



# News Messenger

Blacksburg

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Christiansburg

Saturday, April 29, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approve budget, real estate tax rates

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has set a real estate tax rate at \$0.70 per \$100 assessed value and approved the county's FY 2023-24 budget of \$236,357,597, cutting funds to Montgomery County Public Schools by 1.55 million dollars.

These decisions were made following public comment to the board and with much deliberation amongst the supervisors, ending both resolutions in a 4-3 vote.

Prior to the vote, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors heard public comments from citizens with many speaking in support of an initially

advertised \$0.73 tax rate. Reasons for supporting the higher tax rate included an increasing need to provide staff in schools that are already struggling to fill positions such as bus drivers, custodians, teachers, and special education staff. School resource officer (SRO) positions were also discussed by citizens as the supervisors have approved slashing funds that they typically used for personnel, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles.

A resolution posted on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors website at www.montva.com details those areas of the county that will receive reduced funding in the new fiscal year. Of those reductions listed, school resource officers (SROs) will see personnel costs reduced by \$152,542,

SRO uniforms and equipment reduced by \$17,250, and a one-time cost for five vehicles for SROs reduced by another \$275,000.

Additional funds also reduced in the budget will be from community resource officer personnel, parks and recreation, the ACCE program, the Shawsville Rescue Squad, and the county school's operating funds by \$1.55 million.

The citizens present to speak to the board spoke mostly in support of a tax rate increase to \$0.73, providing needed funds to the Montgomery County School system for personnel.

"I have about 50 years in public education and many of those years in school finance," said Nick Fisher. "After Covid, there is a great need to have

counselors with therapeutic skills in the schools."

Lyndsay Fox, of Blacksburg, shared that several area schools are showing significant learning loss as evident from map testing results, which were presented in person and via email with the board.

"Fully funding our schools is important for everyone in our community," said Fox. "Cutting funding to MCPS will mean cutting support jobs which would be directly damaging to your constituents as well as to your students."

Mary Biggs, Sara Bohn, and April DeMotts voted against the \$0.70 tax rate, in support of a higher \$0.73 tax rate, as well as voting no to the upcoming

See Board, page 4



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

## Christiansburg Town Council addresses support of school resource officers

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

Funding of the school resource officers was discussed by the Christiansburg Town Council in a regular meeting Tuesday, April 25, following an announcement of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors decision to reduce county financial support to the officers.

During citizen comments, one individual addressed the council in support of school resource officers (SROs) and the need to fully fund these positions. Carrie Bradshaw, Administrative Assistant at Falling Branch Elementary School, spoke of the tremendous work that SROs provide to the students, staff, and teachers.

"Our police officers have always had the highest professionalism," said Bradshaw. "Our hats are off to the Christiansburg Police department. They've done a fantastic job. Our officers in the town routinely come through to help; they come to do walkthroughs, they do lockdown drills with us, they show our students the K9 operation, they monitor traffic coming off the interstate."

Bradshaw explained how their resource officer at Falling Branch Elementary School, Adam Horn, is shared with multiple schools, specifically the two other elementary schools in Christiansburg, but sometimes the officer covers other town schools as well.

Mayor Mike Barber opened the discussion concerning school resource officer staffing by stating, "We have not been presented with anything from the county. I know they discussed this seven days ago and came up with a plan. They have not reached out to me, and I have not reached out to them."

"I am under the assumption that the town of

See Council, page 4

## NRV Leading Lights honors 35 local volunteers



College (from left): Sarah Grace Hern, Virginia Tech; Amber Litterer, Virginia Tech; and Cara Newbill, Virginia Tech

New River Valley Leading Lights recently honored 35 community volunteers at a special ceremony held on April 13 at the German Club at Virginia Tech.

The New River Valley Leading Lights organization's mission is to acknowledge and honor volunteers across the New River Valley who are making community-changing impacts through volunteerism, culminating in an annual celebratory banquet. Retired Blacksburg Police Chief Anthony Wilson served as this year's guest speaker.

High school nominees included

Sarah Harvey, Radford High School; James Riffe, Radford High School; December Ward, Pulaski County High School; and Alex Woodward, Floyd County.

College nominees included Sarah Grace Hern, Virginia Tech; Amber Litterer, Virginia Tech; Cara Newbill, Virginia Tech; and Madison Webb, New River Community College.

Nominees from Floyd County included Andrew Buckman, Greg Hardwicke, Lori Marsh, Greg Sazonov, Lydean Spangler, and Paul Tremblett. Nominees from



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW RIVER VALLEY LEADING LIGHTS

Montgomery County (from left): Becky Daniels, Gunin Kiran, Susan Madison, Merissa Sachs, Debbie Sherman-Lee, and Clara Taylor

Giles County included Denise Blakeney, Faye Cofer, Larry Greene, and Charles N. Herbert, Jr. Nominees from Montgomery County included Becky Daniels, Jan Jackson, Gunin Kiran, Susan Madison, Merissa Sachs, Debbie Sherman-Lee, Scott Smith, and Clara Taylor. Nominees from Pulaski County were Jim Cook and John Ross. Radford City nominees included Janell Dobbins, Jessie Foster, and Melissa Jarrell. Dick Arnold of Montgomery County,

See Volunteers, page 3

## Powwow today at Virginia Tech

BLACKSBURG - Colorful regalia, drums, food, and a celebration of Native culture - right in the middle of Virginia Tech. At noon April 29, the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center in partnership with Native at VT will host the spring 2023 powwow.

Powwow honors traditional Native gatherings by incorporating Indigenous values such as respect, tradition, and generosity — offering

an opportunity for the university community to experience Indigenous culture firsthand. According to Melissa Faircloth, the center's director, powwow is Virginia Tech's "opportunity to not only experience Native culture, but to celebrate and recognize the contributions of Native community members on campus."

The Virginia Tech powwow started as

See Powwow, page 3

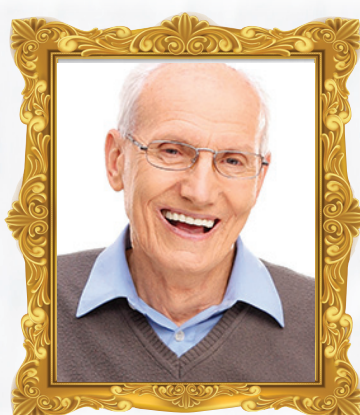


PHOTO BY THOMAS MILLER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Native at VT held its annual powwow on the Graduate Life Center lawn in April 2022. This year's event is today, Saturday, April 29.

## Give your loved one a place of honor....

KNOW YOUR MEMORIAL OPTIONS  
IN OUR CEMETERY



MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY  
2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg • (540) 552-7800 • www.memorialgardensnrva.com



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, April 29:

### Shred-A-Thon

The Town of Blacksburg will host a Shred-A-Thon, 9 a.m. – noon at 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg. This free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please plan to bring documents in a box, tote or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include: metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Please remain in your vehicle during drop off. For more information, call the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540-443-1212.

### New Mount Olive fish fry

The United Methodist Men of New Mount Olive are sponsoring a fish fry, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at New Mount Olive United Methodist Church, 309 Russell Ave., in Radford. Dinners are \$12 and include two pieces of fried fish, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls and dessert. Fish sandwiches are \$6 and an extra piece of fish is \$3.50 For call-in orders, call the church at 540-639-6425. Delivery is available only in Radford.

### Montgomery Museum's Arts NRV Market

2023 Arts NRV Market - second year - at the museum's new location in downtown Christiansburg; April 28 noon-6:30 p.m. and April 29 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., featuring local crafters, painters, demonstrations, food trucks, and a wine garden. The Arts NRV Market is a celebration of creativity and community art, showcasing some of the most talented artists and crafters from the New River Valley and Roanoke Valley region. In addition to live demonstrations from en plein air painters, stone carvers, stained glass with Niki Pynny, and Fire and Sky Pottery Studio and Art Center pottery demonstrations, the Arts NRV Market will feature a wide range of handmade crafts, jewelry, pottery, and more. Food trucks include Aloha Eddie (Fri. and Sat.), and Sam's Hot Dog Stand Blacksburg, and Cabo Fish Taco (Sat.). Sip on wine from Vintage Cellar, take in the sights and sounds of the market, and enjoy the company of fellow art enthusiasts. Sponsored by Fully-Engaged, Shelter Alternatives, Inc., Ruth Lefko Art, David Ferrell Art & Photography, Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA), and Vintage Cellar. Admission free, and all are welcome to attend. For more information on the Arts NRV Market, visit [www.artsnrv.org](http://www.artsnrv.org).

