



# News Messenger

Blacksburg

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Christiansburg

Saturday, May 20, 2023

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## Montgomery County Public Schools presents budget update following funding shortfall



### Montgomery County Public Schools

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCPS

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Annie Whitaker, Ed.D. Deputy Superintendent for Operations, presented the county's approach to the budget reduction during the school board's work session meeting on Tuesday night.

The difference in funding needs that the public schools had to address totaled just over 4.5 million dollars, according to information Whittaker shared with the board during the meeting. Some of the goals

presented as most important to the school district in reorganizing and re-prioritizing the FY 2023-24 budget are to minimize impact to students by maintaining a pupil to teacher ratio, utilize attrition to reduce staffing, and focus on building level management of staff assigned to schools.

Some of the items that are proposed to remain in the budget and receive funding will be four athletic trainers, an additional preschool class at Auburn Elementary school, a 5% raise and salary corrections for

individual staff, and an increased custodial staff of four positions. A more detailed description of the budget update presentation, including the school nutrition budget, can be found on the school website in the meeting's agenda documents at mcps.org in board docs.

Proposed cuts to the budget include funding for student school supplies, paying for educator license fees, division cell phones for non-emergency personnel, and a change

See MCPS, page 4

## NRV Food Assistance Directory connects community members to resources

BLACKSBURG - In collaboration with members of NRV Thrive, a network of agencies working to address food insecurity in the region, The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) recently released its 2023-2024 NRV Food Assistance Directory.

The directory aims to connect community members in need of food assistance to the programs providing this support and contains the details of 53 food assistance programs in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski

as well as the city of Radford.

In the New River Valley, it is estimated that at least 20,000 people, or 11.3% of the population, experiences issues with sufficient access to affordable food. This is higher than the national average (10.2%) that the U.S. Department of Agriculture shared in a 2021 report. Across the region, dozens of programs are working to address this issue, ranging from community gardens and school

See Directory, page 4



### The COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of the New River Valley

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CFNRV



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BLACKSBURG

**Rotary Club of Blacksburg awards three scholarships to Montgomery County High School seniors for Fine Arts. This year's winners are (left to right) Kelsie Groseclose, Adalyn Williams and Abigail Plummer.**

## Blacksburg Rotary awards Fine Arts scholarships

BLACKSBURG - On May 4, the Rotary Club of Blacksburg awarded three scholarships to Montgomery County High School seniors.

The Fine Arts Award is given to a student who exhibits a good personal character, and who lives the Rotary Motto of "Service above Self." Students audition before a committee of Rotarians. This year's winners are Kelsie Groseclose,

Abigail Plummer and Adalyn Williams.

Groseclose is a senior at Auburn High School. She is a talented artist and will attend Concord College in the fall majoring in Studio Art and will also be a member of the Concord women's soccer team.

Williams will graduate from

See Scholarships, page 4

## Free Sustainable Garden Tours hosted May through August

The first tour date is Sunday, May 21

BLACKSBURG - The Sustainable Blacksburg nonprofit community organization is sponsoring free tours of local gardens showcasing sustainable gardening and landscaping practices, including reduced lawn area, native plants, wildlife-friendly plantings, food production and upcycled garden décor.

The gardeners hosting are making their yards about more than growing grass.

The tours are held on third Sundays from 2- 5 p.m., May through August. Light refreshments will be served at these drop-in tours. Visitors are welcome any time during the tour timeframe. Tours are rain or shine but will be halted by thunderstorms.

The two gardens featured on Sunday, May 21, are bike-accessible for those participating in

the Bikesburg 2023 bike festival and bike parking will be available.

Corl/Burger garden at 911 Draper Road, Blacksburg:

The homeowners have progressively reduced the proportion of the lot area dedicated to lawn in order to reduce maintenance in some areas while increasing food production in others. Their ornamental beds are a mix of both native and non-native plants. To support the vegetable garden, they compost and utilize soil testing to manage soil nutrients as well as mulch to conserve water.

Marsille garden at 509 Monte Vista Drive, Blacksburg:

Margaret Marsille describes her yard as a low-budget work in progress, as she transitions to native plants, food crops, and a "just have fun" garden. She has

incorporated sustainable features, including two rainwater collection systems, native plant gardens, composting area, food gardens, upcycled garden art and two greenhouses created from reclaimed windows.

Future tours include: June 18:

Cedar Chest Farm, 4980 Longshop Rd, Blacksburg: The owners of this new small farm grow 1/4 acre of diversified vegetables and cut flowers for sale through a local community supported agriculture (CSA) program and Blacksburg Farmers Market. They grow without any synthetic inputs, utilizing no-till practices and implementing conservation strategies such as a high tunnel, drip irrigation, cover cropping, and crop rotation.

Todd garden, 312

Sunset Blvd, Blacksburg: The Todds' variety includes native and pollinator-friendly flowers, pumpkins, gourds, and other vegetables with minimal grass in the back

yard. Rain barrels conserve water and refill a koi pond that attracts wildlife. Owl boxes welcome an owl family annually. A garden railroad (G-Scale) using a number of repurposed

items adds whimsy.

July 16: Monti/McLellan garden, 1090 S. Jefferson Forest Ln, Blacksburg: In

See Garden, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSTAINABLE BLACKSBURG

**The Marsille garden is one of several gardens being featured this year on Sustainable Blacksburg's garden tour this spring and summer. The tours are being held on the third Sunday of each month, May through August.**

THANK YOU TO THE BANDS AND OUR HOST EASTERN DIVIDE BREWING COMPANY FOR A FUN FUNDRAISING EVENT AND TO THE SPONSORS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE:

*Thank You!*

Jim & Sally Bohland  
Nyanne & Dan Hicks  
Pat Hyer

Mary Osgood  
Richard Gough  
Rich Gandour & Jill Kiecolt

Ted & Priscilla Fleshman  
Ted & Nancy Koebel  
Todd & Rhonda Marcum  
Gerhardt Schurig

Carolyn & Don Rude  
Rosemary Bleisner & Steve Gerus  
Dr. Richard & Laurie Shepherd  
Fred Carlisle & Beth Obenshain

We fondly remember our friend Don Rude who passed shortly before Mission Jazz.

**Dr. Cathy Callahan & Dr. Jerry Goldschmidt**

Benefiting

Tom & Mary Ollendick

Invision, Christiansburg

New River Valley Magazine



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Today, Saturday, May 20:

### Bikesburg Parade and Festival

Downtown Blacksburg, with events going on from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on College Avenue. Additional day's activities are available on the events page as well, which is hosted by Downtown Blacksburg Inc. Bike parade starts at 10 a.m. led by Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith. All ages and abilities are encouraged to join the parade. The bike bus starts at 9 a.m. and includes one of five routes taking riders to the bike parade departure location at VT Electric parking lot, 601 Energy Dr. The bike parade will depart from Energy Drive at 10 a.m. and head north on the Huckleberry Trail, taking participants around campus, and concluding on Main Street.

### Radford 2023 Summer Concert series

The Catalinas will perform on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford. Gates open at 6 p.m. and concert begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person and children 12 and under are free. Food trucks will be available, and the Radford Chamber of Commerce will be supplying alcohol for purchase. Bring a chair and come out and enjoy the sounds of summer.

### Music on the Lawn: Root 2 Music

At the Christiansburg Library; 6 -7:30 p.m. First show of Music on the Lawn concert series. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. This free concert is rain or shine. Root 2 Music draw on two of American music, Celtic and Deep South Country Blues. The duo consists of David Frank (guitar, slide guitar, harmonica, vocals) and Mary Beth Coffey (fiddle, percussion, vocals). You can visit them at <https://www.facebook.com/American-Roots-260081600850582/>.

