

News Messenger

Blacksburg

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Christiansburg

Saturday, June 3, 2023

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Newly renovated Hand-in-Hand Playground draws large crowd of past and present visitors



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Mayor Julie Hager-Smith, accompanied by Blacksburg Town Council and Montgomery Board of Supervisor members, cut the red ribbon opening the new Hand-in-Hand Playground to visitors.

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Approximately 200 children, along with parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors crowded around the entrance of the newly renovated Hand-in-Hand Playground in Blacksburg on Tuesday, May 30 for the official ribbon cutting ceremony and reopening of the popular park.

Town Mayor, Julie Hager-Smith had the honor of wielding the extra-large scissors that cut the red ribbon stretched across the playground entrance, as excited children anxiously awaited the reopening of the park. Town Council members, along with Montgomery County Board of Supervisor members also joined the mayor at the park's entrance during the ceremony.

Hager-Smith shared her own

experiences visiting the park over the previous years, just before placing the last picket on the fence as part of the ceremonious grand opening.

"I did not imagine 30 years ago that I would be mayor here with the honor of welcoming you. I was a parent, like hundreds of others, and wanted to do good for my community," Hager-Smith said. "The tradition of community and belonging and creativity goes on."

According to the town of Blacksburg's website at www.blacksburg.gov, this park has been in use to the community and surrounding residents for thirty-one years and was previously constructed by community volunteers. Over the years the playground had fallen into disrepair and needed a lot of work. The town requested Leathers & Associates,

See **Playground**, page 4

Fatal Montgomery County crash results in four fatalities

MONTGOMERY CO. - Four people died Tuesday, May 30 after their SUV collided with a tractor trailer on Interstate 81.

Virginia State Police is investigating the two-vehicle crash, which occurred at 3:30 a.m. on the northbound side of Interstate 81, at the 120.3-mile marker in Montgomery County.

According to the VSP, "a 2018 Chevrolet Equinox was pulling a U-Haul trailer traveling north on Interstate 81, when the vehicle lost control and spun around, coming to rest facing southbound in the northbound travel lanes. The Chevrolet was then struck by a northbound Freightliner tractor trailer."

The Chevrolet was driven by Douangpee Amnatkeo, 54, of Shippensburg, Pa. Amnatkeo was not wearing her seatbelt and died at the scene. There were three passengers in the Chevrolet. Monthly Matnopaseuth, 39, of Reading, Pa., and Ericssan Kathpratoum, 13, Shippensburg, Pa., died at the scene. The third passenger, Samiane Kothpratoum, 37 of Shippensburg, Pa., was transported to Roanoke Memorial Hospital by helicopter, where he later died.

None of the passengers were wearing their seatbelts. The driver of the tractor trailer was not injured. The Virginia State Police

Crash Reconstruction Team and Motor Carrier Team assisted with the crash, which remains under investigation.

The day before the fatal crash, on Monday, May 29, the same area of Interstate 81, mile marker 120, was the site of four crashes that blocked Interstate 81 northbound for hours, according to Virginia State Police Public Information Officer Sgt. Richard Garletts, who said there were "multiple tractor trailers and cars involved." The crash involved 20 vehicles, and VDOT set up a detour at the 118 to route traffic around the crashes.

News Messenger staff report



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NRCC

1st row: Faith Williams, Lynette Carroll, Jennifer Lawrence, Angela Hubler, Ashlee Slusher, and Allison Hosey; 2nd row: Adelee Palmer, Ally Smith, Madison Smith, Kealee Stanford, and Amanda Davis; 3rd row: Kristy Albert, Emma Sutphin, Abigail Lafon, Nathan Jenkins, Chris Hudson, and Kenna Tienvieri

NRCC holds 2023 nursing graduation and pinning ceremony

DUBLIN - Several Montgomery County residents were among the 46 students in the 2023 associate degree nursing (ADN) class at New River Community College who recently received their NRCC nursing pins and

associate degrees at a ceremony at the college.

This is the 20th graduating class of associate degree nurses at NRCC. The

See **Graduation**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

Radford Police Chief Jeffrey Dodson, Jr.

Radford police chief resigns post

RADFORD - Radford City Police Chief Jeffrey Dodson Jr. is resigning, effective July 14, 2023.

According to the City of Radford, Dodson "has accepted a job opportunity which will allow more time with his family."

Dodson, who has served as police chief for three-and-a-half years, said it "has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside the brave men and women of the Radford City Police Department."

"The men and women of this agency are doing amazing work each day," he said. "I will continue to pray for these officers as they continue to serve and protect the Radford community."

According to the City of Radford's statement, "Dodson's three and half years with Radford have been marked by departmental modernization, creation

of a Community Engagement Unit, peer support program, improved 911 communications, advanced training for officers, upgraded equipment, and

helping the department to seek national accreditation process with CALEA. Over the last three years, the department has received state and national recognitions for various programs being implemented at Radford City Police Department."