### Library of Virginia on-the-go

At the Meadowbrook Library; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Library of Virginia is bringing their state-of-the-art equipment and offering their expertise. Join us to explore research resources, discuss regional and family history, enjoy children's activities and much more. Door prizes, Genealogy 101 and help with your questions, tours of the Meadowbrook Museum and the MFRL Mobile Library, special guest Daniel Thorp, and Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo. All events are free and open to the community.

### Family Movie Matinee: Encanto

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. A Colombian teenage girl has to face the frustration of being the only member of her family without magical powers in "Encanto". Rated PG; 1 hour 42 minutes.

### Skipper Cannon Firing

The Corps of Cadets will host a Change of Command Ceremony and Pass in Review on the Drillfield on Saturday, April 29. The event is open to the public and will begin at 10 a.m. Skipper, the corps cannon, will fire between 10 and 11 a.m. during the Change of Command Pass in Review. The three shots will occur when the cadets reach the Drillfield, at the first note of the national anthem, and at the first note of Tech Triumph. The Pass in Review will honor the Class of 2023 and usher in the Class of 2024 as the cadet commanders of the regiment.

## Sunday, April 30:

### Christiansburg Presbyterian Church Spring Concert

Christiansburg Presbyterian Church will offer its annual Spring Concert at 4 p.m. This year's guest artist will be classical guitarist Justin Craig. Justin is a graduate of Radford University with a Master of Music degree in classical guitar performance. He is a busy regional guitarist, jazz performer, recording artist, and teacher. He performs often as a soloist and leads a variety of groups including a modern jazz and Brazilian group. This concert is free and open to the public.

## Tuesday, May 2:

### Montgomery County School Board meeting

School board meetings are regularly scheduled on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held at the Operations Center, 208 College St. in Christiansburg. The Montgomery County School Board utilizes Board Docs for their agenda and minutes. Public access to Board Docs is available at <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/mcps/Board.nsf/Public>. Montgomery County residents, MCPS students, and School Board employees may appear in person at any regular meeting of the School Board. A person who wishes to address the School Board should make their request prior to the beginning of the School Board meeting by completing the online sign-up form before the end of public comment period: <https://forms.gle/GVxiJUicVBQNYt5M6>.

## Thursday, May 4:

### 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.

## Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6:

### Book Sale

There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Along with the usual subjects, there will be many, many children's books, cookbooks and jigsaw puzzles. Come to the sale and help support the Radford Public Library.

## Saturday, May 6:

### Democratic Committee Unassembled Caucus

The Montgomery County Democratic Committee is conducting an Unassembled Caucus on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg. The caucus will be held for the following local positions: Montgomery County Constitutional Offices and Board of Supervisors Districts B, E, F and G. Eligible Democrats may participate in voting during the hours listed above. The complete Montgomery County Democratic Committee caucus process is posted on the MCDC webpage, [www.mcdemocrats.org](http://www.mcdemocrats.org). If no more than one person seeks election to a position, the caucus will be cancelled for the position. For more information, contact [chair@mcdemocrats.org](mailto:chair@mcdemocrats.org).

## Sunday, May 7:

### Blacksburg Community Strings and Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert

Blacksburg Community Strings and Chamber Orchestra present their Spring Concert at 2 p.m. at Warm Hearth Village Center - featuring local string and wind instrument players playing the classical music of Beethoven, Saint-Saens, and Bach as well as an orchestral arrangement of 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Soloists include cellist John Crawford, violinist Rhea Epstein, and violist Diane Conant. Free admission. Visit <http://www.blacksburgcommunitystrings.com> for more information.

## Monday, May 8:

### 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](http://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.

## Tuesday, May 9:

### 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.

### Radford City School Board meeting

At the School Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford; 6 p.m.

## Thursday, May 18:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans

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 are also invited to this meeting. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864

## On-going:

### Glencoe Mansion announces call for art for Mary Draper Ingles Show

Glencoe Mansion is calling for art for its July-August 2023 Gallery Exhibit, "A Journey For All," a multi-artist show themed on the life and times of Mary Draper Ingles. Accepted artwork should reflect the life and times of Mary Draper Ingles, expressions of life during the colonial period, and histories of all the peoples, from settlers to indigenous cultures to enslaved people, who called the frontier home. This includes, but is not limited to, depictions of local landmarks (for example, Ingles Farm, the Cultural and Heritage Park, Ingles Tavern and other connected sites in the region), and Colonial style art. All fine arts and fine craft media including painting, plein air, illustration, digital media, textiles, mixed media and photography will be considered. Artists may submit up to three (3) artworks for consideration. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. on June 13. Participation, which is subject to acceptance, is open to artists in and around the NRV area. Entry forms for "A Journey For All" can be found at [www.glencoemansion.org](http://www.glencoemansion.org) or by contacting [arts@glencoemansion.org](mailto:arts@glencoemansion.org).

### Radford Farmers Market

2023 season of the Radford Farmers Market kicked off Saturday, April 22 on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14.

# YMCA at VT Healthy Kids Day is today

BLACKSBURG - The YMCA at Virginia Tech invites families to celebrate YMCA'S 31st annual Healthy Kids Day.

Healthy Kids Day is the nation's largest health-focused day for children, hosted in nearly 2,000 YMCA's across the country. "True to our mission of advocating youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, the YMCA at Virginia Tech is committed to improving the health and well-being of families through active play and educational activities," the announcement reads. "The primary goal of Healthy Kids Day® is to develop a sense of health and well-being, especially that of children, within the local community. Here at the YMCA at Virginia Tech, HKD provides a great opportunity for you to learn about the resources available to help plan and prepare an engaging summer for your kids. As a child grows and fulfills their true potential, we believe they will make the world a better place for everyone. When a child is healthy, happy, motivated, and excited, something amazing is inevitably going to result."

Along with Healthy Kids Day, the YMCA will also be having its Fabulous 4Miler at 9 a.m. and a one-mile Fun Run at 10:30 a.m. Register for these races at <https://vtymca.org/healthy-kids-day/>.

Healthy Kids Day is a free "super kick-off" event consisting of music, games, healthy snacks, crafts, and educational activities for families. Local organizations will also be promoting various summer programs and activities that are perfect for kids. The event is today, April 29, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., and will be located on the field and tennis courts between Cassell Coliseum and the YMCA Lancaster House on Washington St. Blacksburg. The rain date for the event will be April 30. All parents must check-in with volunteers at the registration desk. Free parking is available on campus during the weekend. "So, come on out to this free event where all families are welcome!"

Submitted by the YMCA at Virginia Tech

# Virginia Tech Board of Visitors sets tuition and fee rates for the 2023-24 academic year

BLACKSBURG - The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors unanimously approved the 2023-24 tuition and fees resolution on April 21, including a 4.9 percent tuition increase for both in-state and out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students and a \$208 increase in the mandatory comprehensive fee.

The increases, in combination with an estimated \$3.6 million in base budget reallocations, "are needed to support the university's share of state-mandated compensation actions as well as strategic investments called for by the university strategic plan which guides Virginia Tech's vision to become a top 100 global research university and to provide access to those who seek a Virginia Tech education," according to the university.

Pending the final outcome of the state's budget process, the board and university may revisit tuition and fee rates in light of final state-mandated costs, incremental resources, and anticipated needs related to the university's priority investments.

"Virginia Tech depends on state support and appreciates the partnership we have had with the commonwealth for many years now," said university President Tim Sands. "Though the state budget process is not yet complete, we believe it is critical we take action now to help students and their families understand college costs before the May 1 acceptance

deadline."

"Higher education is not immune to the impact of continued periods of high inflation," said Board of Visitors Rector Letitia "Tish" Long. "Although this year's rate increases are higher than we've seen the last several years, the return on investment for a Virginia Tech degree remains high, and at a lower cost than many of our peer institutions. Even with that, we recognize that for many low- and middle-income families a college education may seem out of reach, which is why the board remains focused with President Sands on increasing available resources to ensure all students have the opportunity to benefit from a Virginia Tech experience."

