
STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS
Repairs • New Sales • Expert
540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908
Licensed & Insured
carpetroanoke.com

Sunflooring Inc. STEVE SMITH
With over 40 years of experience
Specializing in Hardwood Floors, Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring, Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile, Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank
540-556-3100

ATTENTION CRAIG CREEK SUPPORTERS
Your right of public access to Craig Creek is being threatened! A court case coming soon could make it a crime to float or paddle down Craig Creek. If you are concerned, please call or email Bill Tanger at riverdancer1943@gmail.com or 540-266-0237. Join with others who have formed Friends of Craig Creek to stop this lawsuit.

WE BUY COIN COLLECTIONS
Top money paid
FREE estimates

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!
To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355
If you believe in your business and want to build it...
ADVERTISE!

Roof Replacement & Repair
540-966-0688
PO Box 630
Daleville, VA 24083
www.southerntracellc.com


Contact us at 540-988-2420

Huge Sale!
STIHL EQUIPMENT
New and Used Equipment & Parts Available on All Brands
Husqvarna • CubCadet • Toro • MTD • Murray • Echo Poulan • Honda • Mulch • Top Soil • Fill Dirt • Firewood • Sand Gravel • Brick Chips • (Tandem Truck Hauling • Excavating • Grading)
Specialized Saw & Mower, Inc.
3954 West Main Street, Salem
• John King, President (540) 380-3901 • Credit Available
• Shelley Buchannan, Mgr. (Sales and Service) • Equipment Rental
• Rob Hogge, Service Mgr. • Pick Up & Delivery Available
• Jo Maitland, Office Mgr.

CENTURY 21 Wampler Realty
64 Wendover Road
Daleville, Va 24083
Cell: 540-312-7792
Office: 540-992-2500
sfleshmansells@hotmail.com
SHERRY FLESHMAN REALTOR®
Each office is independently owned and operated


BAG
A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
To place your ad, call 389-9355

LIMITED TIME SAVINGS
King's Hauling & Excavating, Inc.
• Housing Foundations • Land Clearing • Stump Removal • Road Building • Pond Building
John King, President
• Septic Tanks • Yard Grading • Demolition Work • Tandem & Tri-Axle • Dump Truck Hauling
Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured • Satisfaction Guaranteed
Beat the Spring Rush!
3954 West Main Street, Salem
(540) 380-3901
Topsoil/Sand Gravel/Mulch Asphalt Milling

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Kelly Three Rivers, Millirons MED players of year

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford's Elijah Kelly and Auburn's Nick Millirons led their respective schools to the state playoffs.

Monday, each received player of the year honors.

Kelly was named the player of the year in the Three Rivers Districts, while Millirons was the boys' player of the year in the Mt. Empire District. Millirons was joined on the first team by Coahan Gordon. Radford also placed Gavin Cormany on the first team of the TRD.

Floyd's Brian Harman shared coach of the year honors in the TRD with Radford's Rick Cormany.

Parker Prioleau gave Radford a second-team all-TRD.

Auburn's Sam Duncan and Bryce Gill were named to the MED boys' second team. Their teammates, Drew Royal and Michael Wilson were named to the honorable mention list.

Eastern Montgomery had two players named to the Pioneer District honorable mention boys' list in Grayson Caldwell and Talan Bruce.

Gordon and Millirons were also named to the Class Region C all-region first team.

Kelly and Cormany were named to the Region 2C first-team with Kelly being named player of year and their coach, Ricky Cormany, the coach of the year.



Radford's Elijah Kelly is the Three Rivers District boys' player of the year and Region C player of the year.



Nick Millirons of Auburn was named the boys' player of the year in the Mt. Empire District.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Lady Hokies dance into Sweet 16



Georgia Amoore hit her 100th triple of the season to open Sunday's game and win over South Dakota State.



A sellout crowd at Cassell Coliseum cheered for the Lady Hokies in two games this past weekend.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

Behind four Hokies in double figures, Virginia Tech defeated South Dakota State 72-60 in the second round of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament inside Cassell Coliseum Sunday evening.