### Radford Reads with Angela Clevinger

At the Radford Public Library; 2- 3 p.m. Angela Clevinger, author of *The Lady of the Lake Had Bouffant Hair*, will provide a brief reading of her book followed by a signing and visiting session. Don't miss this entertaining and kind souled Appalachian artist, as she shares her life in poetic form. Books will be available for purchase at a cost of \$16.00 for one, \$30.00 for two, and \$45.00 for three books (check or cash)

### Virtual Author Talk with Courtney Summers

Virtual, hosted by the Radford Public Library; 2-3 p.m. Please join us for an exhilarating Saturday as we chat with New York Times bestselling YA Author Courtney Summers about her newest book, *I'm the Girl*. Thrill on every page, *I'm the Girl* follows sixteen-year-old Georgia Avis after she discovers the dead body of thirteen-year-old Ashley James and teams up with Ashley's older sister, Nora, to find and bring the killer to justice before he strikes again. *I'm the Girl* is a masterfully written, and unflinching account of how one young woman feels in her body as she struggles to navigate a deadly and predatory power structure while asking readers one question: if this is the way the world is, do you accept it? Register now! <https://library.org/radfordlibrar>

## Sunday, May 21:

### Community Quilting Bee - Piece a Four Patch

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 – 3 p.m. Do your points not come together nor seams match? Come to learn tips for accurate hand or machine piecing. You may bring your own project to work on. All are welcome.

### Chess Club

At the Blacksburg Library; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Come learn chess with US Federation member Rishi. Ages 8+

all skill levels welcome. Supplies provided.

## Monday, May 22:

### Radford City Council meeting

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

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

## Tuesday, May 23:

### 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 the 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.

## Thursday, June 1:

### American Legion meeting

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

## Monday, June 12:

### Radford City Council meeting

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

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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## Tuesday, June 13:

### 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.

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## On-going:

### Blacksburg Hydrant Flushing Work

The Town of Blacksburg will be flushing fire hydrants in the northwest section of Town during May and June. Hydrant flushing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the flushing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

### 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 Ingles (Colonial times). Can include depictions of local landmarks (Ingles Farm, the Cultural and Heritage Park, Ingles Tavern and other connected sites in the region), and Colonial style art. Painting, plein air, illustration, digital media, textiles, mixed media and photography will be considered - up to three works per artist. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. on June 13. Open to artists in and around the NRVA area. Entry forms at [www.glencoemansion.org](http://www.glencoemansion.org) or by contacting [arts@glencoemansion.org](mailto:arts@glencoemansion.org).

### Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

### Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

### Radford Farmers Market

The 2023 season of the Radford Farmers Market kicked off Saturday, April 22 on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

### Radford Field of Honor

Field of Honor on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery- displayed until the Fourth of July by the Radford Noon Rotary Club. Sponsor flags to honor someone. Individual flags - \$50. Blue sponsorship - \$500, includes five flags plus signage. White sponsorship - \$1,000, includes 10 flags plus signage. Red sponsorship - \$2,500, includes 10 flags plus premium signage. Money raised benefits scholarships to RHS students and several charities. Contact Tom Alston with Radford Noon Rotary at [rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com](http://rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com) or register at: <https://registrations.dacdb.com/Register/index.cfm>.

# Bike parade, festival set for today for 'Bikesburg'

*Bikesburg brings a host of biking events to downtown Blacksburg now through May 26*

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Community partnerships of downtown Blacksburg are bringing a weeklong celebration of biking, with events through May 26, 2023 that the whole family can enjoy.

Blacksburg's Sustainability Manager,

Carol Davis, spoke on the upcoming biking celebration week and their goal in putting on this annual event.

"Biking is a sustainable means of transportation for a lot of people" Davis said. "The feel of the town becomes a slower pace when the students leave for the summer, and we are inviting the residents to come out and have fun. If you are typically nervous riding your bike in town during the spring and fall semesters when the town sees more traffic, now is the time to get out, and the weather is beautiful. Getting to know people and getting around town is what we are about and that is what we are hoping to accomplish with this."

The bike parade, happening Saturday May 20, is led by Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith. All ages and abilities are encouraged to join the parade, which concludes with a ride down Blacksburg's Main Street. The bike bus starts at 9 a.m. and includes one of five routes taking riders to the bike parade departure location at VT Electric parking lot, 601 Energy Drive. The bike parade will depart from Energy Drive at 10 a.m. and head north on the Huckleberry Trail, taking participants around campus, and concluding on Main Street. Interested riders should check out the map routes on

See *Bikesburg*, page 3

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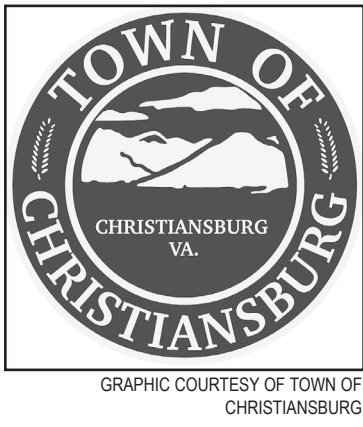
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# Town of Christiansburg makes changes to delinquent taxes program



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

**CHRISTIANSBURG** – The Town of Christiansburg is implementing changes to the delinquency collection program and will now be using a law firm to assist the town in collecting past due taxes, the town announced earlier this week.

“These efforts will focus on the collection of delinquent taxes owed to the Town,” town officials announced.

“The Town is working with Taxing Authority Consulting Services, P.C. (TACS), a Virginia law firm that concentrates its practice representing treasurers and tax collectors. Any fees charged by TACS are paid for by the delinquent taxpayers and the Town will pay no fees for the service.”

Taxpayers with past due taxes have until the end of the

month to pay the debt before TACS will initiate collection. “In collecting these accounts, TACS may pursue all means of collection authorized by law, including the attachment of wages or other assets, the seizure of personal property, holds on DMV registrations, or filing suit in court,” the town’s statement reads.

“To avoid these actions,

and an additional 20% collection fee, taxpayers must take prompt steps to resolve their delinquent accounts. Taxpayers with delinquencies have until the end of business on May 31 before their accounts will be sent to TACS for collection.”

*News Messenger staff report*

# Carilion Clinic promotes Steve Arner to President and Chief Operating Officer

*Nancy Howell Agee continues as Chief Executive Officer*

ROANOKE - Carilion Clinic today announced that Steve Arner has been promoted to President and Chief Operating Officer of the \$2.4 billion not-for-profit academic health system and Nancy Howell Agee continues as CEO.

Arner oversees the day-to-day management of Carilion’s seven hospitals – including a children’s hospital, Level One trauma center and more than 240 medical offices.

He has helped spearhead capital improvements that include the Crystal Spring Tower addition to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, on schedule for completion in 2025.

“Steve is an outstanding leader, and we are delighted to promote him,” said Agee. “He has a strong work ethic and cares deeply about our patients, our teams and our work together caring for the communities we serve.”

Arner was integral to the health system’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic and, as chair of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association during the first year and a half of

the pandemic, coordinated the collective response of Virginia’s health care provider organizations.

“Carilion today is a nationally ranked academic health system that provides an extraordinary range of services, from primary care to the most advanced, complex care,” said Arner. “I look forward to continuing on a pathway of growth and collaboration.”

Previously, Arner served as senior vice president with responsibility for cardiovascular care, operating rooms, engineering and environmental services, and he held administrative responsibility for the health system’s Roanoke-based operations. In addition, he was President and CEO of Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital and has worked in human resources and finance.

Arner has been a member of the VHHA board of directors since 2014, has been a part of the executive committee since 2015 and was chair from October 2020 through April



Steve Arner

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARILION CLINIC

2022. He was the State Delegate to the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board from 2016 to 2021 and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee for America’s Essential Hospitals.

*Submitted by Carilion Clinic*

# Bikesburg

from page 2

the website at <https://downtownblacksburg.com/events/bikesburg>.

Everyone is also invited to come to the Bikesburg Festival, also on May 20, with events going on from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on College Avenue. Additional day’s activities are available on the events page as well, which is hosted by Downtown Blacksburg Inc.

Along with the festival and bike parade, the week’s events include many other opportunities for family-oriented activities and topics that bike enthusiasts will love. Just some of the activities found on the event’s webpage include a garden tour, book discussions, social rides, a bike yoga

event, a trail-building service opportunity, and a bike commuting class at the library on Wednesday 23. Davis says Jen Millions, the President of the New River Valley Bicycle Association who will be leading the class, is a certified trainer that teaches safe cycling. Building confidence and making everyone safer on the roads and trails are important, so taking a safety course in bicycling can help all riders in achieving and maintaining these skills.