Virginia Tech continues to work to hold cost increases to below the rate of inflation. Over the past five years the consumer price index has increased 21 percent while in-state tuition rates at Virginia Tech have increased 9 percent.

Tuition for Virginia undergraduate students will increase \$593, to \$12,697 annually. Out-of-state undergraduate tuition will increase \$1,556, totaling \$33,310 annually.

Comprehensive fees will increase \$208 for a total of \$2,585 next year. Annual room and board charges will increase by \$990 per year, to a total of \$11,746.

When adding tuition and mandatory fees with room and board costs, the total cost in 2023-

24 for a Virginia undergraduate student living on campus would be \$27,222. The total cost of an out-of-state undergraduate living on campus will be \$48,439.

Virginia Tech ranks ninth of the 15 Virginia public universities in terms of total overall cost for resident undergraduate students. Virginia Tech continues to have the lowest mandatory fees among all public four-year institutions in the commonwealth.

To further support low- and middle-income families who seek a Virginia Tech education, the 2022 General Assembly planned a \$5.6 million increase in undergraduate student financial aid for 2023-24. The university plans to make additional funds available for student financial aid during the 2023-24 budget development process as part of the access and affordability initiative.

Tuition and fees are the primary source of the university's Educational and General Program (E&G) budget. In the current fiscal year, for example, tuition and fees accounted for \$653 million (or 70 percent) of the \$938 million total University Division E&G budget. The state provided \$239 million (or 25 percent) toward the University Division E&G budget, and an additional \$46 million (or 5 percent) came from other sources.

Virginia Tech's Funds for the Future program provides 100

See Rates, page 4



## Fourth Annual Warm Hearth Village Walk in Remembrance strikes a hopeful chord

BLACKSBURG – For the fourth consecutive year Warm Hearth Village (WHV) residents, employees, and family members walked 3.2 miles on the village campus to commemorate the 32 souls lost at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007.

John Hillison, a Warm Hearth Village (WHV) resident and former Virginia Tech Agricultural Education professor and department head and Dr. Richard Shepherd, resident and retired physician who specialized in emergency and family medicine, mapped 3.2 miles on the

campus and recruited the 35 walkers.

Hillison was in the first Run for Remembrance in 2008 and has participated every year since.

“I am so pleased with the turnout this year. Residents and their families, employees and their families all mingle well together and are a part of the greater community. We all care about each other and what happens in this town. Today was evidence of that as we came together

See Walk, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

**Warm Hearth Village residents, employees, and family members participated in the Fourth Annual Warm Hearth Village Walk in Remembrance.**

## Powwow

from page 1

Faircloth’s Diversity Scholar project in 2017 and has morphed into an intertribal event that creates visibility and increases cultural education for the Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, and surrounding communities.

“It is a wonderful learning experience, a way to share Native culture, and a time to recognize and celebrate this small but mighty force on campus,” Faircloth said.

This year’s powwow will include two head dancers, an arena director, drum groups from both northern and southern traditions, and a master of ceremonies. The master of ceremonies for this year’s is Rufus Elliott ‘07, who was the first Monacan graduate of Virginia Tech.

Serving as the master of ceremonies for the powwow is especially meaningful for Elliott, as there were no celebrations of this kind on campus during his time as a Virginia Tech. He underlined this importance by citing university history. In

1862, the Morrill Act established the land-grant university system, which was funded through the sale of land acquired through the forced removal of Native nations from western territories. Virginia Tech acknowledges this history in its land and labor acknowledgement and states commitment to “changing the trajectory” of this history through sustained and meaningful engagement with Native nations, particularly the Tutelo and Monacan peoples who are the original stewards of the land on which Virginia Tech is built. To Elliot, “it is important for these events to happen because it educates the community and shows Virginia Tech is going beyond the first step of acknowledging their role in displacing Natives.”

Emily Wilkins, a member of the Monacan community who now works at Virginia Tech in the Moss Arts Center, will be the head female dancer. In reflecting on what it means to have powwow at Virginia

Tech, Wilkins shared that it is “a beautiful party” and encourages everyone across New River Valley and the university community to participate. She added she feels this is a great way to get involved and learn about various Native cultures.

“It’s great to have VT spreading awareness, acknowledgement, and moving forward with meaningful ways of getting the community involved,” said Wilkins.

The 2023 powwow will take place Saturday, April 29, at noon on the Graduate School lawn. The rain location is the Graduate Life Center Multipurpose Room. The community will have an opportunity to participate in various activities, purchase Native-made items, interact with vendors selling arts and crafts, enjoy food, and watch a cooking demonstration.

On the day of the event, attendees will be encouraged to participate in specific social dances that are open to the public. There are important

points of etiquette to follow at this and any powwow, some of which have been listed below.

1. Listen to the master of ceremonies. He will announce who is to dance, and when. He will also let you know when you can take photos/record and when you cannot and which dances include an invitation to the general public to join.
2. Show respect to the flags and Honor Songs by standing during “special songs.”
3. The Flag Song, or Indian National Anthem, is sung when the American flag is raised or lowered. Please stand and remove hats during the singing of this song. It is not a song for dancing.
4. Certain items of cultural significance should be worn only by those qualified to do so. Respect the traditions. This includes headdresses.
5. The drums are sometimes closed, check with the head singer for permission to sing.
6. If at any time you

are uncertain of procedure or etiquette, please check with the master of ceremonies, arena director, or head singer. They will be glad to help you with your questions.

7. If taking pictures, remember common courtesy and ask permission. Group photographs are usually alright to take, but you might want to ask the committee first.
8. Animals are not typically allowed unless they are service animals.
9. Do not point, make fun of, or attempt to imitate a dance(r). Remember that this is culture and that principles of community apply.
10. Have fun!

For more information and ways to participate and get involved with the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center, contact Melissa Faircloth (missy86@vt.edu).

*Renée Stewart for Virginia Tech*

## Volunteers

from page 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW RIVER VALLEY LEADING LIGHTS

**Lifetime Achievement (from left): Mary Catherine Stout, Pulaski County; Drew Smith, Montgomery County; Judith Hess Jones, Montgomery County; and Dick Arnold, Montgomery County**

Judith Hess Jones of Montgomery County, Drew Smith of Montgomery County, and Mary Catherine Stout of Pulaski County were all nominated in the Lifetime Achievement category.

From the 35 nominees, 11 were chosen as Distinguished Recipients. The 2023 Leading Lights Distinguished Recipients honored included Sarah Harvey (High School Award), December Ward (Robert “Bob” Job High School Award), Cara Newbill (College Award), Madison Webb (College Award), Greg Sazonov (Floyd Community Award), Larry Greene (Giles Community Award), Debbie Sherman-Lee (Montgomery Community Award), Susan Madison (Montgomery Community Award), John Ross (Pulaski Community Award), and Janell Dobbins (Radford Community Award). Judith Hess Jones of Montgomery County was named as the Lifetime Achievement Distinguished Recipient.

Dick Arnold also received a one-time Founder’s Award for all of the work he has contributed to the New River Valley Leading Lights organization and

the NRV community.

The community Distinguished Recipients receive \$500 to direct to a non-profit of their choice, and the Lifetime Achievement recipient receives \$1,000 to direct. The nominees’ volunteer efforts include work with food pantries, emergency response, afterschool programs, community groups, clothing drives, community cleanup, education, environmental causes, and many more.

NRV Leading Lights was established in 2007, prompted by the outpouring of voluntary service after the April 16 events at Virginia Tech. The first Leading Lights Recognition Event was held in April 2009. These annual events highlight the extraordinary compassion of ordinary citizens who united in service to others. To learn more about NRV Leading lights, visit [www.leadinglightsnrv.org](http://www.leadinglightsnrv.org). NRV Leading Lights will be seeking volunteer nominations later this year for the 2024 awards.