With the win, the Hokies (29-4) advance to the Sweet 16 for the second time in program history (1999) and earn their program-record 29th victory of the season. South Dakota State, the Summit League champion, had its 22-game winning streak snapped, which was the second-longest active streak in the country.

Tech will await the winner between No. 4 seed Tennessee and No. 12 seed Toledo on March 25 in Seattle, Wash.

Georgia Amoore drained a career-high seven treys on her way to a game-high 21 points – her 12th game of 20 or more points on the season. Amoore was joined in double-figure scoring by Elizabeth Kitley, who notched her 21st double-double with 14 points and a game-high 14 rebounds. The two-time ACC player of the year also registered a game-high five blocks to set the program record for career blocks at 261.

The Hokies came out clicking on all cylinders, shooting 52.8% in the first half. They finished at 41.8% shooting for the game, while holding the Jackrabbits to 37.3%. Tech out-rebounded South Dakota State, 43-36.

Myah Selland paced three Jackrabbits in double-figure scoring with 17 points. Paige Meyer and Haleigh Timmer chipped in 12 points apiece.

How it Happened

» Amoore hit her 100th triple of the season to open the game, one of five triples by the Hokies in the opening stanza

» Tech was dialed from downtown in the first quarter, converting 5 of 9 (55.6%) from beyond the arc to build a 19-7 advantage; Amoore was 3 for 6 from deep in the period

» Once down by 20, South Dakota State trimmed its deficit to 13 (33-20) with 3:03 left following a 9-2 surge by the Summit League champion

» The Hokies ended the second quarter on a 10-0 run highlighted by back-to-back triples from Taylor Geiman and Cayla King for a 46-23 halftime lead – the most first-half points by Tech since scoring 47 vs. NC State on Feb. 19

» VT shot 75% in the second stanza, connecting on

12 of 16 field goals

» The Jacks answered out of intermission with a 10-2 spurt to get within 15 (48-33) with 5:44 remaining in the third quarter

» South Dakota State went 10 for 13 (76.9%) from the free-throw line in the third quarter as the Jacks outscored Tech, 20-13, in the frame

» With the Hokies' lead cut to 10, Amoore sank her fifth three of the game off a baseline out of bounds play to push Tech's lead to 69-56 with 1:50 remaining

The road to Sweet 16 paved with success.

After years of climbing and looking up at the ACC's mountaintop, Virginia Tech's women's basketball program reached the summit after the Hokies clinched the program's first ACC title. They did so by winning three straight games en route to the 2023 ACC Tournament Championship at the Greensboro Coliseum last week. The run included victories over Miami, Duke and Louisville and personified the athletic department's mantra of being a challenger and ascending to being a champion.

"Whit [Babcock] talks about going from a challenger brand to a champion brand," head coach Kenny Brooks said following the selection show ceremony. "That's what we've done. It's what we talked about earlier this year, it's what we went out and accomplished."

When Brooks took over the program in 2016, the Hokies hadn't seen a 20-win season since 2006. Now, Tech has seen six 20-win seasons in his seven-year tenure in Blacksburg. For the first time ever, Tech earned a coveted number one seed for the NCAA Tournament.

"You don't set out to be a number one seed, you take baby steps first. Try to go from a five to a four so you can host," Brooks said. "But now you have that seed and there's responsibility with that. You have to go out there and play like a number one seed."

The Hokies are riding an 11-game win streak and haven't lost since January 26, when they fell on the road to Duke. That loss, along with others on the road against Clemson and Miami provided the Hokies with fuel and motivation to reinvent themselves to find success.

"After those games, we didn't even get to shake their hand because they were in the middle of the court celebrating. You have to go out there and handle that responsibility because people want to take you down

with a number beside your name," Brooks said. "They responded beautifully ever since and that's what has helped us transition from that challenger brand to a champion brand nicely."

One lesson absorbed from the losses and over the course of the year has been to take each part of the journey one step at a time. Tech's laser-focused mentality on the one game at a time approach was a catalyst for the late season success on the hardwood.

