

# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, May 6, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## Montgomery County School Board addresses funding shortfall for 2023-24 school year

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Montgomery County School Board acknowledged difficult choices are ahead in how they will operate the county's public school system on a much less-than-anticipated budget during their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 2.

The discussion was in the wake of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors' announcement that the schools will receive approximately 4.5 million dollars less than requested by the county's school board.

Dr. Bernard Bragen, Jr., Superintendent of Montgomery

County Public Schools, explained the county school's request from the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for \$6.1 million additional funds this year was a result of much thought, and with the recommendation of their staff. An initial proposed \$0.73 real estate tax rate per \$100 assessed value would have allowed for the schools to receive a \$4 million increase. The Board of Supervisors then made the decision, in a 4-3 split vote, to pass a \$0.70 real estate tax rate, therefore reducing the county's funding increase to the schools to approximately \$2.4 million for the upcoming fiscal year. This is in addition to another loss of state appropriated funds to all Virginia

schools, because of a calculation error discovered by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) announced earlier this year.

"They also chose to move away from the money that was allocated to help correct that calculation error by the Department of Education. So that final increase for us comes out to about \$1.1 million and that is not enough to do what we need to do," Bragen said. "There will have to be hard decisions to make and difficult choices that we will bring to this board at our next meeting."

Chris Thomas, a citizen addressing the board during public comment, described the shortage of

See **Shortfall**, page 4



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCPSS

9th Annual Chow Down Downtown!

FOOD TRUCK RODEO

GOOD EATS  
LIVE MUSIC  
CRAFT BEER & WINE

Saturday, May 6th  
4-9PM

DOWNTOWN CHRISTIANSBURG

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DCI

### Food Truck Rodeo, hosted by Downtown Christiansburg, Inc., set for today

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - The 10th annual food truck rodeo will be held in downtown Christiansburg today, Saturday, May 6, from 4-9 p.m., bringing food vendors, music, adult beverages, and family fun for all ages.

Elli Travis, President of Board of Downtown Christiansburg, Inc., (DCI), shares that the festival is run by volunteers who work extremely hard to provide a great event for all community members.

Three musical acts will be playing at this year's festival, Music Road Co Trio will play at 4 p.m., Ripe Jive takes the stage at 5:30 p.m., and new this year will be Deep Jeep DJ Set who will begin entertaining festivalgoers

at approximately 7:15 p.m.

There are some new vendors this year such as Giggles the Bus, providing some vegan food options, and The Coffee Bus which is optimally located by the dessert truck. Community members will recognize other vendors from previous events as well, such as Bootleg BBQ, 800 Degrees Wood Fire Pizza, and Cabo Fish Taco.

Adult alcoholic beverages such as beer, wine, spirits and cocktails may also be purchased and will be permitted throughout the event's location.

Travis explained "we have an entrance and exit, so they can get the beverages and get food, and walk throughout the

See **Rodeo**, page 4

## DAR honors two for Outstanding Citizenship in the Community

Alleghany Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution has honored Evelyn Graves West and Sharon Keith Thompson for Outstanding Citizenship in the Community.

The nationally authorized awards were presented by Alleghany Regent, Debbie Haught.

Over the last several years, 100-year-old Evelyn West has made and donated hundreds of knitted items to the

Montgomery County Christmas store, including hats, scarves, and baby layette items. She also began the prayer shawl ministry at the Blacksburg United Methodist Church. Of the more than 1200 prayer shawls given to people, West has personally made over 400. During the award ceremony, when it was announced that she had given 132 items to the 2022 Christmas Store, West smiled and said, "I've already finished 62



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAR

Alleghany Regent, Debbie Haught, of the Alleghany Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (at right), honors Evelyn Graves West (left) and Sharon Keith Thompson (center) for Outstanding Citizenship in the Community.

for this year."

Thompson is familiar to many residents of Blacksburg because she has been actively involved in a number of activities around the immunity for more than

20 years. She led the beginning of Blacksburg Battles Cancer. The organization sponsors a golf tournament which has helped it to raise

See **DAR**, page 3

## Shawsville man charged in 1992 cold case murder

New York authorities have charged a 58-year-old Shawsville man in connection to a 1992 murder.

According to reports, Jerry Lewis is facing a murder charge involving a 15-year-old female found naked and strangled in her Queens, New York home.

A grand jury indicted Lewis this past month, and he was arraigned in court earlier this week.

The incident took place in May 1992 when Nadine Slade was strangled by her own bra. She lived with her grandmother in a multi-family home in Far Rockaway. Lewis was present in the adjoining

apartment on the night of Slade's death.

DNA found under Slade's fingernails was retested by a medical examiner and pointed to Lewis.

- News Messenger staff report

## Former Congressman Boucher donates his collection of papers to Virginia Tech

BLACKSBURG — Close to four decades of records documenting political history and progress in Southwest Virginia now reside in the University Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives at Virginia Tech.

The collection features 76 boxes including 6,111 folders and 72 awards spanning former Congressman Rick Boucher's political career.

Boucher was a member of the Virginia Senate for seven years before being elected U.S. representative for Virginia's 9th Congressional District in 1982, a position he held until 2011. With 28 years of service, he is the longest-serving representative in the history of the 9th District.

He gifted his collection to the University Libraries at Virginia Tech to make it available to all who wish to learn from it. Special Collections and University Archives Project Archivist Bess Pittman arranged and described items in the collection to create a detailed finding aid and other access tools for researchers.

See **Boucher**, page 4

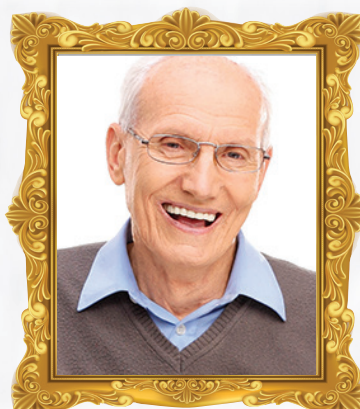


PHOTO BY CHASE PARKER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

The collection includes papers, photographs, and artifacts spanning former Congressman Rick Boucher's political career.

## Grandpa's Coming Off the Shelf....

KNOW YOUR MEMORIAL OPTIONS  
IN OUR CEMETERY



MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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.

### Free Comic Book Day

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will be giving away free comics in celebration of Free Comic Book Day on Saturday, May 6. Free comics will be available for children, teens, and adults (limit two per person, while supplies last). All branches, all day event.

### Afternoon Tea

You are cordially invited to an afternoon tea at the Meadowbrook Library; 1 - 2:30 p.m. Come out for an afternoon tea in the lovely Carilion Community Room. The tea will feature tea, light refreshments, a garden treasure hunt, and much more. Enjoy music by harpist Chloé Scales. Wear your tea party clothes and your hat if you wish to do so, but it is not a requirement. Recommended for ages 4-99. Space is limited, registration is required, sign up early. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This program is free! For more information contact the Library at 540-268-1964.

## 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.

### 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.

## Wednesday, May 10:

### School Board meeting

Radford City School Board will convene for its regular meeting at 6 p.m., at the School Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at www.rcps.org.

### Virtual Author Talk with Jena Friedman

Hosted by the Radford Public Library; 8 - 9 p.m. Celebrity comedian and Oscar-nominated screenwriter Jena Friedman's debut collection, Not Funny, takes on the third rails of modern life in Jena's bold and subversive style, with essays that explore cancel culture, sexism, work, celebrity worship, and...dead baby jokes. In a moment where women's rights are being rolled back, fascism is on the rise, and so many of us could use a breather as we struggle to get by, Jena applies her unique gifts to pull a laugh from things deemed too raw, too precious, and too scary to joke about. She shares her stories of taking on those who told her she was too brash, edgy, and "unlikable" to make it. She deftly dissects how we get coerced into silence on the issues that matter most until they've gone too far afield to be turned back around again. Register

now! <https://library.org/radfordlibrary>.