*New River Valley Leading Lights*



# Marketplace



[ourvalley.org](http://ourvalley.org)













<div><div><div>Yard Sales - Radford City</div><div><div>Heron’s Landing Community Wide Yard Sale</div><div>Fairlawn May 6th, 2023 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both entrances- Rivercourse and Heron’s Landing Drive Rain Date is May 13th, 2023</div></div></div><div><div>Legals - City of Radford</div><div><div>TRUSTEE’S SALE OF 806 9TH STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141.</div><div>In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 31, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$120,000.00 recorded in the Clerk’s Office, Circuit Court for Radford City, Virginia as Instrument No. 0601178 . The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA on June 5, 2023, at 1:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEING ALL OF LOT 3, BLOCK 6 AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, "MAP OF SUNSET VILLAGE, CITY OF</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Legals - City of Radford</div><div><div>RADFORD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA", DATED JULY 28, 1947, BY CHILDRESS HALL, SURVEYOR, RECORDED IN THE CLERK’S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 47, PAGE 258. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder’s deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser’s deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee’s Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. A form copy of the Trustee’s memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at <a href="http://www.bwwsales.com">www.bwwsales.com</a>.</div></div></div></div> <div><div><div>Legals - City of Radford</div><div><div>Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: <a href="http://www.bwwsales.com">www.bwwsales.com</a>. VA-361849-1.</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Legals - City of Radford</div><div><div>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</div><div>CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA</div><div>WATER AND WASTE WATER RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024</div><div>Pursuant to Section 15.2-107 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. May 8, 2023 on the proposed Water and Waste Water Rates for Fiscal Year 2024. Interest parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present their views. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street. FURTHER, notice is given that the Council’s intention to propose an increase in the following Water and Waste Water rates for Fiscal Year 2024: 1. Water rates are programmed to increase from \$16.32 to \$20.32 for 4,000 gallons. 2. Waste Water rates are programmed to increase from \$12.21 to \$14.24 for 2,000 gallons.</div><div>BY THE ORDER OF RADFORD CITY COUNCIL</div></div></div></div> <div><div><div>Legals - Montgomery County</div><div><div>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</div><div>TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG</div><div>PROPOSED WATER FEE INCREASES</div><div>A public hearing will be held on Tuesday May 9, 2023, at 7 pm at Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia in Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing the proposed water fee increases. Effective Date: July 1, 2024 Authority: Code of Virginia §15.2-2119 WATER RATES: Within Corporate limits: First 0 to 1,000 gallons from \$9.00 to \$10.00; Additional 1,000 gallons from \$11.00 to \$12.00; Over 50,000 gallons from \$8.25 to \$9.00. Outside Corporate limits the rate will increase to 200% of inside Corporate limits rates. First 0 to 1,000 gallons from \$13.50 to \$20; Additional 1,000 gallons from \$15.00 to \$24.00; Over 50,000 gallons from \$12.38 to \$18.00 This proposal may be examined during regular business hours at the office of the Town Manager. 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA between</div></div></div></div> <div><div><div>Legals - Montgomery County</div><div><div>the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments. Randy Wingfield Town Manager</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Legals - Montgomery County</div><div><div>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</div><div>Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 &amp; 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on May 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on property owned by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors to allow a lighted park. The proposed Special Use Permit would allow the installation of lighting at Auburn Park. The proposed lighting plan</div></div></div></div> <div><div><div>Legals - Montgomery County</div><div><div>consists of twenty-one (21) 60-foot light poles, one (1) 70-foot light pole, and eight (8) 80-foot light poles on the athletic fields currently under development. A total of one hundred forty-four (144) individual LED downcast lighting fixtures would be installed on the poles, with fixtures installed at a height of 16 feet and/or at the maximum pole height. The property is located at 3595 Riner Road (St. Rt. 8), and is located approximately 0.1 miles North of the intersection of Riner Road (Route 8) and Turnberry Ln. The property is further identified as Tax Map 119-A 23 (Parcel ID: 019113), 45.683 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Resource Stewardship in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <a href="http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications">http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications</a>.</div></div></div></div>
--	--	---	--



# Walk

from page 3

to remember.” Each year starts with a group photo and some words in honor and remembrance.

Sara Dalton, Village resident since October 2021, walked this year for the first time. “I wanted to do this

walk to honor those we lost and to keep hope alive for a less violent future. The walk was beautiful and the camaraderie was great.”

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living

community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on our campus and in the home.

*Submitted by Warm Hearth Village*

# Rates

from page 3

percent protection from tuition and fee increases for returning students with a family income of up to \$100,000, resulting in a predictable and unchanging net tuition and fee package for all four years of their undergraduate study at Virginia Tech.

Including university-funded support, Virginia Tech undergraduates received \$151 million in grants and scholarships

last fiscal year.

Virginia Tech will continue to discount undergraduate tuition by 10 percent during the summer session and winter session courses in Blacksburg to help students complete degrees at an accelerated pace during nontraditional times.

Tuition and mandatory fees for in-state graduate students will rise by \$929 to \$18,012

and for out-of-state graduate students by \$1,651 to \$34,084. The incremental impact of a tuition increase on graduate students is mitigated for the 70 percent of graduate students on assistantship. Nevertheless, the university is in the process of assessing financial support of graduate assistantships and expects to address needs moving forward.

The total annual cost to Virginia and Maryland veterinary students would be

\$28,156, an increase of \$1,258, and the total annual cost to out-of-state (and non-Maryland) veterinary students would be \$59,971, an increase of \$2,602.

Students enrolling at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine this summer would have a total annual cost of \$60,355, an increase of \$2,634.

*Mark Owczarski for Virginia Tech*

# Council

from page 1

Christiansburg is going to save some money and they are going to fund us those three officers, \$203,000,” Barber continued.

Council member Timothy Wilson made a motion to table the

SRO discussion until hearing more from the county on their proposal. Tanya Hockett, council member, suggested arranging a meeting with the Board of Supervisors to hear more details about plans to provide the

needed SRO positions in schools.

“We have asked them when this first came up; they had no interest in a joint meeting,” said Barber.

“As I understand, they would be agreeable as council is agreeable,” Town Manager Randy Wingfield responded.

Council member Henry Showalter suggested a meeting of the Christiansburg Town Council and the Board of Supervisors could implement the use of a moderator, if necessary, but with the requirement that all elected officials be present. Additionally, Showalter suggested that other items of concern, outside of the current issue with SROs, be included in a joint-meeting agenda.

“It is going to be in a neutral place, and everybody has to be there,” said Showalter.

“I mean this whole thing, it’s kind of a sore subject,” said Barber.

“Do I expect them to pay? Hell no.” Barber said.

He went on to say the meeting would be arranged outside of either organization’s regular meeting times and he would reach out to the board for a time and place.

“With us making a decision to pull the SROs out on June 1st, I don’t want to rush this discussion, but that is coming up quickly,” Hockett added.

The council consented in agreement to reach out to the board for a meeting. Barber and Wingfield will suggest a meeting with the requirement of all members being in attendance. Wingfield made the additional suggestion of a moderator for the meeting.

The meeting’s agenda also included discussion of the process of appointing a new police chief due to the announced August 31, 2023 retirement of current Police Chief Mark Sisson.

The council discussed the possibility of hiring a firm to handle applicants for the position in addition to publicly advertising, as had been done in the past.

“I am not a big proponent of trying to get a personnel firm involved in this; I think we can probably advertise it,” Barber said in addressing the council. “I think I would like to consider, from a lot of standpoints, to get your thoughts on filling this job from within. Mark has been a police chief for 15 years and has created quite a facility, quite a department.”

“This discussion, as far as the processes and advertisement has to be a public discussion. If you want to have discussion of any specific candidates, you can do this as a closed meeting if you like,” Wingfield explained.

Wingfield went on to ask the council what specific processes the council would like to conduct, including options of hiring a firm to manage

the personnel search, establishing a committee, and advertising.

Board member Timothy Wilson suggested the establishment of a subcommittee in the search for a new police chief, versus the seven council members participating in the full process. Barber agreed a committee could be the route for reviewing the candidates, but that advertising would be the priority at this point.

In another item on the agenda, Shelor Motor Mile has submitted a bid for naming rights of the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park Diamond in the amount of \$500,000. Pursuant to a process of legal review of the bid, the naming of the park will be tabled until future notice.