According to the event’s news release, some events do require registration, so participants should check the website for details and additional event descriptions. During the

week of Bikesburg 2023, participating businesses will be offering a passport and stamps for cyclists who visit their stores by bike (no purchase required). Completed passports can be entered for several prize drawings.

The Bikesburg 2023 partnership includes Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. (DBI), New River Valley Bicycle Association (NRVBA), Town of Blacksburg, VT Sustainable Transportation, Sustainable Blacksburg, Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg Farmers Market, Regional Commission/Ride Solutions, Poverty Creek Trails Coalition, and Friends of the Huckleberry.



PHOTO COURTESY CHIP HERMAN, TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

**Blacksburg Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith leads last year’s bike parade.**

# Garden

from page 1

just five years, the homeowners have created an incredible certified habitat for birds, bees and butterflies. A one-fourth acre meadow sports a succession of blooming species to feed native pollinators throughout the season and the property owners have also planted over 25 native trees as well as shrubs and perennials.

Kecorius garden, 1306 Greendale Dr,

Blacksburg: In this fairly new garden, the homeowners grow vegetables, fruits, and flowers, striving to be pollinator friendly and avoiding chemicals. Rain barrels and drip irrigation conserve water.

August 20:

Swinfen garden, 777 Craigs Mountain Rd, Christiansburg: Set on 12 acres, with fruit and nut trees, a vegetable garden, pond and compost bins, the property

owners encourage natives and have been eradicating invasives. They have installed solar panels and an impressive rainwater collection and pumping system to water their gardens.

Relf/Angle garden: 1866 Den Hill Rd, Christiansburg. This garden focuses on artful recycled materials and includes a greenhouse, an intense production vegetable garden designed to resist deer,

water features, and plants and flowers selected for sharing. The property also gives the opportunity to observe the difficulty of handling industry-recommended invasive exotics after they become established in a landscape.

*Submitted by Sustainable Blacksburg*

# Marketplace

ourvalley.org

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**For Sale - Misc**  
**FOR SALE**

**Men’s Black Tuxedo,**  
Brooks Bros. brand  
Worn 1 x, Drycleaned.  
Jacket size: 42” long,  
Trousers w/ Satin side strip,  
Size 34 x 34.  
Includes: White pleated-  
front dress shirt, size 16 1/2 x  
36, with Cuff Links and  
Studs,  
2 Cumberbunds (1 Black,  
1 Tartan)  
Men’s Black dress shoes,  
size 9, Brooks Bros. brand.  
Will Sell ALL for \$600.  
Option to purchase shoes  
only for \$75.

**Men’s casual and dress-  
type shoes,**  
Johnston Murphy brand  
Size 9, All in good  
condition, 20 Pairs.

Will sell ALL for \$450.  
Selling separately, optional.

**Dog Cages,**  
Wire, Retriever brand, 1  
large, 1 small. Both in  
great condition, minimal  
use.

Will sell both for \$60 with  
option of selling separately.

CONTACT: 540-392-8613

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**Legals -  
Montgomery  
County**

**MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY  
ELECTION  
INFORMATION  
June 20, 2023 –  
Democratic  
Primary**

4th Senate District Only  
Registration Deadline:  
Tuesday, May 30, 2023  
In-Person Early Voting at  
the MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY OFFICE OF  
ELECTIONS  
1546 North Franklin Street,  
Christiansburg, VA.  
May 5 – June 16 from  
8:30am – 5pm  
In addition, we will be open  
from 9am to 5pm  
Saturday, June 10, 2023  
and Saturday, June 17,  
2023

Note: The last day qualified  
voters can apply for an  
absentee ballot by mail:  
Friday, June 9, 2023 by  
5:00 PM  
A Ballot Drop Box will be  
available inside the  
Montgomery County Office  
of Elections from May 5,  
2023 – June 20, 2023,  
during normal business  
hours.

The Constitution of Virginia  
requires that in order to be  
qualified to vote in the  
General & Primary Election  
you must be a citizen of the  
United States, be eighteen  
years of age on or before  
the next General Election,  
have domicile and a place  
of abode in Montgomery

**Legals -  
Montgomery  
County**

County and that you be  
registered in the precinct in  
which you reside.  
An acceptable ID will be  
required when you vote. A  
voter may show either voter  
registration confirmation  
documents, valid Virginia  
Driver’s License, valid  
United States Passport, or  
any other identification  
issued by the  
Commonwealth, one of its  
political subdivisions, or the  
United States; any valid  
student identification card  
issued by any institution of  
higher education located in  
the Commonwealth or any  
private school located in the  
Commonwealth; any valid  
student identification card  
issued by any institution of  
higher education located in  
the Commonwealth; any  
valid employer identification  
card containing a  
photograph of the voter and  
issued by an employer of  
the voter in the ordinary  
course of the employer’s  
business or a copy of a  
current utility bill, bank  
statement, government  
check, paycheck, or other  
government document that  
shows the name and  
address of the voter.  
Contact the Montgomery  
County Office of Elections if  
you have any questions at  
382-5741 or the Department  
of Elections at  
elections.virginia.gov.  
Connie Viar, Director of  
Elections/General Registrar

**Legals -  
Montgomery  
County**

**Order of  
Publication**  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-  
316.20-104  
Case No. CA2300012-00  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
Circuit Court, 55 EAST  
MAIN STREET, SUITE 1,  
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA  
24073 Commonwealth of  
Virginia, in re CHRISTINE  
ELIZABETH GIBSON,  
DANIEL WARD GIBSON v.  
COMMONWEALTH OF  
VIRGINIA

The object of this suit is to:  
IN RE: DESTINEE  
EVONLYNN HOBACK. It is  
ORDERED that BETTY  
JOY THOMPSON appear at  
the above-named court and  
protect his/her interests on  
or before JULY 5, 2023.  
MAY 5, 2023, ROBERT  
M.D.TURK, JUDGE  
TIFFANY M.COUCH,  
CLERK

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The contents of the  
listed unit will be sold  
at Public Auction  
May 26, 2023  
at 11am at  
1st Security  
Self Storage 5  
Midway Plaza Dr.  
Christiansburg, VA.  
D020 D025 F40  
1st Security reserves  
the right to refuse  
any bid. Terms:  
CASH OR CREDIT  
CARD AT SALE.

**Legals -  
Montgomery  
County**

**TOWN OF  
CHRISTIANSBURG,  
VIRGINIA**

**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT  
(CDBG)**

The Town of Christiansburg  
Virginia as a recipient of  
block grant funding is  
required by the U.S.  
Department of Housing and  
Urban Development (HUD)  
to prepare and adopt a  
multiyear Consolidated Plan  
and Annual Action Plans to  
solicit citizen views on  
proposed Community  
Development Block Grant  
(CDBG) program activities  
contained in these  
documents. The proposed  
plan is for the FY 2023  
Annual Action Plan to  
provide information on the  
program and the goals for  
the upcoming year. The  
estimated amount the  
Town is scheduled to  
receive is \$130,404.  
Activities proposed include  
the East Main Street  
sidewalk project located in  
the Town’s qualifying low to  
moderate income census  
tract block group and a  
town-wide income-qualified  
emergency home repair  
program.  
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION  
Draft copies of the FY 2023  
Annual Action Plan are

**Legals -  
Montgomery  
County**

available for review. Copies  
can be obtained from the  
Christiansburg Town  
Manager’s Office,  
Christiansburg Town Hall,  
100 E. Main Street, the  
Christiansburg branch  
library at 125 Shelman  
Street or on the  
Town’s website at  
[www.christiansburg.org](http://www.christiansburg.org).  
The 30-day comment period  
will run through  
Monday, June 19, 2023.  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
A Public Meeting with Town  
staff to discuss the FY 2023  
Annual Action Plan on  
Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at  
5:30 PM in the Admin  
Conference Room,  
Christiansburg Town  
Hall, 100 E. Main Street,  
Christiansburg, Virginia.  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
A Public Hearing for the  
adoption of the FY2023  
Annual Action Plan at the  
Town Council meeting on  
Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at  
7:00 PM in the Council  
Room, Christiansburg Town  
Hall, 100 E. Main Street,  
Christiansburg, Virginia.  
Provide any questions,  
comments, or suggestions  
by mailing the Town  
Manager’s Office,  
Town of Christiansburg, 100  
E. Main Street,  
Christiansburg, VA 24073-  
3029, by e-mailing  
awarren@christiansburg.org  
or by phone at (540) 382-  
6120 x 1130.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DELIVERS



# Scholarships from page 1

Christiansburg High School. Her imagination and creativity in using several different mediums to create her art is unique and inspired. She will attend Brigham Young University, and major in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Fine Arts.