## Friday, May 12 - Sunday, May 14:

### West End Weekend

West End Weekend, a "jam-packed, art-filled celebration" at Glencoe Mansion and Long Way Brewing. Opening reception for the Radford Photo Club at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Friday, May 12. On Saturday, May 13, West End Weekend Festival, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Features more than 30 artisan vendors, live music from The Breakfast Club and FloydFest On-the-Rise band Appalachian Space Train, four food trucks, and an array of craft beers. The event will take place on the upper lawn at Glencoe Mansion. As always, admission is free, but donations are welcomed. "Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and well-mannered dogs, too!" On Sunday, May 14, Long Way Brewing will wrap up the weekend with Market Day at Long Way from 1 - 5 p.m. A dozen artisan vendors will be on site to browse and shop as visitors sip on Long Way Brewing's signature craft brews.

## Saturday, May 13:

### Mount Tabor Ruritan fish fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its May Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. DJ Earl Brown will be spinning some hits to get the 2023 fry season off to a swinging start! Adults-\$12, children under 12 - \$6, (under 3)- free, carry-outs- \$12. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

## Wednesday, May 17:

### VR Wednesday

At the Radford Public Library; 2- 3 p.m. Come take a hike, paint a masterpiece, or explore the international space station at the library! Try all these things and more using our new Meta Quest 2 VR headset. If that's not a

good time for you, email [duncan.hall@radfordva.gov](mailto:duncan.hall@radfordva.gov) to schedule a time for a 30 minute demo!

## 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 NRVA 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.

## Seven Montgomery County residents named outstanding students at NRCC

Seven students from Montgomery County were recently recognized as 2023 Outstanding Students in a Curriculum/Subject Area by New River Community College.

Students from Montgomery County who were honored include Leah Elizabeth Bratton, music; Amanda N. Davis, nursing; Ethan Roy Handy, machine technology; Ambre Camille

Herron, information technology cyber security; Matthew Lee Heslep, human services; Jeffery Marunich, business management; and Micah Drew Sutphin, welding technology.

Students were recognized at the recent President's Awards Ceremony at the college and received a plaque honoring their award. Students are also being individually recognized on NRCC's social media outlets.

The awards were determined by the faculty in the various programs at the college. All students receiving the Outstanding Student in a Curriculum award have completed requirements for an associate degree, certificate, diploma or career studies certificate and are eligible to graduate from the college this spring or summer.

Submitted by NRCC

## Radford University Spring Commencement continues today



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

RADFORD - Radford University will hold its undergraduate spring commencement ceremony today.

The ceremony is set to begin at 10 a.m. at Moffett Lawn on the Radford University main campus.

Laurie Shelby '83, a Tesla Inc. executive, will speak at the ceremony. Shelby is a human and organizational performance expert known for her "new view" thinking to drive improvements. Since 2017, she has served as the vice president of environmental, health and safety (EHS), sustainability and security at Tesla Inc. She leads worldwide EHS, sustainability and security for over 130,000 employees in the automotive, energy, and sales and service delivery operations.

Organizers will monitor the weather forecast carefully. Light to moderate showers will not prevent commencement from being held outside at 10 a.m. on Moffett Lawn. If severe weather appears likely to impact commencement, regular updates will be provided via email to graduating students and shared on social media.

If moved to the Dedmon

Center, the ceremonies would be scheduled as follows:

10 a.m.: College of Education and Human Development, School of Nursing and Waldron College of Health and Human Services

1 p.m.: College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

4 p.m.: Artis College of Science and Technology, College of Visual and Performing Arts, and Davis College of Business and Economics

The College of Graduate Studies and Research hosted a hooding ceremony for students receiving masters and doctoral degrees on Friday, May 5, in the Dedmon Center. The ceremony included students from all graduate programs at Radford University main campus, Radford University Carilion, Roanoke Higher Education Center and Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center.

Find more details on Radford University's spring ceremonies at [www.radford.edu](http://www.radford.edu).

Submitted by Radford University



Amanda N. Davis



Ambre Herron

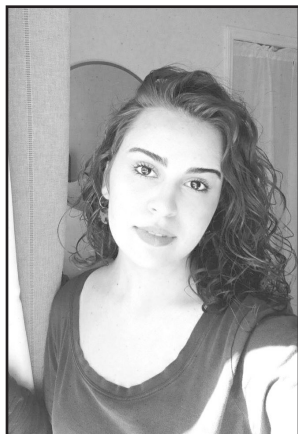


Ethan Handy



Jeffery Marunich

**FISH DAY**  
It's Time to Stock Your Pond!  
**DELIVERY WILL BE: Thursday, May 18th**  
Christiansburg 12:00-12:45  
@Southern States  
Wytheville 1:45-2:30  
@Farmers Milling & Supply  
"LIKE" us on Facebook!  
**FISH WAGON**  
To Place an Order Call: 1-800-643-8439  
[www.fishwagon.com](http://www.fishwagon.com)



Leah Bratton



Matthew Heslep



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NRCC  
Micah Sutphin

# NRCC announces 2023 graduation ceremony dates

New River Community College (NRCC) will celebrate its 53rd annual commencement on Friday, May 12 on the college's campus in Dublin in 117 Edward Hall.

Students who graduate this year will have completed more than 900 degrees, certificates and diplomas in 77 different programs, with many graduates receiving multiple awards.

Students in the division of arts and sciences for the 2022-2023 academic year will be honored on Friday, May 12 at 4 p.m. Doors open at 3 p.m.

Students in the division of business and technologies for the 2022-2023

academic year will be honored later that evening at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Associate degree nursing students will graduate on Monday, May 15 at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Nearly 300 students plan to participate in person in the three ceremonies.

Graduation ceremonies will be livestreamed for family, friends, and others to view off-campus. To view the ceremonies online, visit NRCC's graduation webpage at www.nr.edu/graduation.

- NRCC

## NRCC philanthropist honored at 2023 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy event



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

**Representatives from the New River Valley Health Foundation include (front row) Joe Sheffey; (back row) Kevin Stoner, Mike Barber, and Fred Newhouse.**

RICHMOND – New River Valley Health Foundation has received the 17th Annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy.

The foundation was nominated for the award by New River Community College (NRCC).

"The leaders of the New River Valley Health Foundation have earned a well-deserved reputation for visionary sponsorship of important healthcare initiatives," said NRCC President Pat Huber. "We are pleased and grateful that they have extended their generous support to New River Community College students who are preparing for careers in nursing."

More than two dozen individuals, families, and organizations earned the 2023 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony in Richmond on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. New VCCS Chancellor Dr. David Doré was the keynote speaker.

"It is a privilege and an honor to be in the company of such an esteemed group of philanthropists," Doré observed. "Were it not for your generosity, some of our students would have to put their hopes and dreams on hold, while others might have to abandon them altogether. Thanks to you, however, our students will be able to work in an environment that is relatively free of the kind of

financial pressures that can paralyze or even derail their forward progress, and for that, we are extremely grateful."

The annual event, hosted by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE), honors leading philanthropists from each of Virginia's 23 community colleges as well as the statewide foundation. Recipients are nominated for their outstanding commitment to the growth and development of Virginia's community colleges and their respective foundations.

This year's class of distinguished philanthropy leaders has collectively contributed \$14 million dollars to Virginia's Community Colleges.

The NRCC Educational Foundation is a nonprofit corporation established in 1980 that secures voluntary support and manages funds solely for the benefit of New River Community College. Members of the Foundation Board of Directors represent the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, and the City of Radford.