Wingfield was also recognized during the meeting by Mayor Barber and council for 25 years of service with the town of Christiansburg.

## News Messenger

Established 1869

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

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@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 \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 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.

# Board

from page 1

year’s budget.

“Clearly the communication to the whole board has been overwhelming to keep it at \$0.73 as compared to reducing it to \$0.70,” Bohn, board member, responded in discussion with the supervisors, referring to the citizen comments and correspondence the board had been receiving.

“I’d say the majority of those emails were from Montgomery County Public School employees and their residents of our district and I’ve heard from my residents as well that do not want the tax to be increased,” Chair Sherri Blevins responded.

“It’s so much easier for some to sit up here and say let’s take it out

or the pockets or the taxpayers, said board member Todd King. “I mean that is who we are supposed to represent.”

In other topics of discussion at the board meeting, public comment was shared in the discussion of the new Riner park that include soccer fields. Bruce Ford, property owner on Riner Road near the new park shared frustration with the board concerning not enough field space for all soccer teams.

“We were checking on the fields and we’d asked about having a regulation size field for the boys, and at the meeting I was told there was one, but when I went to the planning commission to get the drawings, there’s not a field for the

boys, said Ford.

Also, during the meeting, Montgomery County Fire-EMS individuals were recognized by Michael Geary, Emergency Services Coordinator, for Life Saving Awards. The lives of five different community members were saved as a result of the acts of these emergency rescue individuals in providing excellent patient care within minutes of 911 being called: Advanced EMT Sara Guida, Paramedic Jared Sherman, EMT Derek Rogers, Paramedic Robert McGhee, Paramedic Bailey Hager, EMT Cara Marshall, Advanced EMT Logan Underwood and Paramedic Murjan Hammad, and Paramedic Steve Spangler.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10			11		12		13		14	
15					16				17	
	18			19			20		21	
			22				23			
	24	25					26		27	28
29				30		31	32	33		34
35					36					37
38			39	40	41			42	43	44
	45						46		47	
			48				49			
		50	51			52		53		54
56					57		58		59	60
61					62				63	
64						65			66	

**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. Easy as 1-2-3  
4. Goat and camel hair fabric  
7. A women undergarment  
10. British bathrooms  
12. Assemblages of parts into one entity  
14. Semitic fertility god  
15. Dull & uninteresting  
16. Yemen capital  
17. Stare impertinently  
18. Banished persons  
20. Heart failure & energy supplement  
22. Reduction in force  
23. Women's \_\_\_ movement  
24. Polynesian wrapped skirt  
26. Double-reed instruments  
29. Own (Scottish)  
30. Summer window dressings  
35. Many not ands

**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Vestment worn by priests  
2. The trunk of a tree  
3. Transmission line cable  
4. Freshwater duck genus  
5. Bulk storage container  
6. Oil obtained from flowers  
7. Shopping containers  
8. Abnormal breathing  
9. Brew  
11. Bake eggs in their shells  
12. Serviceable  
13. A person in the navy  
14. A child's slight injury  
19. Fain  
21. Supports trestletree  
24. Parian Chronicle discovery site  
25. Greek famous for fables  
27. Farical afterpiece  
28. Dispatches by mail

29. Hall of Fame (abbr.)  
31. Aah  
32. Unnaturally pale  
33. Before  
34. Fixed in one's purpose  
39. Madames  
40. Frosts  
41. City drains  
42. Baseball playoff  
43. Cruise  
47. Steeple  
50. Precipitation  
51. Ancient Greek rhetorician  
52. A unit of two  
53. Viewed  
54. Taxis  
55. 4840 square yards  
56. London radio station  
58. Perform work regularly  
60. Longest geological time

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.



OBITUARIES

Lewis, Myrtle Iris-Booth

Myrtle Iris-Booth Lewis, of Blacksburg, was born in Bedford on November 27, 1925, and passed away on April 19, 2023 at the age of 97.

She was preceded in death by parents Plez Booth and Ardell Creasy-Booth, of Bedford; her husband Walter H. Lewis Sr.; brothers John, William, and Charlie Booth; and daughters Jacqueline Lewis Eaves and Rev. Sheila Bradshaw.

She is survived by daughters Marilyn Saunders, of Fairborn, Ohio, and Rev. Vera Worthy (Richard) of New Castle, Dela.; sons Walter H. Lewis Jr., (Bobbie) of Nashville, Tenn., and Rev. James Maszerine Lewis of Milwaukee, Wis. She is also survived by grandchildren Paul Saunders II, Brian Saunders, Karen Eaves, Stacey Hodges, Ceteka Gooch, Walter Lewis III, James Lewis, Jason Lewis, Jamon Lewis, Marilyn Lewis, Cathy Parmley, Kelly Mobly, Paul Mitchel, Kim, and Christopher Bradshaw, and those who loved and called her granny, Annette Sherman and Angel Woodard. She



26 great-grandchildren and numerous great-great-grandchildren, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and adopted children.

Myrtle retired from Corning Corporation where she worked for many years as an Executive Administrative Assistant. She was the Mother of First Baptist Church of Radford. She served as a Deaconess and other various roles within the church. Mother Lewis was a member of the Pastors Aide and Francis Saunders Missionary Society. She also served as President of the Deaconess board for many years.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 29, 2023, at noon at First Baptist Church, 555 Rock Road, Radford, with Rev. C. Coles Casey. Burial will follow in the Lewis Family Cemetery, Fairlawn. The family will receive friends Saturday prior to the service from 11 a.m. until service time. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Barnett, Homer Edward

Homer Edward Barnett, 90, of Blacksburg died Sunday, April 23, 2023, at his home.

He was born in Blacksburg on August 16, 1932, to the late Richard and India Perkins Barnett. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Nancy Shaver Barnett; his second wife Betty Jo Barnett; his brothers and sisters-in-laws Walter (Elise), Luther (Dorothy), and Eugene; sisters and brothers-in-law Elenora (Luther) Barnett, Julie (Don) Millen, Francis (Luther) Hassele, and Lorraine (AC) Mccoy; and sister-in-law Bessie Barnett.

He was a former member of Blacksburg Fire Department. His favorite hobbies were playing music,

hunting, and working in his yard. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Mike Dowdy; three stepchildren Steve (Debbie) Shaver, Jeff Shaver, and David Shaver; sister Lois Ramsey; brother Frank Barnett; sister-in-law Sandy Barnett; granddaughter Rachel Shaver; niece Judy (Buddy) Cooper; a very special nephew Randy (Leigh); and 23 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 28, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend John Hopkins officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

See Obituaries, page 6

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

GOD’S COVENANT

Read Genesis 9:1 through 11:32

A covenant is a promise or contract between two parties. However, a biblical covenant involved much more. It was a permanent arrangement designed to promote friendship and understanding between God and man. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah and every living thing.

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:13).

This covenant had three parts. Never again would a flood devastate the earth. Season would follow season as long as the earth remained. Then God gave the rainbow to show that He could be trusted to keep His part of the covenant.

The rainbow speaks of God’s grace and mercy. But His grace didn’t stop with the rainbow. God wanted to have a relationship with us in spite of our unworthiness, so He sent us a Mediator—Jesus—who, by His death, opened up a new and better covenant, one that removed our sin and cleansed our conscience (Luke 22:20).

Prayer for Today: Lord, with Your help I will keep my part of the covenant—to love and honor You. Amen

Quicklook: Genesis 9:8–17

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

**ANGLICAN CATHOLIC**  
**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, “Associate”, 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

**St. Philip’s Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday’s at 12pm.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church** - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hersherberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

**BAPTIST**  
**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C’burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children’s Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

**Faith Christian Church of Christ**, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg. David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

**CHURCH OF GOD**  
**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C’Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.  
**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School– 10:00A.M. Morning Worship– 11:00A.M., Children’s Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening – 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night – 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office – 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafrank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God’s Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

**(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**  
**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: “Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God’s love with others!”