Plummer of is a senior at Blacksburg High School and has been dancing since she was very young. She is excited to further her dancing career at VCU in the fall and will be majoring in Dance and Choreography. Each student receives a \$1,000

college scholarship, and the Rotary Club will place a children's book in the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library in their honor. Annually the Rotary Club of Blacksburg selects outstanding seniors from Montgomery County's four high schools to receive Fine

Arts, Math/Science and Career and Technical Education awards and scholarships. Submitted by the Blacksburg Rotary Club

# Directory from page 1

backpack programs to hot meals programs and food pantries. These programs are seeing an increased demand for their services. "Between February and March 2023, when food stamps were cut, we have seen a 44% increase in the number of meals we serve," said Gretchen Dee, director of Radford-

Fairlawn Daily Bread. "The need for food aid had already massively increased during the pandemic, but the rising cost of food and the cutting of benefits have severely exacerbated this crisis. Poverty is a vicious cycle and people struggling with food insecurity are often trapped in circumstances

well beyond their control." Those in need of assistance also face other barriers, including stigma around accessing services. "Our region has such disparity that is overshadowed by those who are more fortunate," said Ryan Martin, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of The YMCA at Virginia Tech. "There is a great amount of shame accompanied by food insecurity, making people embarrassed and try to hide their need." Many experiencing

issues related to food security are often dealing with other challenges related to housing, employment, healthcare, and more. Getting connected to resources while dealing with these circumstances can be difficult, particularly navigating the specifics of each program offering services. "We hope this directory makes it easier for those seeking assistance," said Jessica Wirgau, Chief Executive Officer of the CFNRV. "Our goal for is

for this directory to be as comprehensive as possible, so we have included information on each program's schedule, how often someone can use the program's services, what types of products are offered, and any eligibility requirements or documents." The directory is just one project that the CFNRV is working on related to food insecurity issues. The foundation's NRV Thrive food access initiative brings together organizations to better address regional needs

by sharing resources and coordinating projects, including recovering and distributing food throughout the NRV more efficiently. The directory can be accessed online at [cfnrv.org/thrive](http://cfnrv.org/thrive). Those interested in getting involved with the CFNRV's Thrive initiative may contact the foundation at 540-381-8999 or [cfnrv@cfnrv.org](mailto:cfnrv@cfnrv.org). Submitted by the Community Foundation of the NRV

# News Messenger

Established 1869

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P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

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Give us your view:

[editor@ourvalley.org](mailto: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.

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# MCPS from page 1

to employee contribution to health insurance premiums. Additionally, along with other reductions in staffing and teaching positions, 6.5 central office positions are proposed to be eliminated.

"There's not a whole lot of confidentiality if we are publishing it to the entire audience of MCPS about what's going to happen," board member Sue Kass said. "I would feel awful, if I was that person who had one of those jobs and everybody in the public was sitting there listening and finding out, not at the same time, but knowing that the public was going to hear about this at a public-school meeting."

"I think that's fair," Bragen said. "I thought we were discussing that in closed session this evening with the specificity that we were asked to bring back."

A vote of 4-2 by board members, with Penny Franklin and Mark Cherbaka opposed, postponed further determination of the budget's outcome until a June 6 school board meeting.

A few citizens addressed the board with concerns in the MCPS school system during the public address portion of the meeting.

Jenna Nichols, a Christiansburg resident, spoke about continued concerns of aggression and bullying at the local Christiansburg Middle School that she felt is not being appropriately managed by

administration.

Glen Chilcote, of Blacksburg, represented the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA) as the current president of the organization with a term ending in August, in his address to the board Tuesday night. Of the recommendations he brought to the MCPS board, Chilcote explained how teachers and staff have not been receiving their full steps in the salary scale based on years of experience, in addition to the hopes that they would also receive a raise this year.

"Step 15 with a 5% raise is now step 16. So, you don't go to that next step," Chilcote said. "It is really frustrating that I can't do a good job and get a raise."

Other concerns shared with the school board reflected frustration that financial shortcuts to the schools now will create continued economic shortfalls in future years.

"After the Board of Supervisors cuts your funding, they'll tell themselves that they've successfully lowered the cost of education to Montgomery County taxpayers and the school board may do with those reduced cuts, so clearly the six or so million dollars shortfall you will be facing was actually money you were going to just waste," Christopher Thomas, of Christiansburg, said.

Dr. Bernard Bragen, MCPS

Superintendent, updated the school board and community with a few comments. Recently, the superintendent attended the retirement dinner for the school's employees. The event was hosted at the Virginia Tech Inn and the superintendent recognized the Human Resource team, along with Melodie Cox and Danny Knott, for their efforts in organizing this special event. According to Bragen, the dedication of the employees in the years of service and support they have provided to the county's public schools will leave experience that will take time to fill.

"It totaled 1,022.5 years of service and when you think about that number, I know as superintendent, it kind of frightens me, because it's going to take us a really long time to hire people of that caliber, with that level of expertise, to work with our young people," Bragen said. "Teaching is an art and a science, and it takes many years to perfect it."

Montgomery County Public Schools' high school graduations are scheduled for this weekend. Eastern Montgomery High School graduation was held Friday, May 19 at 6 p.m. On Saturday, May 20, Blacksburg High School is at 9 a.m., Christiansburg High School will happen at 1 p.m., and Auburn High School is scheduled for 4 p.m.

# CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
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64					65					66

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. One point E of due S
  - 4. Picture border
  - 7. Having negative qualities
  - 10. Inner surface of the hand
  - 12. Spanish appetizers
  - 14. Large burrowing rodent of S and C Am.
  - 15. A profane state
  - 16. Sharp narrow mountain ridge
  - 17. Cain and \_\_\_
  - 18. Tranquil, calm
  - 20. Removes writing
  - 22. A Mississippi tributary
  - 23. Exactly suitable
  - 24. Extended blockade
  - 26. Encomium
  - 29. Dreaming eye movement
  - 30. Principle vein
  - 35. Japanese apricot
  - 36. \_\_\_ Speedwagon band
  - 37. Fish eggs
  - 38. Ethiopian capital
  - 43. Considerate care
  - 44. Units of loudness
  - 45. Yemen capital
  - 48. Body fluid circulation tube
  - 49. Actress Lupino
  - 50. Gets up
  - 53. Moved contrary to the current
  - 56. Stretched tight
  - 57. Dark brownish black
  - 59. Syrian goat hair fabrics
  - 61. One of the Great Lakes
  - 62. Gull-like jaegers
  - 63. Taps gently
  - 64. Hamilton's bill
  - 65. One point N of due E
  - 66. No (Scottish)
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Seaport (abbr.)
  - 2. Bleats
  - 3. Czech & German River
  - 4. Female horse
  - 5. Large tailless primate
  - 6. Modern London gallery
  - 7. Baseball's Ruth
  - 8. Breezes through
  - 9. Decaliter
  - 11. Genus uria
  - 12. Built for two
  - 13. Mexican men's shawl
  - 14. Pale & soft in color
  - 19. Records the brain's electric currents
  - 21. Three banded armadillo
  - 24. Plant germ
  - 25. Relating to imides
  - 27. Main artery
  - 28. City in north-central Zambia
  - 29. Royal Military Academy
  - 31. Shape of a sphere
  - 32. Earl Grey or Orange Pekoe
  - 33. Fireplace shelf
  - 34. Old world, new
  - 39. Request attendance
  - 40. Oceans
  - 41. Determine the court costs of
  - 42. Digressions
  - 46. Form a sum
  - 47. Greek river nymphs
  - 50. Swiss river
  - 51. Laying waste
  - 52. Japanese rice beer
  - 53. Ardor
  - 54. Israel's 1st UN delegate
  - 55. A \_\_\_ Honeymoon
  - 56. Vietnamese offensive
  - 58. Slang term for man or boy
  - 60. Point midway between S and SE