- NRCC

## DWR from page 1

and donate more than \$300,000 to local people suffering from cancer. Thompson has been the volunteer coordinator for the Montgomery County Christmas Store and has recruited the increasing number

of workers needed each year. She has also been a guiding light in the local Special Olympics program for several years.

When asked to share their thoughts, both spoke of the satisfaction

and happiness which comes to them when they help others. Haught expressed how pleased the Chapter was to be able to reward the women for their kindness and hard work for others.

montcova.com

 **Marketplace**  ourvalley.org

The Fincastle Herald   The Vinton Messenger   The New Castle Record   Salem Times Register   News Messenger   Radford News Journal

### Legals - City of Radford

#### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 806 9TH STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141.

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 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 www.bwswales.com. 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

### Legals - City of Radford

information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwswales.com. VA-361849-1.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING City of Radford

Appropriation Ordinance for School Board Budget Amendment Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on May 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street for the purpose of receiving public comments on the City's proposed budget amendment of \$11,690,529 to the School Board Budget for F.Y. 2023.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

#### WATER AND WASTE WATER RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

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.

**MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!**

To place your ad, call 389-9355

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by RWW36, LLC, Property Owner, and Christiansburg VA (SEQ US Highway 460 and Roanoke) LLC, Applicant, to rezone approximately 1.976 acres located at the southeast corner of Rt. 460 Bypass and Roanoke St. and identified as Tax Parcel 529 - ((A)) - 48, Parcel ID 230045; from General Business District B-3 to Limited Industrial District I-1. The property is partially designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by Shepherd Contracting LLC, Property Owner, to rezone

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by Shepherd Contracting LLC, Property Owner, to rezone

### Legals - Montgomery County

approximately 2.00 acres located at 4600 Roanoke St., identified as Tax Parcel 503- (A)-37, Parcel ID 010304; from Limited Business District B-1 to General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Shepherd Contracting LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Contractor's Equipment Storage Yard on approximately 2.00 acres located at 4600 Roanoke St., further identified as Tax Parcel 503 - ((A)) - 37; Parcel ID 010304, currently zoned Limited Business District B-1 and proposed for rezoning to General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

### Legals - Montgomery County

Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Shepherd Contracting LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Contractor's Equipment Storage Yard on approximately 2.00 acres located at 4600 Roanoke St., further identified as Tax Parcel 503 - ((A)) - 37; Parcel ID 010304, currently zoned Limited Business District B-1 and proposed for rezoning to General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by RWW 36 LLC, Property Owner, and Denstock LLC, Applicant, to allow a Planned Housing Development of 209 multi-family residential dwelling units on approximately 18.77 acres located at the terminus of Farmview Road NE, consisting of all of approximately 14.38 acres identified as Tax Parcel 436 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 017576; an approximately 3.31 acre portion identified as Tax Parcel 436-((A))-38, Parcel ID 021678; an approximately 0.14 acre portion identified as Tax Parcel 436-((A))-36, Parcel ID 021677; all of approximately 0.77 acres of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-37, Parcel ID 032861; all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-39, Parcel ID 021679; and all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-40, Parcel ID 021680; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning an unimproved 0.169-acre portion of the eastern most end of Farmview Road, NE right-of-way. Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

 **THE CLASSIFIEDS-** Where the Deals Are!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

Classified Advertising DEALERS

# Boucher

from page 1

"The collection reflects Rick Boucher's professional work, including correspondence, numerous handwritten presentations he delivered in committees and on the House floor, hundreds of photos, awards, memos from his office, newsletters, brochures, pamphlets, campaign materials – basically everything that came in during his work as a congressman and state legislator," said Pittman.

Throughout his political career, Boucher worked with many universities and colleges. But when it came time to gift his materials, he chose Virginia Tech.

"I had a long association with Virginia Tech, working actively with four Virginia Tech presidents. It was the largest institution of higher learning in my district and its largest employer, and I wanted my papers to go there given how respected the institution is. The university's acclaimed technical expertise appealed to me because a lot of this collection now has the capability of being made digitally accessible by anyone who

has internet access," Boucher said.

At this point, a small digital exhibit provides online researchers a sampling of just over 200 items from the collection. Archivists are now working to add more digital content from the collection to the site. Pittman was responsible for organizing all of the materials into one cohesive collection, a process that took nearly a year. She believes the expansive collection contains information that will prove invaluable for historians, students, and researchers.

"It offers some really amazing insights into the work that goes into governing a region. The primary focus is the 9th District, but you can see the ripples into the broader work that Boucher was involved in," she said.

Specifically, Pittman noted how instrumental Boucher was in the commercialization of the internet. He was the lead author of the 1992 legislation that, when signed by President George H.W. Bush, for the first time allowed commercial content on the

internet, enabling money to be made online and ushering in the world of electronic commerce and revolutionizing the global economy. After Boucher's legislation was signed into law, electronic commerce was born in the United States and then spread to the rest of the world. Given its centrality to today's economy, we can hardly imagine a time when it did not exist.

"The internet really has had such a profound impact on global society," Pittman said. "It would have been impossible to know at the time exactly how world-changing this technology would be, and yet, he decided the time for a new digital era had arrived. His impact in making electronic commerce a reality cannot be overstated."

Among the papers are materials reflecting Boucher's deep involvement in the major legislation shaping telecommunications policy over a quarter of a century, including the Communications Act of 1996 of which he was a sponsor. The collection

also reflects Boucher's work as the lead author of the legislation creating Virginia's first national forest wilderness areas and his papers and handwritten presentations from President Bill Clinton's impeachment, during which he was selected by House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt to take the lead in the Judiciary Committee and on the House floor as a primary sponsor of the Democratic censure motion as an alternative to impeachment.

Boucher's work as a subcommittee chair fashioning comprehensive legislation to control greenhouse emissions as a response to the challenge of climate change also is reflected in numerous handwritten presentations he made as the legislation advanced.

In the collection are extensive files from the time that as a state senator he carried to passage comprehensive legislation reforming the state's criminal sexual assault laws and the state's drug

See **Collection**, page 6

# Rodeo

from page 1

festival." "It was something the founders were passionate about, having something downtown and having the experience of enjoying the whole festival," she said.

There will be a couple of options for seating throughout the festival with community dining tables and seats, along with a dancing space in front of the stage near the

Great Road Hall. Travis said well-behaved dogs are permitted, there will be painting and activities as well for children, and a group will be doing a diaper-changing station. A Kids Zone is available along Hickock Street and can be located on the map as well.

"Bring yourselves and a friend, rain or

shine the event will go on," Travis said, adding indoor seating will also be available in the Great Road Hall.

The organizations' website, www.downtownchristiansburg.org, designates areas for parking, as well as handicapped parking made available on Commerce Street.

**Food trucks/vendors**

**include:**

- Bootleg BBQ
- Cabo Fish Taco
- Giggles the Bus
- Grandpa Ike's Mini Donuts
- Mountain Grille
- Spoons Shaved Ice
- Tacos El Tio
- Squeeze'um and Shake'um Refreshment
- Countryman Jamaican Grill
- Munch Box

- Empanada Nirvana
- Bluegrass BBQ
- The Coffee Bus
- 800 Degrees Wood Fired Pizza
- The Blue Ridge Fudge Lady
- Papa's Box
- Local wine, spirits, and beer provided by: Iron Heart Winery
- JH Bards Spirit Co.
- Blue Ridge Beverage (Craft and Domestic)

# 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.

# Shortfall

from page 1

funds as "the biggest tax cut in our tax history" and a "blatant disregard" for citizens' strong opposition, including county teachers, to the real estate tax reduction of \$0.70 that resulted in a decreased budget.

"Members of the boards, parents, and citizens of Montgomery County, you should all be furious," said Thomas. "The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors justified ignoring their own constituents, just because they're teachers. They openly and on the record stated that they did not give weight to the letters, the calls, and the emails they received because they came from teachers."