**ECKANKAR**  
**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meet-up.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences \* Group\* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

**EPISCOPAL**  
**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on

Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

**LUTHERAN**  
**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.  
**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God’s people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: “Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff.” You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah’s Backpack which

has great community impact, Micah’s Soup for Seniors, Micah’s Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price’s Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmhc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

**MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
**Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electric Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS**  
**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for every-

one at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram  
**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST**  
**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.  
**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodist-church.com.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C’Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc  
**Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

**WESLEYAN**  
**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org





PHOTO COURTESY OF THE YMCA AT VT

**YMCA at VT Executive Director Ryan Martin with YMCA student leaders celebrate at a recent event.**

## The YMCA at Virginia Tech celebrates leadership

On Sunday, April 16, 2023 members of YMCA at VT staff, Board, volunteers and Y Student Program Leaders gathered for a special celebration at the Y Offices in the historic Lancaster House in Blacksburg.

The organization recognized and honored Executive Director, Ryan Martin, for 10 years of excellent service, and celebrated our graduating student leaders.

“Ryan Martin took the helm of a ship in distress in 2013 when the YMCA at Virginia Tech was floundering,” said Jim Lawrence, Board Treasurer of the Y. “With his attention to detail and persistent leadership, the Y was able to weather that storm and is now expanding programs with staff, student, and volunteer participation. With Ryan’s leadership, the Y at VT is not only surviving; it is thriving. And planning is underway for next year’s celebration of the organization’s 150 years of service to the campus and surrounding community. The Board of Directors is proud of today’s YMCA at VT and its rich history, and we look forward to the future with Ryan at the helm. Thank you, Ryan!”

As executive director, Ryan is responsible not only for the success of the organization, but also filling in for the needs of the organization day to day.

“Ryan spends countless hours ensuring the programs are well staffed and supported even if it means filling

in personally for volunteers when the need arises,” said Meredith Jones, Board member. “Though an executive director position can be difficult, for 10 years Ryan has remained positive, energetic, and always does his work with a smile. He believes in filling community needs by leveraging the Y’s resources and collaborating with other community groups. This has allowed our organization to capitalize on creative opportunities within our region providing much needed services. Our organization is extremely thankful for his leadership and perseverance to make this YMCA the success it has become.”

During the event, the YMCA also celebrated its Graduating Y Student Leaders. Shifa Banani, has been with the YSL for two years and served as President of the Y Student organization this past school year. Naya Nerikar is in her second year as the program leader for Healthy Kids Day. Milee Makawana is the program leader for Joining Generations, a program connecting seniors in the community with Virginia Tech students. Christine Tan is the program leader for Meals on Main. Catherine Breeden is the Field Study for events and engagement activities. The five students will be graduating from Virginia Tech this May. Jol Burgan has been the Manager of our Thrift Shop for two years and is graduating from Radford University.

## Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist creates podcast to help reduce burnout at work

BLACKSBURG - To aid those in academia and all those who work with others, a Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist and Virginia Tech faculty member created a podcast to help reduce burnout and focus on flourishing in the workplace.

Using the yoga kernels for public health — breathwork, meditation, and movement — Samantha Harden, an associate professor in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, focuses on strategies that help people balance work priorities, the responsibilities of life, and relaxation in her podcast, “Higher Vibrations in Higher Education.”

“By listening to this podcast, people will learn these principles and be able to practice them and change the way they conduct research and the way they show up in the classroom so that we promote health for all,” said Harden, an Extension specialist and affiliated faculty of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute and the Center for Health

Behaviors Research. “I want to build a culture of health within academia and the workforce.”

Harden’s desire to help others flourish stemmed from her own experiences.

“I had a breakdown that led me to this breakthrough,” she said. “Stressors exist in the workplace because our infrastructure needs improvement. We can work on ourselves and our interactions with our direct team. For me, that means I have to move my body every day, learn to let go of outcomes, and take time away from email. But what works for us as individuals is different for everyone.”

The podcast format came to fruition because of the variance in how people digest information, particularly related to what yoga is and could be.

“I want to change the narrative of how people see physical activity,” Harden said. “I’ve found that a lot of times it’s the experience. Not everyone is attracted to walking into a yoga studio or a gym and I wanted to find a way where they can still learn these

## Radford University, Virginia Western announce articulation agreement for biotechnology students

*Signing ceremony to take place May 1 on Virginia Western campus*

ROANOKE – Virginia Western Community College and Radford University will sign an articulation agreement on Monday, May 1, that will result in a cost-effective transition for students focusing on the field of biotechnology.

Virginia Western students completing the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree in Science with a specialization in Biotechnology and meeting all requirements will be guaranteed admission to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Biology program at Radford University. Virginia Western’s president, Dr. Robert Sandel, and Radford’s president, Dr. Bret Danilowicz, will sign the articulation agreement in an 11 a.m. ceremony in Fishburn Hall on the Virginia Western campus.

“We are delighted to partner with Virginia Western to create an easily accessible pathway to a biology degree at Radford University,” said Danilowicz. “The affordability and convenience of Virginia Western’s core courses and biotechnology program, combined with Radford’s focus on undergraduate research, student success and career development, provides students a great way to earn a highly regarded bachelor’s degree in just four years.”

The A.S. in Science with a specialization in Biotechnology is new to Virginia Western beginning in Fall 2023. The degree program fits into the larger framework of a \$15.7 million grant-funded collaboration to build a biotechnology incubator in Roanoke. Virginia Western is a

partner in the project with the City of Roanoke, Carilion Clinic, Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, Verge and Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC. Virginia Western is expanding its degree and certificate programs to cultivate and support the workforce needs of the region’s growing biotechnology sector, including the jobs anticipated in the lab space being developed at 1030 S. Jefferson Street in Roanoke.

“At Virginia Western, we are always cognizant of our role in the economic ecosystem of the Roanoke Valley and Southwest Virginia. As we fulfill our piece of the puzzle in the biotechnology incubator project, this articulation agreement with Radford University will help our students gain the knowledge they need to contribute,” said President Sandel. “The incubator will require a skilled workforce for all the job opportunities that the biotechnology project will create, including roles that require a bachelor’s degree and beyond.”

Virginia Western received funding through the Roanoke biotechnology project to develop the curriculum for the two-year degree. Virginia Western currently offers a one-year Biotechnology Career Studies Certificate.

“This agreement with Radford is a true two-plus-two agreement that will help our students reach the goal of completing a bachelor’s degree in four years,” said Amy White, dean of Virginia Western’s School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

“By having a clear path of coursework to follow, students can graduate and enter the biotechnology field as it gains momentum in the region.”

Among the requirements, Radford University students must complete at least 120 credit hours to earn a Bachelor of Science degree; of these, 45 hours must be completed at Radford, including at least half of the hours in the major.

“This partnership creates opportunities for Virginia Western biotechnology students to seamlessly transfer to Radford University for a bachelor’s degree in biology,” said Dean Steven Bachrach of Radford University’s Artis College of Science and Technology. “Students will expand their science skills, engage with Radford faculty in the classroom and research laboratory, and make use of modern instrumentation. These students will graduate Radford University-ready to pursue careers in a wide range of health-related or environmentally focused fields or seek further education at the best graduate programs in the country.”

President Danilowicz noted that this is a beginning step in a larger partnership.

“This successful articulation agreement is the signal for us to start running together. We plan to add many additional accessible pathways for Virginia Western students and for the entire Virginia Community College System,” he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA HARDEN

**Samantha Harden, an associate professor in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, focuses on strategies that help people balance work priorities, the responsibilities of life, and relaxation in her podcast, “Higher Vibrations in Higher Education.”**

yoga principles. You don’t have to wear yoga pants to do yoga. Practices can be done anywhere by anybody.”

On the podcast, Harden guides listeners through visualizations and meditations. There are also long-form interviews with a variety of guests within and outside of academia and Extension specifically.

“Listeners should join us if they are struggling or flourishing within academia so that they could share the things that they’ve learned,” Harden said. “For those who might

feel isolated, they aren’t alone in their feelings. We want the podcast to give a sense of belonging and community. And, almost equally important, sharing free and evidence-based strategies for flourishing.”

The podcast can be found at the major podcast hubs including Spotify, Apple, Google Podcasts, and Amazon Music, or by searching for “Higher Vibrations in Higher Education.”

*Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech*

## Obituaries

from page 5

### Barnett, Homer Edward

Homer Edward Barnett, 90, of Blacksburg died Sunday, April 23, 2023, at his home.