"This group is locked in and focused, they've done that for the last month and a half where they focus only on the task at hand," Brooks said. "The only thing we can control is what happens today and that's to go 1-0."

Tech learned from its earlier losses when it beat Miami in the ACC Tournament quarterfinals and beat Duke twice, the latter of which was in the semifinals to advance to the title game. Like Brooks, the players too have adopted the 'control what you can control today' mentality.

"Focusing on us, you can't always control what another team does, you can only control what you do," Taylor Soule told reporters after the ceremony.

Soule earned All-ACC Second Team honors this season, the fourth All-ACC selection of her career. The Hokies placed two student-athletes: Elizabeth Kitley and Georgia Amoore on the league's First Team. That trio may have been the catalysts for this team, but the unwavering support of Hokie Nation filling the seats in Cassell has added an element not only to this year's team but the program.

"I knew the community was really passionate about Virginia Tech and that's something that I wanted," Soule said. "My expectations were way exceeded, and I love Hokie Nation."

Indeed, the support this team has garnered from Virginia Tech fans in Blacksburg has been paramount to the Hokies' success this season. Tech went 14-1 inside the confines of Cassell Coliseum, losing just a single ACC game for the second consecutive season.

"Give Hokie Nation an opportunity to come out and represent. Our fans are great, they've been great all year, just look at the turnout today," Brooks said on the floor of Cassell following his team's selection. "Just to reward them and to reward our kids and seniors with another game in here is something special."

Virginia Tech Athletics

NCAA tried to silence Hokie celebrations



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

The long-arm of the law, in this case the NCAA, told Virginia Tech there would be no playing of "Enter Sandman" as part of this weekend's women's tournament action. But the student body and other fans picked up the flag and ran with it, singing the opening verse we have all been accustomed to at the start of the game.

Many people were scratching their heads on whether the basketball games were being held on a neutral site or in Blacksburg. Somewhere, an official said we can't have that—no home court advantage.

With the victory, the team is headed to the Sweet 16. But "Enter Sandman" will remain quiet and will have to wait to be played at a "national championship" celebration or next basketball season.

Enter darkness.

This comes on the heels of the NCAA telling the Hokies baseball team that could not use a sledgehammer to demonstrate after each homerun. But again, the team has found a temporary way around the ruling—the hammer is slammed into the ground only after homerun number 1.

The umpire then warns the team about the "no-no",

and it is pulled out of the equation. From the point on, homeruns mean an imaginary bat is driven into the ground.

The NCAA says props cannot be used. The question is whether the collegiate athletic body is enforcing similar things across the board and across the country.

In no way does this affect the other team, but the NCAA in their infamous wisdom says there will be no emotion, no celebration belongs in college athletics.

Athletes will have to be told this on Day 1 so no one will get in trouble in Blacksburg and other college communities.

Celebrations and Enter Sandman are both just a part of the history of college athletics. Somewhere else in the country, the War Eagle has been silenced.

Hokies fans keep singing.

Local gymnast named one of top in nation

University of Kentucky Senior Raena Worley has been named a finalist for the 2023 American Athletic, Inc. (AAI) Award which honors the top senior gymnast in the nation.

Worley is one of six finalists for the prestigious award, the organization announced on Wednesday.

The Christiansburg native is one of the most accomplished gymnasts in program history. She has tallied 19 all-around victories in her four years at Kentucky with her highest total earned, 39.775. In her senior season alone, Worley has won the all-around title six times.

“Raena being named an AAI Award finalist is an incredible honor,” Head Coach Tim Garrison said. “But not a surprise to me or anyone in our program. She genuinely loves gymnastics and thrives

doing what she loves.” In addition to her 19 all-around wins, the gymnast has also earned a first-place finish 10 times on vault, with eight on the uneven bars, nine on the balance beam and 15 on the floor exercise.