Later in the meeting, school board members held an open discussion, allowing each member to have an opportunity to express reactions to the funding decision and plans to move forward.

Board member Penny Franklin, who attended and addressed the supervisors in the prior meeting that ended in the vote for budget approval, shared conflicted feelings concerning the supervisors' motives in their vote.

"There was a lot of passion as to making sure that the schools would be funded," Franklin said, adding, "if you were an employee of MCPS, you really didn't matter, as far as your contact and your input about the budget for this county.

The vast majority of employees in Montgomery County Schools live in Montgomery County and pay taxes too . . . that decision that was made the other night, I also believe, was made out of spite because there are some things that this board has done that they don't like."

School board member Jamie Bond expressed that increased community education and awareness of how tax revenues impact citizens' services might be needed moving forward.

"You want that fire and rescue there at your house as soon as you need them," said Bond. "You want those schools. You want those stadiums. You want those teams for your kids to play on. You want the best teachers for them. You can't have it without the extra tax, or the taxes that are appropriate."

A joint meeting with the county supervisors was proposed by Franklin.

"We have not had a joint meeting with the supervisors in probably a year or more," she said. "Those conversations need to begin again."

Behavioral issues at Christiansburg Middle School were addressed during citizen comment by Desiree Smith, of Christiansburg. Increasing concerns of aggressive and suggested illegal behavior by students at CMS has and continues to occur, and went unaddressed by the school's administration, according

to Smith. In new business, Board Member Dana Partin echoed the concerns about Christiansburg Middle School's recent heightened behavioral concerns, citing citizens that have continually contacted her. The board agreed to receive updates on the ongoing situation at the school.

In other news shared at the meeting, the first of a series of community listening events called Tea with Dr. B was held at Auburn High School on May 3. The next event will occur at Blacksburg High School on May 10 at 3:15 pm, with locations and dates changing with each superintendent's appearance.

The Special Education Plan was approved in a 7-0 vote, with a motion by Marti Graham and seconded by Franklin.

The school board also approved in a 7-0 vote, the revision updates to 5-1.7 of the Fraud and Abuse Whistleblower Protection policy, with a motion by Graham and seconded by Franklin.

In a special presentation at the meeting, Shane Guynn was selected as the MCPS Instructional Leader of the Year. Guynn serves as an Assistant Principal at Christiansburg High School. Jamie Warren was selected as the MCPS Operational Leader of the Year and serves as the Electrical and Plumbing Lead in the Facilities Department.

# 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											28	29			
30			31												
			32								33		34		
			35				36	37	38	39	40			41	42
45	46							47						48	
49													51		
52								53					54		
								55							
								58							

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Abu \_\_, U.A.E. capital
  - Herring-like fishes
  - 55120 MN
  - Indigo bush
  - Pollyanna-ish
  - Pleasing to the ear
  - Parcels of land
  - Microns (alt. sp.)
  - Cooking containers
  - Express pleasure
  - Meat from a calf (alt.)
  - 7th Greek letter
  - Operated the sales register
  - Blueprint for the day
  - Congressperson (abbr.)
  - Angle (abbr.)
  - Fragrant health promotion
  - Trespasses
  - \_\_ Lanka
  - Wife of Hercules
  - A large body of water
  - Chicken house
  - Sicilian volcano
  - Coarse edible red seaweed
  - \_\_ May, actress
  - Opposites of credits
  - Unable to move
  - Someone who is highly skilled
  - 100 = 1 kwacha
  - "Rocky" star Talia
  - Used for hitting the ball in various games
  - Not out
  - South Dakota
  - Possessed
  - Grad
  - UPS driver
  - Fired
  - In a way, augmented
  - River in SE S. Am.
  - Division of geological time
  - Follows sigma
  - Sign language
  - Expression of surprise
  - Hull Identification Number
  - Salmwood
  - Associated Press
  - Half of an em
  - Networks in Spanish
  - Dough fermenting agent
  - Auto fuel
  - An alternative
  - Manuscripts (abbr.)
  - Digested
  - Darjeeling or green
  - Horsepower
  - 1985 Formula 1 champion
  - Expression of alarm
  - Gain possession
  - Own (Scottish)
  - Snake-like fish
  - Dicer
  - Afresh
  - Hindu mother goddess
  - Before
  - Code for dash
  - Atomic #52
  - Millisecond
- CLUES DOWN**
- Having a sophisticated charm
  - Minute amounts ( Scot.)
  - Turkish leader's title

# 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](http://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

Tallant, Elma Mae Thompson

Elma Mae Thompson Tallant, 78, families, Jean Tate, Allen, Ricky, and of Dublin, passed away on Monday, May 1, 2023.



She was preceded in death by her parents, George Allen Collins and Bessie Virginia Thompson; her husband, Gene Thomas Tallant; and her daughter, Angela Mae Tallant.

Survivors include her son, Eugene Thomas Tallant, Sr.; grandchildren, Monique Barber (Markee), Thomas Tallant (Linda) and Mandy Tallant (Patrick); great-grandchildren, Destinee Landreth (Justin) and Brice Wall; great great-granddaughter, Emersyn; sister and her children and their

Wanda; cousin, Kathy Surface (Jerry); and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the Fairlawn Church of God with Pastor Marcus Harrison officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin. The family received friends on Friday evening at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

The Tallant family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

McLeod, II, Donald Wilson

With sadness, the McLeod family of Blacksburg announces the passing of Donald Wilson McLeod II on Saturday, April 29, 2023. He was 84.



Funeral services were held at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg. The family received visitors Tuesday, May 2, 2023, followed by a service with Tullio O'Reilly and Pastor Jamie Hutton officiating. A graveside service and interment were held Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg.

Always known as "Mac," he was born on September 7, 1938, in Saginaw, Mich. to Donald Wilson Sr. and Barbara "Ann" McLeod. A graduate of St. Francis Seminary in Mt. Healthy, Ohio, he became a robed Franciscan Deacon in the Catholic Church. After two years at Duns Scotus College, he entered the United States Navy, went to EMT School in 1959, and graduated from Pharmacy School in Portsmouth, Va.

Mac earned his associate degree from Cleary Business College and received the Silkworth Award as Outstanding Student in Accounting in 1977. In 1978

he also earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management summa cum laude.

A long-time resident of Hamburg, Mich., Mac graduated from Field Medical School in Oceanside, Calif., Preventive Medical School in Hawaii, Management School in New Orleans, La., Emergency Medical School in Phoenix, Management School in Groton, Conn., and Medical Entomology in Jacksonville, Fla.

Additionally, Mac was Medical Administrator at University of Michigan in 1970, a Specialist and Group Leader at the former W.J. Maxey Boys Training School in Whitmore Lake, Michigan, and a United States Navy Medical Chief in 1970, Senior "Super" Chief in 1980. He was promoted to Master Chief in 1986.

A recent attendee of several local churches, including The Dwelling Place and Victory Restoration Church, he was active in several area Bible studies.

See Obituaries, page 6

Send community news and photos to communitynews@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 Hershberger, 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: fbradford.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 Sonaf Frank, 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.meetup.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

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

OUR PATIENT GOD

Read 2 Kings 14:1 through 16:20

And since the Lord had not said he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash (2 Kings 14:27).

Reading through the Old Testament can seem like an exercise in frustration. We read about privileged people who regularly rebel against God and get themselves into trouble. God becomes angry at their constant attraction to sin, and threatens to punish them. From truly remorseful hearts, they repent in sackcloth and ashes, and God stays His hand. He keeps His word by punishing the ringleaders or by allowing them all to go into slavery. However, He always comforts and rescues them. Why, we wonder, do they never learn their lesson?