He was born in Blacksburg on August 16, 1932, to the late Richard and India Perkins Barnett. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Nancy Shaver Barnett; his second wife Betty Jo Barnett; his brothers and sisters-in-laws Walter (Elise), Luther (Dorothy), and Eugene; sisters and brothers-in-law Elenora (Luther) Barnett, Julie (Don) Millen, Francis (Luther) Hassele, and Lorraine (AC) McCoy; and sister-in-law Bessie Barnett.

He was a former member of Blacksburg Fire Department. His favorite hobbies were playing music,

hunting, and working in his yard.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Mike Dowdy; three stepchildren Steve (Debbie) Shaver, Jeff Shaver, and David Shaver; sister Lois Ramsey; brother Frank Barnett; sister-in-law Sandy Barnett; granddaughter Rachel Shaver; niece Judy (Buddy) Cooper; a very special nephew Randy (Leigh); and 23 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 28, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend John Hopkins officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

## Literacy Volunteers of the NRV hitting the small screen

Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley is the featured nonprofit in an upcoming episode of “BUZZ” on Blue Ridge PBS.

Buzz4Good! is a local nonprofit organization that produces short videos, regular podcast episodes, and the 30-minute BUZZ television program on Blue Ridge PBS that highlights the impact nonprofits are making in our area.

“Thanks to funding support from 100+ Women Who Care New River

Valley, LVNRV was fortunate to be selected for BUZZ and our episode premieres on Blue Ridge PBS (channel 15) on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 p.m.,” the organization announced. “We’ve spent the last month filming interviews with our inspiring students and hard-working volunteers as we tell the stories of lives changing throughout our community thanks to improved literacy.”

*- LVNRV*



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Five Stars are tournament champs



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIVE-STAR BASEBALL OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY

**Local Five-Star 9-and-under travel baseball team from the New River Valley took the USSSA Spring State WarmUp Championship this past week at the Botetourt Sports Complex. Pictured are: (from left) Front row- Grady Seagle, Brady Marshall, William O'Brien, Jake Mitcham, Jase Christian and Kyle Howell; Back row- Logan Morrill, Will Mullins, Quentin Manuel, Kane Galimore, Miles Musser and Grayson Hagedorn. The Five Star squad outscored its opponents 21 to 9. This is their second tournament championship of the year and overall 10th as a 9U team.**

## OUTDOOR REPORT



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDGW

## Reason to beware of ticks while hunting spring gobblers

It's a fact that ticks and hunters are drawn to the same places—where there's abundant wildlife, vast spaces to roam, and the raw scent of nature when the wind blows in the springtime. Speaking from experience, it's almost impossible to get through a season without having a few stuck to me.

Each time I slipped into the woods to turkey hunt, I did my best to protect myself from ticks. Knowing that there was a growing prevalence of the red meat allergy among the Virginia hunting community I knew, I felt vulnerable each time I walked through the woods. Despite my effort, I wasn't immune to their desire to bite me. But I suppose we've got to take risks to do things we love sometimes.

In 2019, I contracted a red meat allergy—known as alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) or allergy—from a tick bite I got while hunting turkeys that spring. As a gal who enjoys hunting and experimenting with wild game in the kitchen, realizing that I could no longer consume venison or other mammal meat was a hard pill to swallow. Besides a fried piece of deer tenderloin over the woodstove, who doesn't love a tender piece of filet mignon every now and then?

**What is Alpha-gal?**

Alpha-galactose (galactose-*a*-1,3-galactose) is a carbohydrate that is present in all mammals except higher primates, such as apes and humans. This carbohydrate is

present in mammal meat such as beef and pork, but more importantly for hunters, it's present in wild game including venison, elk, bear, rabbit, squirrels, and other game we pursue here in Virginia. Alpha-gal is not found in fish, reptiles, birds, or people.

Dr. Jonathan Mozena, a board-certified allergist and immunologist, said that AGS is where an individual develops an allergy to the carbohydrate present in mammal meat. This is unique because most other allergies—such as a peanut allergy—are an allergy to a protein found in a particular food.

“Alpha-gal is unique because it's an allergy to a carbohydrate and not a protein. If a person is allergic to beef, that same individual will react to pork, lamb, bear, deer, and so forth,” he said.

Another unusual characteristic of the allergy is that while most food allergies occur within minutes of eating, that's not the case with AGS. Allergic reactions to alpha-gal tend to be delayed by nearly four to eight hours. The first time I experienced a reaction was almost eight hours after I ate a hamburger.

According to Dr. Mozena, it's believed that alpha-gal is mostly found in the fatty tissue of the meat, and fatty tissue typically gets absorbed into the lymphatic system first before entering the bloodstream.

“The way fats get absorbed in the body is different from the way

proteins do,” he said. “It takes several hours for fats to get through the lymphatic system, whereas proteins get absorbed into the bloodstream immediately. The transit through the lymphatic system is what likely accounts for the delay of the alpha-gal from entering the bloodstream.”

Despite these differences, AGS presents the same reactions as other allergies, including hives, itching, a drop in blood pressure that can cause dizziness, chest tightness, abdominal cramping, diarrhea, vomiting, and in some severe cases, anaphylactic shock and uterine cramping.

**The Transfer of Alpha-gal to a Human**

It was presumed that ticks feed on the blood of other mammals, such as deer, and would transfer the alpha-gal molecule once it latched on to a human. But there's new speculation that a tick itself can produce an alpha-gal-like structure.

“There is a current theory that ticks make alpha-gal themselves. Studies have shown that some ticks carry alpha-gal in their saliva and intestinal tract,” said Dr. Mozena. Though, this theory isn't fully developed yet.

While the lonestar tick is the most known tick to carry alpha-gal in the U.S., there are other ticks worldwide that likely carry alpha-gal. Studies have also shown that even chiggers can likely carry alpha-gal.

The good news, at least for some, is that not everyone will develop an alpha-gal allergy after

See Ticks, page 8

## Sports notes: Tech wins two national titles

**Marty Gordon**

[NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

Virginia Tech picked up two national championships this past week in the form of a club sport. The school's Club men's gymnastics and cross country teams brought home the titles. This is the eighth time VT has had a club team win the national championship in some sport.

Gardner-Webb grabs Wisconsin coach  
Gardner-Webb University has announced that Scott Merritt has been named head women's basketball coach.

Merritt comes to Gardner-Webb from the University of Wisconsin, where he has served as Associate Head Coach since 2021.

This past season, Merritt helped the Badgers to their highest Big Ten win total since 2010-11 and the program's highest Big Ten finish in 11 seasons. A late-season win over 12th-ranked Michigan gave Wisconsin a first-round bye in the Big Ten Tournament.

“I am thrilled to be the new Head Coach at a faith-based University that's so rich in tradition,” said Merritt. “The vision and leadership of Dr. Downs and Dr. Goodrich, coupled by the support of the campus and surrounding community are what make this such an exciting opportunity. I cannot wait to get to work!”

Merritt was an assistant coach at Illinois during the 2020-2021 season and spent the previous six seasons as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Marquette University.

**Longwood extends men's coach**

Longwood Director of Athletics Tim Hall announced Wednesday a 10-year contract extension to Griff Aldrich's contract that will lengthen his tenure as head coach of the Lancer men's basketball program through the end of the 2034 season.

This past season, Aldrich, a 1996 Hampden-Sydney graduate and Tidewater native, led Longwood to a second-straight 20-win campaign. It marked the first time the men's basketball program posted back-to-back 20-win seasons at any level.

In addition, the team's 27 conference wins over the past two seasons are the most in the Big South. During that run, Longwood swept both the Big South regular season and tournament titles in the 2021-22 season. The Lancers were a No. 14 seed in the program's first NCAA Tournament Division I level. Longwood became only the second Big South team

## Past NFL draft memorable for Hokies

You have to go all the way back to 1937 for the first time a Virginia Tech football player was taken in the NFL Draft. Since then, there have been plenty of Hokies selected over the years – 163 to be exact – since Herman “Foots” Dickerson was picked by the Chicago Cardinals.

Tech is coming off of two straight years of having four players selected in the draft, including James Mitchell (No. 177 overall, Detroit), Amaré Barno (No. 189, Carolina), Luke Tenuta (No. 209, Buffalo) and Lecitus Smith (No. 215, Arizona) in last year's draft.