Her career-best scores include a 9.950 on vault, which she has earned three times, 9.950 on bars eight times, a near-perfect 9.975 on beam in the most recent meet at Illinois and a 9.975 on floor four times.

Competing in nearly every meet of her collegiate career, she also represented the University of Kentucky gymnastics program at the 2022 NCAA Championships finishing the all-around competition in 12th place.

Throughout her collegiate career, Worley has been named a Women’s

Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) All-American four times with three second team appearances and one first team honor. She has also received numerous Southeastern Conference awards including All-SEC, six SEC weekly honors and three Winter Sports Honor Roll nods. In addition to academic and athletic success, the senior has also been named to the SEC Community Service Team.

“Whether she’s winking through a floor routine, or singing on beam, her genuine joy is easy to see,” Garrison said. “She never seeks the spotlight; it finds her and highlights what those around her already know – she’s a star.”

Worley will graduate with a dual degree in both Communication and Kinesiology.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UK ATHLETICS

Christiansburg native Raena Worley, a junior, is a first team WCGA Regular Season All-American all-around as a member of the University of Kentucky gymnastics team.

Salem Red Sox under new ownership

The Salem Red Sox recently announced the club has entered into an agreement to sell the team to Diamond Baseball Holdings (DBH), an organization that owns and operates select Minor League clubs affiliated with Major League Baseball (MLB).

The team will remain in Salem as the Single-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox and current staff will continue to be led by General Manager Allen Lawrence.

“We anticipate a smooth transition in the coming weeks and know that DBH puts fans and community first,” said Salem Red Sox General Manager Allen Lawrence. “Our day-to-day operations will not change, and our entire organization remains focused on creating an exceptional player development program for Red Sox players, and a positive experience for our fans in the Roanoke Valley.”

“For 16 years, Allen and the entire team in Salem have been incredible partners who have made the entry point into the Red Sox Minor League system one that is welcoming and sets the standard for our culture,” said Red Sox President and CEO Sam Kennedy. “Our connection to Allen and the entire player development team in Salem will remain intact and I know the organization is in good hands with

DBH leaders like Pat Battle and Peter Freund at the helm. What they are doing to enhance the Minor Leagues through investment and technology will benefit Salem greatly and I have no doubt they will continue to build on what has been established in Salem under Allen’s capable guidance.”

Throughout its long history in the Roanoke Valley, the Salem Red Sox have fostered a devoted community of supporters and DBH plans to continue building on the club’s success and connectivity with the fans and city of Salem. DBH is an experienced leader with a growing portfolio of Minor League Baseball clubs in markets across the country including the Double-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, the Portland Sea Dogs. Focused on creating highest-quality baseball experiences, DBH prioritizes fan and community engagement while driving additional growth and value for each club by investing in best-in-class facilities and technological innovation and through direct partnerships with MLB on opportunities like sponsorship and merchandising.

“I want to thank both Sam Kennedy and Dave Beeston of the Red Sox for their continued support and partnership in Salem as DBH now builds on what they have already been so successful in doing in the community,” said Peter Freund, CEO of Diamond Baseball Holdings. “In this next chapter, we will work together to promote Salem’s longstanding success and cultivate value-driven opportunities to reach the club’s long-term goals and

vision.” Professional baseball debuted in Salem in 1939 with the Salem Friends. Minor league teams have made the city their summer home every season since 1955 with no less than seven different teams earning championships in Salem. Whether it has been the Appalachian League or the Carolina League, the players and coaches have ingrained themselves in the community and worked hard to turn game nights into family events.

“We expect that the Salem Red Sox will continue to deliver the same quality product on and off the field under the ownership of DBH, and fans will not notice anything different this season,” says Wendy Delano, Salem’s Director of Civic Facilities. “Our ultimate goal is to make sure our teams and patrons are taken care of on all levels. Providing a first-class facility and a consistently entertaining game day experience continue to be our priority, which we share with DBH.”

Subject to obtaining the consent of the league and satisfying standard closing conditions, the transaction is expected to be completed promptly.