Radford City Manager, David Ridpath lauded Dodson for his leadership.

"Chief Dodson's professional, drive, and expert knowledge have been reassuring and a constant for a city manager," said Ridpath. "Chief Dodson has steadily handled the wheel and advanced the Radford City Police Department over his tenure. He will be missed."

Radford Mayor David Horton said Dodson's expansion of community policing has been good for the city.

"We are incredibly thankful for and proud of Chief Dodson's service and leadership," said Horton. "His efforts to expand and enhance community policing in Radford have improved

relationships for citizens and those who help keep them safe. Serving during the Covid pandemic as well as the national civil issues of the past few years has been challenging and Chief Dodson has done an excellent job managing the uncharted waters we have faced."

"Chief Dodson is an outstanding public servant and will be sorely missed," Horton added. "We wish the very best to him and his family as they move for are to the next chapter of their lives."

Dodson served the Culpeper Police Department for 16 years, moving from Patrol Officer to Police Lieutenant before becoming Radford's Police Chief in January 2020. He served in various capacities at the Culpeper Police Department. He also had experience as a Communications Officer for Orange County, as well as an Assessor for the Commission on Accreditation for

See **Dodson**, page 3

Grandpa's Coming Off the Shelf....

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 3:

CPR and AED course

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Compass and Shock Foundation to have a CPR and AED refresher course. It will be on June 3, 10- 11 a.m. at the Hampton Inn located on Arbor Dr. in Christiansburg. The class is free. Please visit <https://www.compressandshock.org/classlocator> to register. Look for the Chamber logo to register for the Christiansburg location.

Puzzle Swap at Christiansburg Library

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. Puzzles have long been celebrated for their captivating nature, offering beauty, mental stimulation, and an opportunity to unwind. However, once the final piece is placed, the question of what to do next often arises. Christiansburg Library has found the perfect solution - a Puzzle Swap event! Attendees encouraged to bring puzzles and exchange them for fresh, new-to-them puzzles, creating an endless cycle of puzzle joy. To participate in the Free Puzzle Swap, individuals can drop off their puzzles at Christiansburg Library during the week leading up to the event, starting on May 30. Alternatively, participants can bring their puzzles directly to the swap on June 3. It is crucial that all puzzle pieces are included to ensure a fair and enjoyable exchange for all attendees. Christiansburg Library encourages individuals to bring puzzles that they would be proud to share with fellow enthusiasts, ensuring an exchange that brings joy to all.

Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 6:

Virginia Tech Board of Visitors meeting

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting on Tuesday, June 6, at 1:30 p.m. in 2100 Torgersen Hall, 620 Drillfield Drive, on the Blacksburg campus. All other committee meetings or other sessions held during these two days will be held at the Inn at Virginia Tech (901 Prices Fork Road) and the Classroom Building (1455 Perry Street), both in Blacksburg, unless otherwise noted. On Monday, June 5 at 2 p.m., all board members will meet in open session for an information session in 260 Classroom Building. Also that day, board members will tour the new Data and Decision Sciences Building (727 Prices Fork Road) at 11:15 a.m. and the Quillen Spirit Plaza and Dietrick Hall (285 Ag Quad Lane) at 12:30 p.m. both on the Blacksburg campus.

On Tuesday, the Executive Committee will meet in closed session at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Guard Salon at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Also that day, the chairs of

the five standing board committees will meet in open session at 8:30 a.m., also in the Old Guard Salon, and the board's nominating committee will meet in closed session at 8:30 a.m. in 206 Classroom Building.

Saturday, June 10:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June 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. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, under 3-free, carry-outs-\$12. This month, the Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

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.

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, 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.

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 15:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend this meeting. Mr. Chris McCloud, Third Brigade Commander, will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

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.

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.

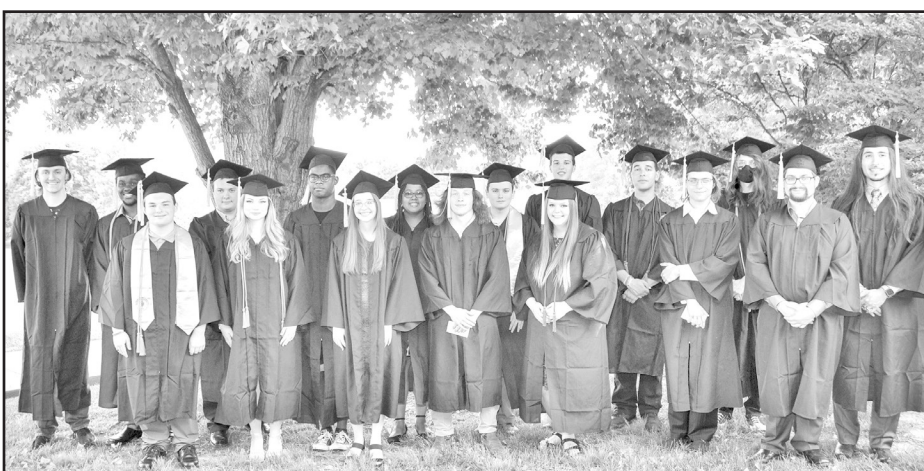
Christiansburg Farmers Market

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

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. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