In the 2021 draft, it marked just the third time in school history that the Hokies had two players taken in the first round – defensive back Caleb Farley (No. 22, Tennessee) and offensive lineman Christian Darrisaw (No. 23, Minnesota). The other two occasions happened when Tremaine (No. 16, Buffalo) and Terrell Edmunds (No. 28, Pittsburgh) become the first-ever brothers to accomplish the feat in NFL history in 2018 and when DeAngelo Hall (No. 8, Atlanta) and Kevin Jones (No. 30, Detroit) did so in 2004.

Speaking of brothers, Virginia Tech is the only school that has been home to four brothers who have all been selected in the NFL Draft – the Fuller brothers. The first brother was Vincent, who was taken as a defensive back in 2005 to the

to garner a 14-seed or better in the history of the league. They finished second in the regular season this past year.

**High Point new coach**

High Point University President Nido R. Quibe announced the hiring of Alan Huss as the new men's basketball head coach. Huss spent the last six seasons at his alma mater Creighton University under the leadership of head coach Greg McDermott.

In 2019-2020, Creighton won its first Big East regular season title after being picked seventh in the preseason. Huss was a vital part of Creighton's No. 7 nationally-ranked 2021-2022 recruiting class, which was the same season the Bluejays advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1974. During the 2022-23 season, Huss helped guide the Bluejays to their first Elite Eight appearance since 1941 after a third-place finish in the Big East Conference.

**VaSID coach of year for track**

Virginia Tech director of track & field and cross country Dave Cianelli earned Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID) Men's Indoor Coach of the Year honors on Friday, as 14 Hokies earned all-state honors on the men's team. Cianelli coached the men's team to their third consecutive conference championship.

Cole Beck, Kennedy Harrison, and Antonio Lopez Segura led the men's team receiving two first team all-state accolades. Beck placed second in the 60m and third in 200m competing at the ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships. He earned two USTFCCCA All-American honors competing at the indoor national championships.

**Tech QB to portal**

Taij Bullock has been way down the QB depth chart at Virginia Tech, and after this past month's Spring Game, he has decided to enter the transfer portal. He was highly-touted coming out of St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, New Jersey where he was considered one of the nation's top 20 dual-threat QBs.

**Hall to HOF**

The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame recently inducted a new class, and it includes former Virginia Tech and Redskin defensive back Deangelo Hall.

He was an All-American defensive back for Virginia Tech in the early 2000s. Chosen by Atlanta in the first round of the 2004 NFL draft, he played 14 NFL seasons with the Falcons, Raiders and Washington, earning three Pro Bowl selections.

Tennessee Titans in the fourth round.

Then there was a stretch of three years when the NFL Draft had a Fuller, starting with Corey (No. 171, Detroit) in 2013 at receiver in the sixth round, Kyle (No. 14, Chicago) in 2014 at defensive back in the first round and Kendall (No. 84, Washington) in 2015 at defensive back in the third round.

Tech has had two No. 1 overall draft picks in its history, with Bruce Smith being taken by the Buffalo Bills as a defensive lineman in 1985 and Michael Vick being selected by the Atlanta Falcons in 2001 at quarterback. The Hokies are one of only two schools in the ACC to produce a pair of No. 1 overall selections (Miami).

The most picks in one draft for Tech came in 2006, when a record nine Hokies were picked, headlined by two second-round selections in defensive back Jimmy Williams (No. 37, Atlanta) and defensive lineman Darryl Tapp (No. 63, Seattle). The second-most draft selections for Tech came in both 2002 and 2008 when eight Hokies were taken.

The next wave of Hokies to hear their names called in the NFL Draft will happen this weekend, taking place from Thursday through Saturday on ABC, ESPN and NFL Network in Kansas City.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

[www.montcova.com](http://www.montcova.com)

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
A	B	C		A	B	A		B	R	A		
L	O	O	S		U	N	I	T	S		B	A
B	L	A	H		S	A	N	A	A		O	G
E	X	I	L	E		R	I	B	O	S		
			R	I	F			L	I	B		
P	A	R	E	V				O	B	O	E	S
H	A	E		F	L	O	W	E	R	B	O	X
O	R	S		O	A	R				O	N	E
F	O	O	L	I	S	H	N	E	S		D	D
		S	P	A	C	E		E	A	S		S
		D	E	W				R	I	P		
		R	A	I	S	E		S	I	L	I	C
B	A	B	E		R	U	P	E	E		R	A
B	I	A	S		S	A	L	E	S		E	B
C	N	S			D	Y	N				S	E



# Glenvar slips by Radford in softball



Radford second baseman Kathryn Price catches and tags out a Glenvar runner in Tuesday's game.



First baseman Quinn Burton snares a sharply hit ball in the Bobcats' 7-6 loss.



Radford's Addie Saunders slides in safely for a stolen base.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Radford comes up short versus Glenvar



Radford's Abby Hodock steals the ball from a Glenvar player.



Goalkeeper Hollybrook Cline punts the ball downfield in Monday's match.



Anna Vinson controls a loose ball in front of the goal in the Bobcats' 5-1 loss.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

**Enjoy handbags, wallets, clutches  
and change purses...  
Wonderful quality leather....  
All made in the U.S.A.**



**BONOMOS**

**860 University City Blvd, Blacksburg  
Mon - Sat 11:00am-4pm**

### Ticks

from page 1

being bitten. Mozena said there is likely something genetically different about those who contract the allergy.

"There are millions of tick bites each year, but not millions of cases," said Mozena. "Being genetically predisposed creates a perfect storm to develop the allergy. There may also be a third thing that has to happen beyond the genetic predisposition and the tick bite that we don't understand yet."

It's also unclear whether a tick can immediately infect a person once it latches on. Mozena said he sees a steady stream of patients, most often diagnosing patients with the allergy in the summer and fall, but it's not always clear how long it takes for the patient to be exposed. Currently, he treats around 40 to 50 patients annually with AGS.

Other Hunters, Looking Forward, and Prevention

I'm not the only hunter to have the "perfect storm" that results in the alpha-gal allergy. Randy Feehan, a hunter from Central Virginia,

says it was only about a week after he was bitten by a lonestar tick while deer hunting on the Eastern Shore of Virginia when he started noticing initial reactions after he ate venison.

"I would break out in hives, wheeze, and my eyes would get really swollen," said Feehan. Feehan still has AGS nearly a decade later, and it's changed his hunting habits, as it has for me.

"Not being able to eat wild game was big for me, because I wasn't able to eat what I was hunting," said Feehan, referring to deer. "This allergy has turned me into more of a turkey hunter because I can eat it, so I focus on that more. I focus more on bird hunting in general." Despite not being able to consume venison himself, Feehan said that he still sometimes hunts deer and provides meat for others. Unfortunately, his father and uncle, who also hunt, also contracted AGS.

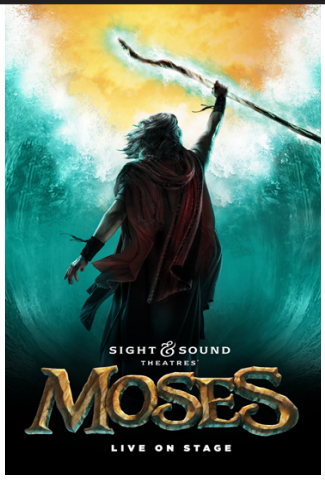
The good news for those who have AGS is that the allergy

typically recedes over time. "For many people, if they aren't bitten by another tick for a while, the level of alpha-gal [present in the blood] typically drops and they can be reintroduced to red meat," said Mozena.

Ongoing research is being conducted to better understand the risks associated with AGS. While there is currently no treatment for AGS, simply being aware and taking precautionary measures to avoid tick bites is vital to protect yourself this season.

Turkeys don't have great sniffers. As you prepare for the season, make sure to use bug spray and permethrin on your hunting clothes (always read proper handling directions before use), and check yourself for ticks immediately upon returning from your hunt. Otherwise, you could need to alter your harvesting to suit a new diet.

Emily Strother, Virginia  
Department of Game and Wildlife



Let us show you America. CALL FOR A **FREE CATALOG. 800-552-0022**