Interestingly, if we are honest with ourselves, we might just see our own failings mirrored in the lives of these Israelites. Like them, we, too, experience the loyal heart of a God who is unwilling to leave us in our sin and never ever willing to abandon us.

Challenge for Today: Read through the entire Old Testament this summer. Rejoice in God's long-suffering heart of love for you.

Quicklook: 2 Kings 14:23-27

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

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

# Four grad programs named among nation's best in U.S. News rankings

U.S. News & World Report released its 2023-24 Best Graduate School Programs rankings on April 25, listing four Radford University programs among the best in the country.

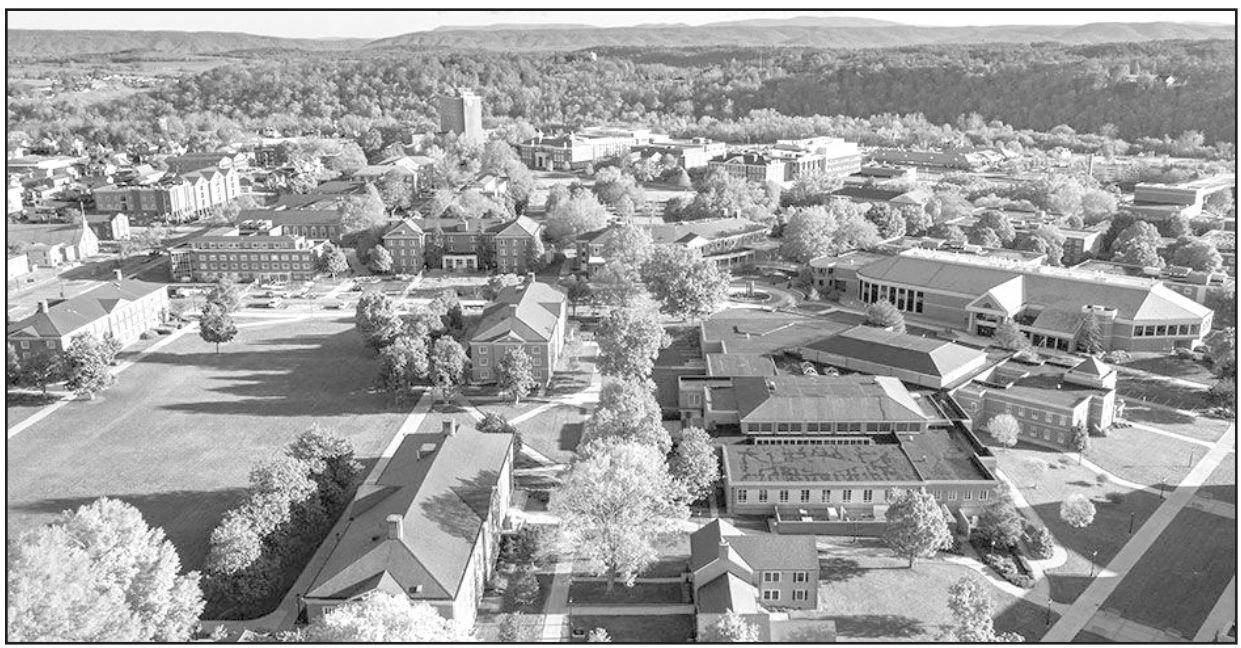
The Radford graduate programs included in the rankings are the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.), Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.), Physician Assistant (PA) program and part-time Masters of Business Administration (MBA).

The Best Graduate Schools rankings evaluate programs in a variety of disciplines, including business, education, engineering, law, medicine and nursing.

“Year after year, these Radford University graduate programs have stood among the nation’s best,” President Bret Danilowicz said. “We’re proud that these affordable, advanced degree tracks continue to attract ambitious healthcare workers and

working professionals, which accelerates their career advancement. The inclusion of the outstanding PA program at Radford University Carilion in this ranking is well deserved, as its reputation and its 100% licensure pass rate have attracted high-performing students from across the nation to our Roanoke location.”

Radford University is a comprehensive public university of 7,718 students that has received national recognition for many of its graduate and undergraduate academic programs. In addition to robust academic offerings and engaging student experiences on the main campus located in Radford, Virginia, Radford University also offers a clinical-based educational experience for some 1,000 students living and learning in Roanoke, Virginia, as part of Radford University Carilion, a public-private partnership focused on the cutting-



An overhead view of the Radford University campus.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

edge delivery of health sciences programming, outreach and service.

“When prospective students are considering their options for graduate school, the Best Graduate Schools rankings are designed to help them identify schools that excel in the program they want to study,” said LaMont

Jones, senior editor of education at U.S. News. “With many options available, U.S. News provides a wealth of data in an easy format to help each student make the best decision.”

Prospective students can see how Radford University compares to other institutions and how

the rankings are calculated on USNews.com.

By collecting graduate school data annually, U.S. News & World Report is able to present the most current figures on enrollment, job placement, faculty and other critical quality indicators that help prospective students make

informed decisions.

To learn more about the U.S. News & World Report rankings and methodology, visit [www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools](http://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools).

*Chad Osborne for Radford University*

## Provost leads delegation to India to inaugurate satellite office, develop new education and research collaborations

Underscoring Virginia Tech’s international reach and its continuing goal of attaining top-100 status as a global research university, a delegation of senior administrators and faculty members recently embarked upon a

multistate visit to India to inaugurate the university’s newest office in Chennai, cultivate partnerships with industry leaders from Mahindra, and meet a cohort of business students in Mumbai coming to Blacksburg this

fall. “As a land-grant university, we are absolutely committed to not only education, but also to high-quality, highly productive research, and then the transfer of that research

for the betterment of the communities that we serve through our scholarship. For us to accomplish that, we need to understand that we are working within a broader context — that we are a global research university, and global universities like Virginia Tech need to have really good partners in the right places in the world,” said Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke, who led the delegation. It was his second trip to India in three years.

Virginia Tech has had a presence in South Asia countries since 2009, with research ties that go back even further. Guru Ghosh, vice president for outreach and international affairs, said the partnerships the university has developed there help faculty members conduct high-quality research with leading academic institutions and corporate entities in the second most populous country in the world.

“These research and education collaborations between institutions in the U.S. — the world’s oldest democracy — and India — the world’s largest democracy — are force multipliers for research innovation that can address sustainable growth and global challenges,” Ghosh said. “There is extraordinary talent in India, particularly in STEM fields. As an institution with a legal presence in India, we are

tapping into that talent and working with our partners in India to solve some of the world’s most pressing problems.”

Clarke and Ghosh were joined by Dan Sui, senior vice president and chief research and innovation officer; Aimée Surprenant, dean of the Graduate School; Azim Eskandarian, mechanical engineering department head and the Nicholas and Rebecca Des Champs Chaired Professor; and Vishwanath Venkatesh, Eminent Scholar and Verizon Chair of Business Information Technology.

A satellite office in India’s Detroit

The Virginia Tech delegation met with leaders of Indian educational institutions and representatives of innovative corporations as well as students and alumni. One of the trip’s highlights was the inauguration of a satellite office in the second most populous country in the world. “These research and education collaborations between institutions in the U.S. — the world’s oldest democracy — and India — the world’s largest democracy — are force multipliers for research innovation that can address sustainable growth and global challenges,” Ghosh said. “There is extraordinary talent in India, particularly in STEM fields. As an institution with a legal presence in India, we are

Set in Chennai, India’s fourth largest city and an emerging epicenter for the world’s automotive industry, Virginia Tech’s new satellite office will be a platform for faculty members to collaborate with the companies, researchers, and industry leaders in the IIT Madras Research

Park. The space includes workstations for drone education programs and adaptable workspaces for visiting faculty members and Ph.D. candidates.