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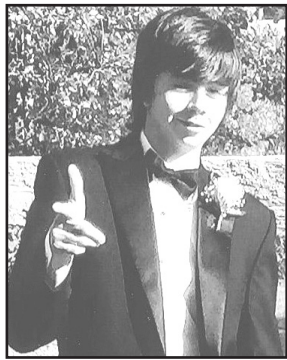
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# OBITUARIES

## Bordeaux, Tyler Bradley



Tyler Bradley Bordeaux, 24, of friends, Terra White (Jimmy), Radford, passed away on Thursday, May 11, 2023. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Donna Lee Saul and Billy Ray Saul. Survivors include his mother, Christina Lee Saul; sisters and brother-in-law, Adryane Hunter Roseberry (Robbie), and Tori Nikole Roseberry; uncles, Wade VanHoy (Vikki), Kevin J. Funk, and Billy S. Saul; aunts, Teena Lovern, and Amanda K. Saul (Bobby); special cousins, Emily Lovern (Chris), Samantha Lovern, Adam Pennington, and Mykkel Connelly; best friend, Nick McHenry; first and only love, Hailey White; special

Cody Lovern, Joe Coyle, Shane Ferrell, Isaiah Forester, Chris McHenry, Katie McHenry, Greta McHenry, Buck Earley, and Brandon Earley; and many other relatives and friends. The family will receive friends from 1- 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A graveside service will follow at 3 p.m. in Mountain View Cemetery in Dublin. The family of Tyler Bordeaux is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Gallimore, Olaf Ellen

Olaf Ellen Gallimore, 84, of Salem, went to be with her Lord and Savior May 18, 2023. Ellen was born December 4, 1938 in Montcalm, W.Va. She was a daughter of the late Payton and Maudie Phillips Gallimore. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by two brothers, Edsel Gallimore and Alfred Gallimore; four sisters, Clarice June Chrisman, Dorcas Kent, Elvie Jones, and Joyce Pascoe. Those left to cherish her memory are her brother, Cappy Ray Gallimore; sisters, Ruby Dallas Gallimore, Eula Mae 'Julie' Crewrey, Linda Smith, and Janet Webb. While our hearts are grieving here on earth, she is in a place of God's beauty, now seeing and hearing everything. Only peace and joy forever, no tears or earthly cares. Her pure heart and her

kind spirit is now resting in the loving arms of our Heavenly Father. The family would like to express sincere thanks to the staff at the Joseph C. Thomas Center Assisted Living at Richfield, Salem, VA where Ellen was a resident for the last three years and nine months. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Martha, Brenda, Missy, Tracy, Sherie, Deidera, Laura, Wendy, Billy Jo, and all others who cared for Ellen for their loving care and compassion. A Celebration of Life Service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Horne Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Shake Smith officiating. A gathering of family and friends will be held immediately prior to the service beginning at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at the Beaver Creek Cemetery, Floyd.

See Obituaries, page 6

### 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 Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### ECKANKAR

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

### EPISCOPAL

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

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### WATCH OUT FOR PRIDE

Read 2 Chronicles 24:1 through 26:23

After Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense (2 Chronicles 26:16).

Uzziah became king in Judah at sixteen years of age. During his reign, he fortified towers, dug wells, increased agriculture, invented weapons, and raised an impressive army. However, after forty blessed and prosperous years as king, he made a monumental mistake in judgment. He let pride settle in.

He entered into the sanctuary to offer incense on the golden altar, a ministry rite belonging to the consecrated temple priests, not him. When the high priest, along with a band of eighty priests, withstood him, Uzziah became furious. While screaming back at the priests, leprosy broke out on Uzziah's forehead. Sadly, he remained a leper, living in an isolated home until the day he died.

Pride can slip into a believer's life almost unnoticed. The consequences are never good. If pride ever raises its ugly head, deal with it immediately. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

Thought for Today: Humility is our best defense against pride.

Quicklook: 2 Chronicles 26:16-23

**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@stmclc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

### MULTI-CULTURAL

### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Eletic 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

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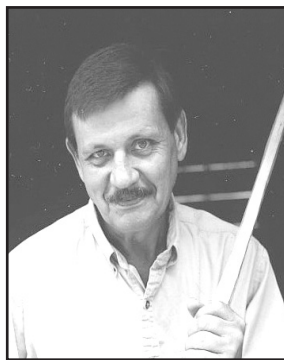


# Obituaries from page 5

## Housel, Chuck

Chuck Housel, of Graysontown, and favorite dog Bruno ate during the berry expeditions. He passed into eternal glory and rest at his Little River home on May 11, 2023.

He was a graduate of Radford High School, The College of William and Mary, and Radford University. He proudly served in the U. S. Army in the 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper. His brilliant mind and athletic abilities provided scholarships to the College of William and Mary. He was a math professor at New River Community College, arborist, bowyer, poet, storyteller, Eagle Scout, master gardener, folk artist, and woodworker. He was a proponent of higher education and always had time for his students. He continued to live and honor his Appalachian Heritage. Hard honest work was never a stranger to him. He felt that one of his greatest feats was picking 80 gallons of wild blackberries in one summer season. That number does not include the amount of berries that Elijah, Joseph



and favorite dog Bruno ate during the berry expeditions. He loved his family, friends and church with true devotion.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary Emma Housel; brother, John Housel; sister, Susan Dillon; and daughter-in-law, Beth Housel.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane Housel; sons, Elijah and Joseph Housel; grandson, Sawyer Housel; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the Old Brick Presbyterian Church in Radford. Memorial service followed with Rev. Robert Morris officiating.

Flowers are appreciated or donations may be made to the Old Brick Presbyterian Church, 406 E. Rock Road, Radford, Virginia 24141.

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

## Mitchell, Brenda Gayle

Brenda Gayle Mitchell, 63, beloved daughter, caring sister, devoted aunt, and loyal friend entered her eternal home on May 3, 2023.

Gayle is survived by her best friend and faithful mother Beatrice Mitchell, sister Jo Ann Akers, brother Terry Mitchell (Terri), nieces and nephews, and many cherished extended family members. She was preceded in death by her father, Stephen Edward Mitchell, and her brother-in-law, Gary Akers.

Gayle was born on July 21, 1959 in Pulaski. She was known for her love of photography and scrapbooking and was often lovingly teased by her family for always wanting to capture every moment in a photo. She took great joy in creating countless volumes of family memories that will be treasured forever.

Gayle was a generous and loving aunt to her nieces and nephews (Stephen Akers, Matt Akers, Gary Lee Akers, Kellen Mitchell, Darby Mitchell) and her great nieces and nephews (Noah Akers, Teagan Akers, Ayanna Akers, Matthew Akers). She especially enjoyed spoiling them all at Christmas. Gayle leaves her loved ones with an abundance of precious holiday memories, including her good-natured reactions to all the ribbing she endured about her excessive use of tape when wrapping gifts.

Gayle enjoyed exercising, and



many will remember her from all the hours she spent at the local YMCA. Watching her favorite athlete, Michael Jordan, was another of her favorite pastimes, and being a child at heart, she enjoyed all things Disney. She inherited her father's love of music and enjoyed attending concerts, with her taste in music ranging from Elvis to Alabama.

Gayle's early working years were spent with textile manufacturers Pulaski Apparel and Lee Jeans and concluded with 13 years of service as an administrative assistant at the Town of Pulaski Police Department. She was highly respected by the investigators for her meticulous attention to detail in the documents she prepared. She was fittingly recognized for her exceptional work in a local news article titled "The Perfectionist."

A Celebration of Life service was led by Pastor Randall Lawrence, Sr. at New Hope Church in Pulaski on Thursday, May 18. The family received friends from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with the service to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to New Hope Church.

Special thanks to the Mullins family and the New Hope Church community for their courtesy, kindness, prayers, and support.

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

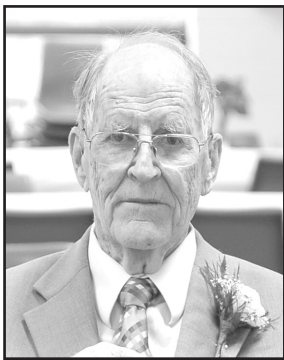
## Simmerman, Graham Hanson

Graham Hanson Simmerman, 94, of Radford, passed away on Sunday, May 14, 2023.