The Salem Red Sox are the Single-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox and call Carilion Clinic Field in Salem, Virginia home. The Salem Red Sox are in the Northern Division of the Carolina League.

Diamond Baseball Holdings (DBH) was formed in 2021 to support, promote and enhance Minor League Baseball Clubs affiliated with Major League Baseball through professional management, best practices, innovation and investment.

-Submitted by the Salem Red Sox



WE’RE BACK!!!

With over 25 years of combined experience assisting people with their retirement planning, Dean Chiapetto and Melodie Pogue are pleased to announce the formation of their New Agency **We Insure Retirement, Llc**

Whether you are shopping for:

- Medicare Supplement
- Medicare Advantage
- Life Insurance
- Hospital Indemnity
- Long-Term Care
- Dental & Vision
- Cancer Insurance
- IRA Rollovers

We’ve got the coverage you need at a price that fits your budget!

We Insure Retirement, Llc



Melodie Pogue



Dean Chiapetto

Call Today for Your Free Quote!

540-456-1127

Aetna – Anthem – AARP/UHC – Humana – Mutual of Omaha – Wellcare – Gerber Life and many others...

Wondering about your community’s air quality? EPA offers air monitors for loan to groups in Mid-Atlantic Region

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is making it easy to monitor air quality by allowing organizations in the Mid-Atlantic Region to borrow low-cost, portable air monitoring equipment. The Mid-Atlantic Region includes Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia and seven Tribal partners.

“Everyone deserves to know if the air they breathe is clean,” said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz. “The Air Sensor Loan Program will help its users learn about air quality in their communities and what actions they can take to protect their health.”

The program will assist community groups, schools, state agencies, local agencies, and tribes with conducting small-scale, localized air monitoring projects, as well as provide information and education on local air quality impacts. The

air quality sensors can be used to gather pertinent air quality informational data, which loanees can use to assess local air quality.

EPA will not be collecting the data from these sensors, nor will the data be used for regulatory decision making. Additionally, this equipment is not to be used for confined space evaluations or to meet any other health and safety requirement.

More information can be found at EPA’s Air Sensor Loan Program.

Equipment available for loan:

PurpleAir PA-II-SD* – stationary sensor that measures fine particulate matter (PM2.5); for outdoor and indoor use; plug-in powered; data available locally on the microSD card or connected to WiFi for private or public data streaming.

Cairsens – stationary sensor that measures nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), or non-methane volatile organic compounds (nmVOC); for outdoor and indoor use; plug-in powered.

Eligibility: State

agencies, local agencies, tribes, community groups, schools, and other interested organizations in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Training: Links to virtual training from non-EPA sources are available. The EPA Air Sensor Toolbox website for resources can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox>.

Information for Shipping of Equipment: Sensors can be shipped to any location within the Mid-Atlantic Region at the loanee’s expense or picked up at the EPA Regional office in Philadelphia. EPA will coordinate with loanees on a situational basis for shipment logistics.

Application Submittal: The Mid-Atlantic Region prefers to receive applications through the website, but applications may also be emailed to the Sensor Loan Contacts found at EPA’s Air Sensor Loan Program.

-Submitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CROSSWORD ANSWERS																
R	U	E	R		M	S	T		R	A	T					
O	X	B	O	W		A	K	A		R	A	B	I			
M	O	L	T	O		N	I	L		A	G	E	E			
R	A	C	E	S		T	I	L	L		S	E	T	S		
						A	B	O	L	I	S	H	E	S		
T	R	A	N	S	L	U	C	E	N	T						
S	H	I	N	N	E	D				O	N	A				
K	O	R	E	A						T	A	B	E	S		
						F	A	A		E	B	O	N	I	E	
						U	N	D	E	S	I	R	A	B	L	E
						S	U	B	S	I	D	I	E	S		
M	A	G	I			M	U	I		E	A	G	A	N		
E	B	R	O			I	C	H		A	U	B	E	R		
S	E	I	S			Z	E	E		R	A	B	B	I		
A	R	C				E	R			R	E	E	D			

visit www.ourvalley.org