“Chennai is the Detroit of India,” Ghosh said. “For Virginia Tech to have a presence in this research park is Provost Clarke’s vision and a testament to the breadth of our research capabilities and the expert knowledge of our researchers. This new center gives us an important toehold in this great city and will help us develop even more partnerships within its education and research ecosystems.”

Eskandarian saw the visit as an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between IIT Madras and Virginia Tech. “Virginia Tech has a very strong specialty in robotics and mechatronics as well as automotive engineering. We are excited about the long-term potential of this project,” he said.

The satellite office is in the heart of the IIT Madras Research Park, which consists of five towers constituting over a million square feet of workspace, meeting rooms, and networking lounges. The towers are connected to each other with skywalks and connected via the Industry-Academia Bridge to the IIT Madras university campus.

*Rich Mathieson for Virginia Tech*

## Obituaries

from page 5

Mac was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 33 years, Vera (nee Perfater of Merrimac); his brother, Robert “Bobby” McLeod; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Robert and Edith (nee Linkous of Floyd, Va.) Perfater.

Mac is survived by his son, Donald “Donnie” McLeod III, of Blacksburg; and daughters Annette McLeod, of Whitmore Lake, Mich., and Carolyn

Kaye and her husband, Ben Hanneman, of Radford.

He is also survived by grandchildren Peter McLeod, of Blacksburg, Joy (nee Hanneman) and her husband, Cole Blackburn, of Fairlawn; and Caleb Hanneman, of Reston, Va., his brother Bruce McLeod and his wife, Penny, and their daughter, Michaela, of Green Bay, Wisc.

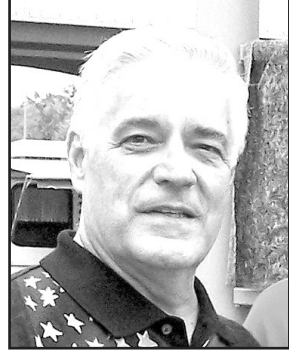
## Thomas, Robert Wilburn “Bob”

Robert Wilburn “Bob” Thomas (April 29, 2023) was born in Athens, Ga. on November 20, 1937.

He leaves his son, Richard Gregory Thomas, of Zebulon, N.C.; daughter and son-in-law, Coleen Thomas and Philip Gerow, of Alexandria, Va.; brother, John Morton of Thomas, Calif.; granddaughter, Emily Thomas, of Cary, N.C.; sister-in-law, Jean Meier, of Rochester, N.Y.; special cousin, Buddy West and wife Charlotte, of Cary, N.C.; cousins, Millie Lisenby and Tom Yeager; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 56 years, Betsey Thorne Thomas; parents, Bobbie Morton and E. Wilburn Thomas; and step father, E.H. Watson.

Bob was a media professional, working in TV, radio and print. He began his career producing radio and tv shows for WGN radio and TV in Chicago. He was executive producer at WCNY-TV, Syracuse, N.Y. for several years. He designed, oversaw construction and managed radio stations in Hammondsport, N.Y., St. Louis, Mo., and Sioux City, Iowa, and oversaw funding and assistance to local public radio and TV stations nationwide for the Corp. for Public Broadcasting in Washington, D.C.

Bob was cable administrator for Prince Georges County, Md., and Raleigh, N.C., before owning and operating WBLB radio in Pulaski, Va., with Betsey. He served as News and Public Affairs Director at Radford radio stations WRIQ and WRAD, and was for several years Radford Bureau Chief for the daily Southwest Times newspaper,



later also providing local stories and photos for the Radford News Journal, Roanoke Times New River Valley, and PC Patriot.

He taught advertising at Radford University; briefly ran a local one-man ad agency, volunteered with the NRV United Way, and retired to continue his media activities for various area public service organizations. He co-founded the Radford Memorial Day Service and chaired its initial 21 annual events and EmCeed the city’s Fourth of July event for several years. He served on the Board of Directors for Radford Fairlawn Daily Bread and Meals on Wheels. He was honored for various projects by the city, the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Radford and others.

He thanks his Church, Central United Methodist, Radford, and its members for support during Betsey’s final days and his life thereafter. Special gratitude goes to friends Garnie Dishon, Tobbie Allen, Tommy Meredith, Eddie Crews, and former CUMC pastors Dale Gilbert and Don Shelor, among many others. His move to his final home at Ridgewood Senior Apartments was supported by several at CUMC, especially by friend Gayle Miller.

At Bob’s request, there will be no service and he will be cremated. Gifts may be made to CUMC, PO Box 611, Radford, VA, 24143, or to Radford Fairlawn Daily Bread, PO Box 3323, Radford, VA, 24143.

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



PHOTO BY PRIYA GOUTHMAN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke (from left), Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Dan Sui, and Azim Eskandarian, mechanical engineering department head and the Nicholas and Rebecca Des Champs Chaired Professor, light a ceremonial Nachiarcoil lamp to inaugurate Virginia Tech’s newest site in Chennai, India.

## Collection

from page 4

laws. A lot of hard work goes into archiving a collection of this size, but for Pittman, it’s all worth it.

“An archive exists as a way to transmit the voices of the past through history and into the future. Without repositories like this, we lose so much of

our cultural context. We lose so many of those voices. By preserving them, we allow people to gain the wisdom of the past, and we can do research about the people and places that made us who we are.”

Boucher hopes that this collection can influence others to be involved in public service

and advance ideas that promote positive change.

“Public service was very important to my family,” Boucher said. “I learned at an early age from my bipartisan parents that it’s one of the best ways for a person to make a meaningful contribution to society. I hope that people

accessing this collection get a sense of what active involvement on behalf of a region and a country can be, and what can be achieved if a person applies time and attention in the public sphere for the benefit of others.”

Researchers interested in Boucher’s collection should explore the detailed finding

aid to help target material of interest. Because of the large volume of material, the collection is housed at an offsite facility which requires advanced notice for retrieval.

*Ann Brown for Virginia Tech*

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Worley back to UK for another year, named gymnastics All-American

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Raena Worley is a small-town girl, who has continued to surprise the gymnastics world.

The Christiansburg native was recruited by several schools before she was 14-year-old, including the University of Kentucky, a South Eastern Conference powerhouse. She committed early and never thought twice. She was headed to Kentucky.

Of course, there were plenty of doubters, especially since she came from southwest Virginia, not your typical gymnastics hotspot. There was also the aspect that there was no high school program. Instead, she found the perfect little gym called Virginia Techniques.

Worley recently completed her fourth year at UK and the special recognition continues as she has been named a 2023 Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) National Championship All-Americans. Monday, she announced her plans to return to UK for a fifth

year. Worley is an eight-time WCGA All-American, receiving first team recognition for her all-around performance.

Earlier this season, Worley was recognized as a WCGA Regular Season All-American earning first team honors on floor and a second team nod for all-around.

This season alone, Worley has scored a 9.900 or higher in every meet on the floor exercise. Her highest mark in 2023 on the event was a 9.975 which she earned at Illinois tying her career best. She has tallied the near-perfect mark four times in her career placing first individually on the apparatus 17 times. Seven of those top finishes have been accomplished this season.

On the uneven bars, she has earned a season-best 9.925 scoring a 9.900 or higher eight times. She has recorded eight career individual wins on the event.

The Christiansburg native was also recognized as a second team all-around honoree. Throughout

her collegiate gymnastics career, the senior has recorded 20 all-around wins with seven individual victories this season. Her career-high all-around tally was earned at Illinois where Worley recorded a combined 39.775.

Worley has also been named a finalist for the 2023 Honda Sports Award, the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA).