Graham served in the army during the Korean War. He taught drafting and design at New River Community College for nearly 30 years. He was involved in Boy Scouts for over 80 years. He was an active member of Central United Methodist Church and participated in many local, national, and international missions. He also worked with the Gideons. He was a past state president of Archaeological Society of Virginia.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Martha "Jennie" Simmerman; parents, Thomas Edward, Jr. and Miriam Robinson Simmerman; brothers, John R. Simmerman, Thomas E. Simmerman, III, and William C. Simmerman; and his sister, Nancy Weaver.

He is survived by his sons and



daughters-in-law, Graham H. Simmerman, Jr. (Sharon DeHaven), Rev. Walter C. Simmerman (Nita), and Don Simmerman (Anne); granddaughters, Rebekah Simmerman (Robert Lewis), Christina Stewart (Ben), Joanna Simmerman, Johanna Mauss (Rusty), Leah Simmerman (Sylvain), and Rachel Simmerman (Caleb Dunford); great granddaughters, Maria Stewart and Brea Mauss; and numerous other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at Central United Methodist Church in Radford. A memorial service will begin at 7 p.m. with Rev. Don Smith officiating.

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

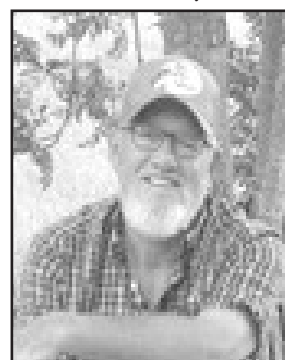
## Simpkins, Harold Ray

Harold Ray Simpkins, 75, of Snowville, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, May 12, 2023.

Harold loved his family fiercely and worked tirelessly throughout his entire life to provide for them. He served as a heavy-equipment operator for most of his life. Harold worked at Sisson and Ryan Quarry in Shawsville for over 35 years where he made many lifelong friends. While working that full time, labor intensive job, he also continued to run the Simpkins family farm at home. The hard work on the farm was a "labor of love". He often said that he was born in the corner bedroom of the small family farm house and thought that it was appropriate to spend his life tending that farm as a legacy for his children and grandchildren. The most memorable times of Harold's life were spent on the farm surrounded by his loving family, watching his treasured grandchildren enjoy the land where he had grown up. Harold's wish was to be quietly laid to rest on the hill overlooking the farm and his family.

He was preceded in death by his son, Ray Benjamin Simpkins.

He is survived by his loving wife of



Verily Flinchum Simpkins; daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Joseph Gillenwater; daughter-in-law, Genetta Owens Simpkins, precious grandchildren, Isaac, Noah and Adah Gillenwater, and Anna and Emma Simpkins; sister-in-law, Carol S. Ratcliff; sister, Violet S. Sowers; nephews, Dwayne and Tim Simpkins; and many other family members and special friends. Harold was a beloved husband and servant to Verily, an absolutely revered daddy to his namesake Ray Benjamin and his daddy's girl, Sarah Linell; a loving and caring father-in-law to Joseph and Genetta; and a truly worshipped "Dandad" to his prides and joy, Isaac, Anna, Noah, Adah and Emma. He leaves us all with a gaping hole in our hearts, but with the knowledge that he loved us with his whole being.

The family would like to thank all friends and neighbors for the calls, visits, and food.

Per his request, no public services will be held.

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

## Wells, Sgt. Daryl Alan

Sgt. Daryl Alan Wells, 42, of New Smyrna Beach Florida, formerly of Elliston passed away on Thursday May 11, 2023.

He was proud to serve four years in the United States Marine Corps and two years in the Virginia National Guard. He was employed as an electrician. Daryl was born in Salem, the son of the late Henry David Wells and Pauline Barton Wells. He was a graduate of Central Virginia Community College.



Survivors include his brothers, Terry Wells and Jason Wells; sister, Lisa Bond (Joe); niece, Phaedra Wells; and many other family members and friends.

Graveside services with full military honors were held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

# NRCC engineering professor chosen for NASA workshop

DUBLIN - Professor of Engineering Lisa Murphy was selected to attend the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) "STEM Takes Flight!" in Virginia's Community Colleges Faculty Professional Development Workshop, May 16 - 18 at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Only 17 applicants were selected for this opportunity, representing 10 of Virginia's community colleges.

The three-day workshop focuses on the integration of STEM in the NASA workplace with the purpose of assisting faculty in educating students on the importance of teamwork, technical skills and problem solving while introducing them to the missions performed and managed by NASA Wallops Flight Facility. Hosts from NASA Wallops Flight Facility will lead the workshop.

Murphy teaches math and engineering courses (Math 161 and EGR 140, 122, and 121) at NRCC's Christiansburg site. She holds a bachelor's degree in engineering, master's degrees in electrical engineering and mathematics and holds a doctorate



Lisa Murphy PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

in mathematics education. Her career focus has been teaching math to students who are majoring in engineering. She has taught at NRCC for two years after teaching at Germanna Community College for 12 years.

Submitted by NRCC

## NRCC students named to PTK All-Virginia Academic Team

New River Community College (NRCC) students Grace Anderson, Daniel Cravey, Gabrielle Schack, and Adam Toler were recently recognized for their nominations to Phi Theta Kappa's (PTK) All-Virginia Academic Team.

Students from across the state were recognized by Virginia's Community Colleges at an awards luncheon in Richmond.

Toler was named to the PTK Top Ten 2023 All-Virginia Academic Team. The



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

(Left to right) VCCS Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Workforce Programs Dr. Sharon Morrissey, NRCC President Dr. Huber, NRCC student Adam Toler, NRCC student Daniel Cravey, NRCC student Grace Anderson, VCCS Chancellor Dr. David Doré.

Top Ten All-Virginia Academic Team consists of those members of the All-Virginia Academic Team achieving the highest rating in the international program sponsored by PTK, USA Today, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Toler, an Eagle Scout, is from Richmond and currently lives in Radford while attending NRCC.

He is currently studying instrumentation and control automation technology. He plans to complete his studies at NRCC in 2024 and go on to work in the instrumentation field. Toler is also the president of NRCC's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Toler was also named

See Team, page 7

### PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

TEMPORARY PRECINCT CHANGE  
JUNE 2023 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION ONLY

NORMAL PRECINCT  
Christiansburg Church of the Brethren – Precinct C-5  
310 S. Franklin St., Christiansburg, VA.

REASON FOR CHANGE  
The Church of the Brethren is being remodeled and may not be completed by June 20, 2023 Democratic Primary.

TEMPORARY PRECINCT  
Christiansburg Church of Christ – Precinct C-5  
1250 S. Franklin St., Christiansburg, VA

Questions? Contact the Office of Elections at  
540-382-5741  
montva.com/vote



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## RU coach headed back to court

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com*

RADFORD - The legal woes for Radford University basketball coach Darris Nichols continues.

Last month, Nichols was pleaded guilty to Driving Under Influence (DUI), which resulted in his license being suspended for 12 months. He also had to pay a \$2,500 fine and have an ignition interlock system installed in his car. He was also sentenced to 180 days in jail, with all but two being suspended.

Nichols was arrested after he refused to do a field sobriety test, according to police. Court documents say he blew a .25 blood alcohol level after being arrested. The legal limit in Virginia is .08.

This week, news broke Nichols failed an Interlock test and will return to court in June.

Radford University officials say they continue to monitor the situation.

Following the earlier arrest and conviction, Nichols was suspended by the university for three weeks and missed several games at the end of the season. His brother and assistant coach, Shane Nichols, served as the acting coach, including play in the Big South basketball tournament.

Darris issued an apology following the earlier legal decision. Nichols has not commented publicly about the recent interlock situation.

Ignition interlock devices are wired into your vehicles' ignitions. When you try to start one of your cars, you will have to blow into the tube of the ignition interlock device. The device will then detect whether there is alcohol on your breath. If alcohol is present, you won't be able to start your vehicle.

The Radford native was hired two years ago after serving as an assistant at the University of Florida. During a press conference at his hiring, RU Athletic Director Robert Lineburg praised him back home. Lineburg is also a Radford High School graduate.

Nichols played basketball at West Virginia University and climbed the ranks as an assistant coach all the way



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

**Darris Nichols**

to the University of Florida in the SEC.

Nichols helped lead Radford High School to four appearances in the state Group A playoffs, averaging in double-figures every season. He coached seven seasons at Florida, helping lead the Gators to a 108-65 record, including four straight 20-win seasons and three consecutive NCAA Tournament bids.

Nichols garnered a spot in ESPN.com's 40 Under 40 in the summer of 2020, rated #17 on the national list that included both head coaches and assistant coaches. He was also rated the #2 assistant coach in the SEC in a Stadium poll of coaches around the league.

A four-year letter winner at West Virginia under Bob Huggins and John Beilein, Nichols helped the Mountaineers to a 26-11 record and a trip to the 2008 NCAA Sweet 16 his senior season.

At WVU, Nichols shined as a player in the Big East. He scored 993 career points and dished 399 assists while shooting at a .375 clip from 3-point range. He averaged 10.7 points per game as well as 3.2 assists per game as a senior on the way to WVU's Sweet 16 run. He was also a member of the 2007 NIT

Championship, 2006 Sweet 16 and 2005 Elite Eight teams and finished his collegiate career as a top five most winningest player in Mountaineer history. After graduation, he played professional overseas in the Hungarian League.

## FROM THE SIDELINES

### ACC divided over money, future

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com*

The future of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) has been played out in the media in many different ways this week. Let's consider what is going on. At the heart of this discussion is money. Yes, we said money.

At least seven different schools, including Virginia Tech, have expressed concern over the amount of money, or should we say the lack of, from a national television contract signed seven years ago. At the time, the deal made sense. But now, two other major athletic conferences have publicly said the ACC deal is chump change compared to theirs.

This week, ACC leaders discussed the matter during its spring meetings at Amelia Island, Florida. The table talk has centered around a revenue sharing system that would benefit the more successful programs who would earn more money.

Seven schools — Clemson, Florida State,

Miami, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Virginia and Virginia Tech — have explored the possibility of leaving the ACC. Blame it on the Grant of Rights Contract, which was signed in 2016 and runs through 2036. The ACC sold the right to air football games on the ESPN family of networks at a dollar amount of around \$36 million.

The SEC and Big 10 schools are scheduled to rake in more than \$100 million from their deals.

If the ACC-7 move to break the agreement before 2036, each school could owe the league over \$100 million and forfeit any TV revenue.

No vote was held on this proposed new revenue distribution model, which includes possible additional monies from the College Football Playoff and other postseason games.

So, ESPN must now step up and rework the ACC deal.

This week, the "threat" of an ACC breakup and/

or divorce has fueled the need to renegotiate the deal. Meanwhile, the breakup and demise of the conference needs to come to a squelching halt for at least the moment.

The idea of North Carolina joining the Big 12 and Tech going to the SEC is in the clouds. Both would be deals that would add to the Power Conference 3. A move by Florida State could do that as well.

The national media would like you to believe the ACC is on the verge of splintering all over the country.

The ACC Commissioner said the issues aren't going away anytime soon. Jim Phillips said there is no magic bullet that closes the gap so the conference will have to be creative.

This idea of divorce will also loom out there as the Big 12, Big 10 and SEC want a bigger piece of the pie and a larger group of schools would aid that.

Let's just hope the ACC can hold out as long as possible until the pot of money gets a little bigger.

## RU gains two more transfers from portal

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com*

The Radford University men's basketball team has picked up two more players thanks to the transfer portal. Forward TJ Nesmith and grad transfer Chandler Turner recently announced plans to attend the Big South school, adding to four student-athletes courtesy of the portal.

Turner will join the Highlanders for the 2023-24 season following four years at Bowling Green.

Radford head coach Darris Nichols said Turner is an excellent person on and off the court, making him a great fit for the program. "He plays extremely hard on both ends of the floor and brings a different offensive game to our team. We're excited to welcome him to the Highlander family and are looking forward to getting him here with the rest of our players this summer."

A 6-7, 210 wing who can defend multiple positions, Turner adds invaluable experience and versatility to the squad.

In his first four collegiate seasons, the Detroit, Mich.

native averaged 5.6 points on 46.0% (203-441) shooting while adding 3.4 rebounds per game and career totals of 65 assists, 47 steals and 22 blocks.

His improvement on the floor was apparent as he matured, culminating in a career year during the 2022-23 season in which he averaged a career-high 8.8 points and 5.3 rebounds per contest while starting 25 of 29 games for the Falcons.

Turner scored in double-figures 13 times last season, highlighted by 21 points against Northern Illinois — just two points off his career-high of 23 points, which he recorded against Oakland in 2021. He also posted a team-high three double-doubles with 10 boards each time.

Along with his on-the-court accomplishments, Turner was a fantastic student in the classroom. He was honored for his academic success in 2020-21 by being named to the MAC All-Academic Team.

Prior to BGSU, Turner played at Renaissance High School where he earned

four varsity letters for coaches Vito Jordan and John White. He averaged 24.3 points, 9.0 rebounds, and 7.0 assists as a senior, making him a finalist for the state of Michigan's 2018-19 Mr. Basketball Award.

Nesmith joins the Highlanders from Lenoir-Rhyne.

"We are thrilled to add TJ (Nesmith) to the Highlander family," said Nichols. "He is an individual who has only improved over the course of his college basketball career, and we know he will continue to grow on and off the court at Radford. TJ is a player that brings a bunch of versatility to the court, and we are looking forward to having him a part of our program!"

Standing at 6'9", 220-lbs, Nesmith provides an excellent combination of skill and size that will immediately jump out to fans on both ends of the floor. As a native of Burlington, N.C., he continues a pipeline of talent from his hometown that also produced fellow Highlanders Justin Cousin (2013-18) and Josiah Jeffers

See Portal, page 8

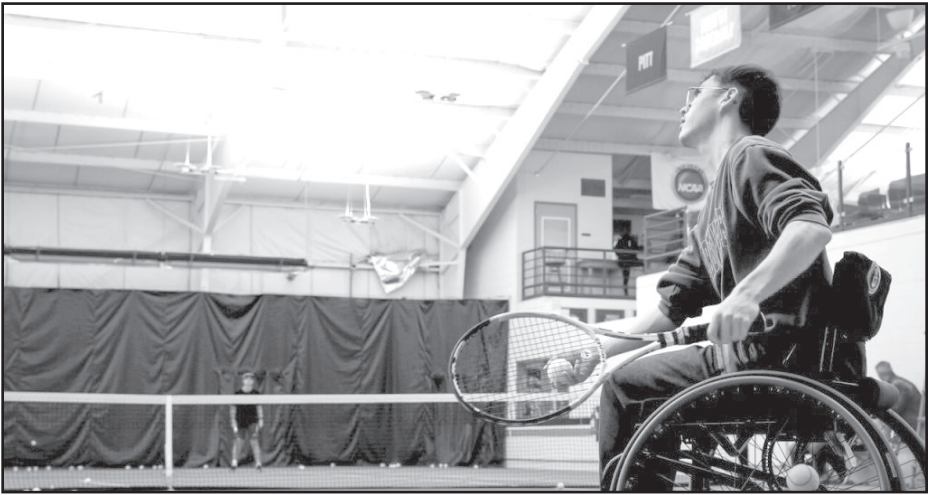


PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**A player prepares to serve the ball to a member of the Virginia Tech men's tennis team during the weekly wheelchair tennis clinic at the Burselson-Burrows Tennis Center.**

## Hokie wheelchair tennis team moves to next level

One of the only adaptive athletics teams at Virginia Tech, the wheelchair tennis team is just beginning what hopefully will be a lasting impact on the university.

In 2020, Virginia Tech Recreational Sports partnered with the Virginia Tech varsity men's tennis team to offer the university's first ever

wheelchair clinic. Since then, the men's team has hosted weekly wheelchair tennis clinics, with the student-athletes volunteering to lead instruction for adaptive athletes.

The effort led to the formation of a club

See Tennis, page 8

## Team

from page 6

New Century Workforce Scholar at this event.