The Honda Sports Award is an annual honor, awarded to the best collegiate female athlete in each of the 12 NCAA-sponsored female sports. There are four nominees for each, and the 12 winners of the award are automatically in the running for the Honda-Broderick Cup to be named Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year. Three other athletes are honored as the Division II Athlete of the Year, Division III Athlete of the Year, and Inspiration Award winner.

Worley is among Florida's Trinity Thomas, Oregon State's Jade Carey and LSU's Haleigh Bryant as one of four finalists in contention for the prestigious award.

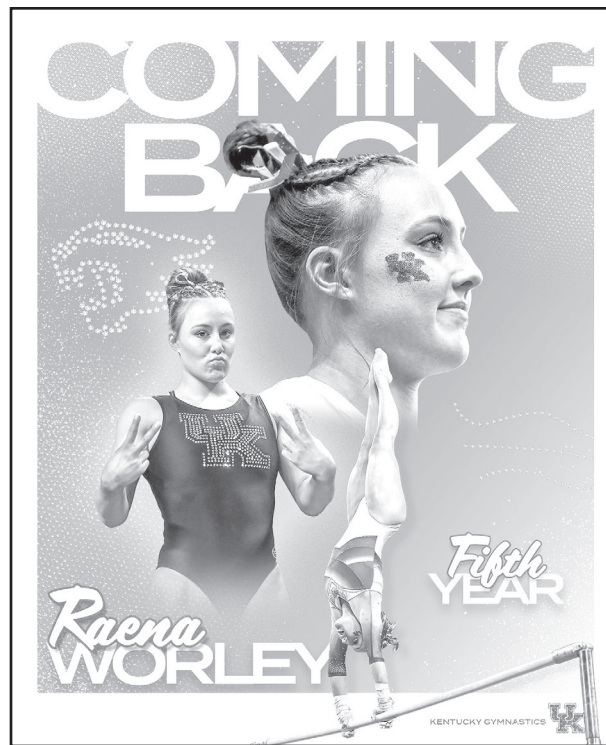


PHOTO COURTESY OF UK ATHLETICS  
**Christiansburg native Raena Worley is an all-around gymnastic performer at the University of Kentucky.**

## BHS student athletes ink for college

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Fourteen student-athletes from Blacksburg High School made it official Wednesday afternoon as they inked letters of intent to continue their careers in college. Those moving on include: David Ajayi, Zachary Davis, Emily Dickerson, Mia Farley, Kai Feng, Norah Guillot, Benjamin Hager, Katja Kehlenbeck, Hunter Konarski, Jack Nussbaum, Jonas Roach, Conner Rutherford, Rylee Sloss and Tharun Svetanant.

The group were introduced during a signing ceremony in the school's gymnasium.

Senior track and field athlete David Ajayi has committed to run collegiate track and continue his academic career at Christopher Newport University.

Ajayi is a two-year letterman in track and football and a member of the 2023 State Championship Indoor Track team and was also a member of the 4 x 200 team that broke the school record at the New Balance Indoor Nationals in Boston. He plans to study accounting at Christopher Newport University.

Zachary Davis signed his National Letter of Intent to run and continue his academic career at High Point University and study exercise science. Davis is a four-year member of the BHS Cross Country and Track teams and a captain of the cross-country team his senior year. He has been part of the 4X8 team that has participated in the 2022 Adidas Outdoor Nationals, Penn Relay and 2023 New Balance Indoor Nationals, an Adidas All American in the 4X8 in 2022, and a multi-year VHSL all state runner placing seventh in the 1000, first in the 4X4 and 4X8 in the 2023 indoor season as well as in cross country where he finished 10th at the state meet. He has also been awarded the BHS Cross Country Bruin award in 2022.

Senior third baseman Emily Dickerson has committed to play collegiate softball and continue her academic career at Pfeiffer University and is a four-year starter for the Bruins varsity softball team.

During her junior year she received the honors of first Team All-District utility, first Team All-Region Third Baseman, and Second Team All-State Third Baseman. She is also a member of the Maroon Crush softball organization. During her time with Maroon Crush, Dickerson has competed in two National Championships and countless other tournaments.

Varsity runner Mia Farley will run cross country and track and continue her academic career at the University of Radford. Farley is a three-year member of the Blacksburg Cross Country and Track Teams. In the past year, the Bruins have earned first-place finishes at the VHSL 4A Region D Cross Country Championship, VHSL 4A State Championship, VHSL 4A Region D Indoor Track Championships, and runner-up finishes at the VHSL 4A State Championships.

Farley has achieved All-Region honors in cross country and All-State honors in track while running for the Bruins. During her senior year, she placed 6th in the 1000m at the VHSL 4A Indoor Track State Championships and was part of the 4x800 relay that took first place. Mia has also been awarded the BHS Cross Country Bruin Award, the BHS Indoor Track Best Newcomer Award, and the Most Improved Award. In addition to running, she has been a starter on the Bruins Varsity Softball Team for four years, where she has received all-district and all-region honors.

Soccer player Kai Feng will continue his academic and athletic career at Virginia Commonwealth University. Throughout his high-school career, he has played club soccer for NC Fusion and VBR Star in the Elite Clubs National League and United Soccer League Academy. In the 2019-2020 season, he was selected for the Olympic Development Program East Region International Team to play in London, England. He has also played abroad in Spain, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Most recently, Fend has been playing for Lynchburg FC's pro-development team in the United Premier Soccer League. He maintains a 4.0 GPA and plans to study mechanical engineering while attending VCU.

Swimmer Norah Guillot will continue her academic and athletic career at Virginia Tech. She is a Four-year state qualifier and placed top 8 all four years of high school in her individual events and led off the 200 medley that broke the 4A state record in 2021. The Bruin women's team won 4A states in 2021 and were runners up in 2020. Guillot was team captain this past season and has one individual school record and two relay records. Guillot has swum on her club team for the past 13 years and has nine relay team records and four individual team records. In 2020, she qualified for the NCSA Spring Championship and competed in Orlando, Florida.

Benjamin Hager, a senior track & field athlete has committed to run collegiate track and continue his academic career at Christopher Newport University. Ben is a 4-year indoor and outdoor track athlete. He is a multi-year VHSL All-State athlete and a member of the 2023 State Championship Indoor Track Team. Ben is a member of the school record indoor 4x400, outdoor Mixed 4x400 and most recently the indoor 4x200 team, which ran at New Balance Indoor Nationals in Boston. Ben is also a three-time recipient of the BHS Sprint MVP Award. Ben plans to study Marketing at Christopher Newport University.

Runner Katja Kehlenbeck has committed to run, jump, and pursue her academic career at Radford University. Kehlenbeck is a four-year Track and Field athlete as well as a varsity runner and team captain.

Her accomplishments include 2023 High Jump Indoor State Champion, 2022 Nike Indoor Nationals High Jump Emerging Elite Champion, 2022 Adidas Outdoor Nationals High Jump All American, 2022 Indoor High Jump Runner Up, 2023 Indoor High Jump and

Long Jump Region 4D Runner Up.

She holds the school record for Long Jump as well as being awarded the Field Events MVP 2x, Best Jumper Award, and MVP award. Alongside her athletic career, she plans to major in Musical engineering.

Swimmer Hunter Konarski signed a national letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Carson-Newman University. Hunter swims backstroke, breaststroke and individual medley and is a Four-year varsity team member (two years Owen J Roberts High School in PA and two years Bruins Swim & Dive Team Blacksburg High School VA).

In Pennsylvania, he played a significant role in assisting Owen J. Roberts Swim and Dive as PAC champions two years in a row as well as helping Blacksburg Swim and Dive place second at Class 4 State Championship. Hunter has been a part of the H2Okie Aquatic Swim Team and has been swimming since he was 6 years old. He works hard at practice every day and is one the most enthusiastic cheerers for all his teammates. Konarski plans to study Psychology and Exercise Science at Carson-Newman University.

Swimmer Jack Nussbaum has committed to swim and continue his academic career at Tufts University. He is a 4-year member of the Bruins Swimming and Diving Team.

Last season, he captained the boys to take second place at the VHSL Class 4 State Championships. Nussbaum was also a contributor when the team took second and first in 2022, 2021, and 2020 respectively. He is the first member of the Blacksburg team to win the Hanover Hawks invitational and took 2nd at States in the 100 breast-stroke. Nussbaum holds two BHS team records, earned the honor of All-American Consideration, is a USA

Swimming Scholastic All American, and is a member of the Virginia Swimming All Star Team. He has swum for his club team for 13 years and qualified for the US Open in the 200 breaststroke.

Runner Jonas Roach signed as national letter of intent to run and continue his academic career at the University of North Carolina Asheville. He plans to study sports science while attending. Roach was a team captain this year for both the Cross Country and Track & Field teams, and he has been a part of 2 state championship teams as well as national-qualifying relays.

He finished ninth in the state during cross country, winning all-state honors there. He placed 10th in the indoor 3200m after a shortened season. Lastly, he received the Lynchpin Award for the cross-country team this year. Jonas has been a runner on the BHS team for all four years of high school.

Distance runner Conner Rutherford has committed to continue his academic and athletic career on scholarship at the University of Georgia. Rutherford was the 2022 1600m Outdoor State Champion, 2022 Cross Country State Champion, 2023 1600m Indoor State Champion and a member of the 2023 Indoor 4x800 Relay State Champion team. He was a significant contributor to the 2022 BHS Boys Cross Country State Championship and the 2023 Boys Indoor Track State Championship.

As a BHS senior, he has set school records in the Cross Country 5k and Indoor 1600m, in addition to holding the #1 Virginia time in the two-mile, 3200m, one-mile, and 1600m his senior year. He was the 2022 Virginia Cross Country Gatorade

Player of the Year, Nike Cross Southeast Region Champion, and a Heisman Scholarship winner. He is the 2022-2023 Key Club Division 16/17 Lieutenant Governor, a yearbook editor, member of the National Honor Society, and member of the National Sign Language Honor Society. Conner plans to study Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

Volleyball setter Rylee Sloss will play collegiate volleyball and continue her academic career at Radford University. Sloss is a four-year member of the Blacksburg Volleyball team. In 2020, her team won the River Ridge District Championship and Region 4D Championship. she played a significant role when her team won the 4D Regional Championship in 2021 and also earning spot on the River Ridge District First Team and Region 4D First Team both her junior and senior year.

She's played club volleyball with River Valley Juniors for six years. In addition to volleyball, Sloss is the President of FCCLA, the Secretary for Habitat for Humanity, and a member of the National Honor Society. Rylee maintains above a 4.0 GPA and plans to major in Communications in college.

Senior wrestler Tharun Svetanant has committed to wrestle and continue his academic career at Washington and Lee University. Svetanant is a four-year varsity team member and captain of the BHS wrestling team and is a two-time regional champion, three-time state qualifier and two-time state placer. Svetanant is planning to study finance at Washington and Lee University.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

D	H	A	B	I	S	H	A	D	S		
E	A	G	A	N	D	A	L	E	A		
U	P	B	E	A	T	D	U	L	C	E	T
P	L	O	T	S	M	I	K	R	A		
P	A	N	S	A	A	H	V	E	A	U	
E	T	A	C	A	S	H	I	E	R	E	D
D	A	I	L	P	L	A	N	N	E	R	
R	E	P	L	D	E	G					
A	R	O	M	A	T	H	E	R	A	P	Y
O	V	E	R	S	T	E	P	S	R	I	
H	E	B	E	S	E	A	C	O	O	P	
A	E	T	N	A	D	D	U	L	S	E	
E	L	A	I	N	E	D	E	B	I	T	S
I	N	E	R	T	M	A	V	E	N		
N	G	W	E	E	S	H	I	R	E		

**game time AT THE SUPERBOWL**

**NRV SuperBowl Summer Leagues Beginning Soon**

**Register for the night or day Leagues**

**Night Leagues**  
Monday, Tuesday  
Wednesday, Friday  
& Sunday

**Daytime Leagues**  
Tuesday morning Coffee  
League or Thursday  
Morning Senior Crazy 8's

Sign up now for a summer of fun and competition  
(Register in person or online at [www.superbowl.net](http://www.superbowl.net))

**575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg**  
**540-382-5525 • [www.nrvsuperbowl.biz](http://www.nrvsuperbowl.biz)**

# Blacksburg girls slide by Salem



Salem goalkeeper Allison Kessel makes a save ahead of Blacksburg's Addison McSorley.



Claire Langlinais gets Blacksburg on the board with a first half goal.



Blacksburg's Ava Massjouni finds some space in front of the Salem goal for a first half score.



Blacksburg's Virginia Crawford keeps possession deep in Salem's half during a 2-1 win on Tuesday night.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

# Hokies sign as undrafted free agents

Following the 2023 NFL Draft, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed Virginia Tech offensive lineman Silas Dzansi as an undrafted free agent.

Dzansi joins fellow teammate Chamarrri Conner, who was

drafted in the fourth round by the Kansas City Chiefs as a defensive back, as new Hokies who have joined the NFL ranks.

Three other Hokies will be vying for time at the next level, with wide receiver Jadan Blue going to the Chicago Bears'

minicamp, tight end Connor Blumrick heading to the Chiefs' minicamp and linebacker Dax Hollifield earning a tryout with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Dzansi started all 11 games at left tackle, anchoring Tech's offensive line that allowed

one or fewer sacks on three different occasions. He received the highest pass blocking grade among ACC tackles for his efforts against North Carolina on Oct. 1 according to Pro Football Focus. Dzansi, from Woodbridge, Virginia, tied

for the top PFF grade among offensive linemen on the team for the season.

The next step for the five Hokies are rookie mini-camps, which are two weekends in May for NFL teams to hold them - May 5-8 or May 12-15. Then

the first session of OTAs (organized team activities) is May 22-25, which is an opportunity for teams to get their first up-close look at all players on their rosters in an organized setting.

Virginia Tech Athletics



GET OUR BEST FROM A NEW CONVENIENT LOCATION,

# Christiansburg.

Our Christiansburg branch has moved to a new location. Stop in and let's chat about how we can make your finances brighter, your business stronger, your goals reachable, and your dreams achievable.

In other words, let's bring out your best—together.

2681 Market St. NE, Christiansburg, VA



Member FDIC

SkylineNationalBank.com

Enjoy pure lace and embroidery...  
Perfect for spring special events

William Ruff  
RU Artist

**BONOMOS**

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

Send community news and photos to community news @ourvalley.org

## Spencer Dental & Braces

Attention Spencer Dental & Braces Patients,

We regret to inform you that Spencer Dental & Braces located at 135 Conston Avenue, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073 will permanently close effective May 31, 2023. We would love for you to continue your care with Spencer Dental & Braces at our Roanoke office, which is located at 5002 Airport Road NW, Unit #130 Roanoke, Virginia 24012. Please call (540) 362-5437 in order to schedule an appointment at the Roanoke office.

Unless we receive direction otherwise from you, a copy of your records will be transferred to the Roanoke office. We can also release the records to you or to another person you designate with appropriate authorization. If you would like your records transferred to another dentist and/or would like a copy of your records, please contact: Records\_Request@Benevis.com.

Please include the following information in your request:

- Patient's full name
- Patient's date of birth
- Patient's address
- Name of the dental office you are requesting records from
- Name and email address of the dental office to which your records should be sent

If you have any questions regarding your care or with respect to records requests, please reach out to us at (540) 362-5437.

Sincerely,  
The Spencer Dental & Braces Team