Anderson, Cravey and Schack were nominated for PTK 2023 All-Virginia Academic Team.

Anderson, from Blacksburg, is a second-year science student and PTK Vice President of Service. She currently holds a 4.0 GPA and will complete her studies at NRCC this May with the intention of transferring to Virginia Tech in the fall. Grace will major in biology with a minor in human nutrition. After completing her bachelor's degree in biological sciences at Virginia Tech,

Grace plans to continue her education and pursue a career as a physical therapist or physician's assistant.

Cravey, from Chesterfield, is an instrumentation and control automation technology student at NRCC. He serves as PTK Vice President of Leadership. After graduation, he plans to work as an E&I intern for the WestRock paper mill in Hopewell, Va. He will be returning to NRCC in the fall to complete two additional degrees in electrical engineering and electronics technology.

Schack is from Christiansburg and is PTK Vice President of Scholarship. She is the second person in her family to pursue a college degree. She plans to eventually earn a master's degree in counseling and work in a career where she can help others.

PTK is an international honor society of two-year colleges and academic programs, particularly state colleges and community colleges, and the organization's mission is to recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars

and leaders. To become a member of the Omega Eta chapter of PTK at NRCC, students must currently be enrolled at NRCC, have a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average, completed at least 12 non-

developmental credits at NRCC. For more information on PTK at

NRCC, contact faculty sponsor Brian Clark at bclark@nr.edu.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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# Bruin LAX handles Demons boys, girls



Blackburg senior James McMichael winds up for a shot against Christiansburg on Monday night. McMichael had two goals to go along with teammates Ethan Ratcliffe and Michael Mullins who each had a hat trick in an 11-5 win over Christiansburg.



Christiansburg's Dylan Carr had three goals against Blackburg in a rainy Monday night game.



Christiansburg defender Disha Talajia advances the ball after a Blackburg turnover.



Blackburg senior Maiayna Cherbaka scores a first half goal against Christiansburg on Monday night, helping lead the way in a 23-1 win over the Blue Demons.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



PHOTO BY VICKIE GOFF

## Bobcats shutout Alleghany on Radford High Senior Night

Enzo Pugliese (pictured) scored twice in Radford's Monday night 11-0 win over Alleghany. Evan Rupe scored four times, while Fernando Martinez added two more goals. Radford will open the Class 2 regional playoffs on May 30.

## Highlander awarded Big South fellowship

The Big South conference announced Tuesday afternoon that Radford University Women's Soccer standout Saleena Lynch has been awarded the annual Bob McCloskey Insurance Big South Conference Fellowship. Bob McCloskey Insurance, a Big South Corporate Partner, will be awarding \$2,000 towards Lynch's graduate studies.

Lynch played a key role in helping the Highlanders win the Big South Tournament in 2022 and clinch a bid into the NCAA Tournament. Lynch appeared in 18 games with 17 starts as a part of the Highlanders' defensive back line totaling 1,357 minutes played. In games that Lynch appeared in, the Highlanders totaled eight shutouts.

Off the field, Lynch participated in eight academic conferences and presentations, including the Southeastern Psychological Association, Psychology & Gender Research Symposium, Student Engagement Forum, and the University of Missouri Alcohol Research Presentation. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and has been awarded Academic Excellence Dean's List honors all four years and was the recipient of the Wyatt Family Athletic Endowment.

Lynch also served Radford as a Resident Assistant, Academic Tutor and a College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Elevated Research Mentor. She was Vice President of the Criminal Justice Club,

participated in mental health and crisis training, and volunteered with the Special Olympics.

In her four-year career at Radford, the Suffolk, Va. native totaled 68 games played, 52 starts, three assists and 4,539 minutes played. She also played a role in the Highlanders' 2019 Big South Tournament championship in her collegiate debut season. This past season she earned her first Defensive Player of the Week award and was also named to the conference's second team and all-academic lists.

Lynch is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience from the University of North Carolina. She graduated last December with a 3.96 GPA as a Criminal Justice and Psychology major at Radford.

The Big South Conference Graduate Fellowship Program was established by the league in the Fall of 2005 as a means of recognizing the academic excellence of Big South Conference student-athletes who intend to pursue postgraduate studies upon graduation from a Big South Conference institution. Lynch will be recognized on Thursday, June 1st as a part of the conference's annual Spring Awards Dinner Banquet at The Westin Resort in Hilton Head, S.C.

Radford University Athletics

## Tennis

from page 7

sports team, and the clinics serve as a practice for club team and anyone else who wants to join.

Frank Thompson, a rising senior on the men's tennis team, started the clinics and has been a part of them ever since.

"The clinics started as my

eight-grade community service project," Thompson said. "I started working with a child named Parker when he was around 4, and the clinics just slowly grew from there. Every year, we have added one or two more people, and now we are an actual team of seven people."

Gaila Fosbinder, a rising sophomore majoring in engineering, is one of two students on the wheelchair tennis team. Fosbinder developed a passion for tennis as a young child.

"Like a lot of kids, I wanted to be like my parents," Fosbinder said. "When I was really young, my mom would make me go to a tennis group she would go to on the weekends. You would go to this local park and play with whoever was there, so I sat around for many hours watching and seeing how much fun everyone was having. That exposure is what made me want to be a part of the sport."

When Fosbinder began playing tennis at the age of 8, she played standing. But arthrogryposis multiplex congenita, a condition that affects the joints, transitioned Fosbinder into playing wheelchair tennis three years

ago. Jason Harnett, the United States Tennis Association wheelchair tennis head coach, later recruited Fosbinder to come to Virginia Tech after the university received a grant from the association to grow the program.

"This opportunity we've been given isn't one that has existed for many athletes in the past," Thompson said. "I have a huge appreciation for the sport I play and the fact that it can be played in a wheelchair as well."

Thompson said the team values representation for disabled athletes. Physical disabilities do not deter from the ability to play a sport, he said, and the wheelchair tennis gradually are proving that.

"Even though it looks different, all the rules are the same except that we get double bounce," meaning the ball can hit the ground twice during play, Fosbinder

said. "Able-bodied people can easily play with people in chairs, so it's a great sport to integrate both types of people, and I don't think it is thought of in that way."

What does the future look like for the clinics?

"The biggest thing is seeing more clinics more frequently," Fosbinder said. "The Alabama team is one of the biggest teams in the United States, and they have won the championship for six years in a row. I am looking toward a future where we could get to that point."

The Virginia Tech team attended the Collegiate Wheelchair Tennis Championships — its first national championship — held April in Orlando, Florida.

The clinics have led to an Adaptive Recreation course at Virginia Tech, an introductory class designed to raise awareness and recognition regarding opportunities for people with

and without disabilities to play and compete.

Fosbinder said her goal during her next three years at Virginia Tech is to expand adaptive athletics beyond tennis.

"I hope we can expand to wheelchair basketball or wheelchair track and field because it will draw more diversity into the university," she said. "Right now, there aren't many disabled people on campus, and with Virginia Tech's motto being Ut Prosim [That I May Serve], it would blend really well into having adaptive athletics."

Virginia Tech Tennis hosts the weekly clinic at the Burrows-Burleson Tennis Center. Visit the group's Facebook page to learn more.

Cyna Mirzai, a 2023 graduate with a degree in multimedia journalism and an intern for Virginia Tech Communications and Marketing

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Fashion Illustrator Jeannette Rene

## Portal

from page 7

(2018-23).

In two years at Lenoir-Rhyne, he averaged 15.4 points on 60.7% (303-for-499) shooting from the floor and 77.7% (160-for-206) at the free throw line. Nesmith added 4.6 rebounds and 1.4 blocks per game as well.

His strong play earned Third Team All-South Atlantic Conference honors

for the 2021-22 season, and he followed it up with a Second-Team All-South Atlantic Conference selection after the 2022-23 season.

Prior to Lenoir-Rhyne, Nesmith played at Cape Fear Community College where he averaged 10.8 points and 6.2 rebounds per game while shooting

55.6% from the field. He played his prep basketball at Graham High School.

When they arrive on campus, the duo will be joined by fellow transfers Truth Harris and Josiah Harris, as well as incoming freshmen Trevor Roe and Trenton Walters.