NRCC celebrates 2023 graduates at two ceremonies



1st row: Ty French, Destiny Hancock, Emily McMillan, Ethan Slaughter, Regan Young, Jack Deverin, and Lucas Machi; 2nd row: Michael Spencer, Isiah Kendall, Brice Honaker, Cameron Cotton, Jazmine Mack, Conner Britt, Nick Sabatino, Jermaine Richardson, Tyler Mower, and Lorenzo Hernandez



1st row: Hannah Miles and Tonya Lewis; 2nd row: Jeffery Marunich, Miranda Nelson, Michael Spencer, Ciera Martin, Katherine Barkley, and Jennifer Harris



Micah Sutphin, Jacob Hamblin, Zachary Lyon, Bryson Rasmussen, Ethan Handy, Garrett McCann, Ryan Hale, Daniel Hagan, and Johnathon Surface

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NRCC

New River Community College celebrated its 53rd annual commencement on Friday, May 12, 2023, including the graduation of several Montgomery County residents.

Dr. Pat Huber, NRCC president, conferred approximately 900 degrees, diplomas and certificates during the ceremony held on NRCC's campus in Dublin. Students who graduated this year completed degrees, certificates and diplomas in 77 different programs.

Students in the division of arts and sciences for the 2022-2023 academic year

were honored on Friday, May 12 at 4 p.m. Students in the division of business and technologies for the 2022-2023 academic year were honored later that evening at 7 p.m.

President Huber addressed graduates at both ceremonies, and NRCC Board Chair William "Bill" Cunningham welcomed graduates and guests.

"I look forward to what you, our graduates, will do," said Huber. "You have shown what you can do, so now it is time to go forward with your knowledge and skills and do great things. Surround yourselves with successful friends, colleagues, and mentors and believe in yourselves because we believe in you!"

"Education gives you the opportunity to design your own future,

and to grow as leaders in your communities," said Cunningham. "Education provides freedom to live your life, learn continuously, and work in your chosen career. It's the freedom to create, freedom to choose, freedom to advance, and the freedom to overcome."

Graduates Jairen Cheek and Bobbi Jo Burnett brought student remarks via video to their classmates and guests.

Around 250 students participated in person in the two ceremonies.

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

Submitted by NRCC

2023 Real Estate Taxes

Blacksburg

TOWN OF

Due: June 5, 2023

Town of Blacksburg Real Estate Tax invoices for the first installment of 2023 have been mailed and are due by Monday, June 5, 2023. If you have not yet received a tax statement, call the Department of Financial Services at 540.961.1105.

Payment may be mailed, made in person or placed in the drop box at 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, paid by phone with a credit card or paid online at www.Blacksburg.gov/payments. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by June 5, 2023. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning July 1, 2023.

www.montcova.com

Summer Backpack Program provides nutritious food to Eastern Montgomery County families

Meadowbrook Public Library is excited to announce the return of the Summer Backpack Program, a community initiative aimed at helping families with children and teens stretch their grocery budget during the summer months.

The program will run every Tuesday, from June 6 to August 8, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Meadowbrook Public Library, located at 267 Alleghany Spring Rd., in Shawsville.

The Summer Backpack Program will provide families with bags filled with nutritious food items to ensure their children have access to essential sustenance during the summer break. These bags will be available on a

drop-in basis for residents of Eastern Montgomery County, offering a valuable resource for local families in need.

In addition to the weekly food distribution, the Summer Backpack Program will also provide engaging crafts activities for children, creating an inclusive and fun atmosphere for participants.

For those who are unable to pick up their weekly food bag, the library offers the option to call and make an appointment for a later pick-up. Families are encouraged to contact the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964 for further information and to schedule appointments. To ensure equal

access and distribution, the Summer Backpack Program will provide one bag of food per child per week. Families are requested to utilize the drive-through service at the curbside side of the library for a convenient and efficient experience.

The Meadowbrook Public Library is grateful to have received funding for the Summer Backpack Program from local agencies, churches, civic groups, and generous private donors. Their support has made it possible to offer this vital program to the community, enabling families to meet their nutritional needs during the summer months.

For more information,



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

The Summer Backpack Program will run every Tuesday, from June 6 to August 8, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Meadowbrook Public Library.

please contact the Meadowbrook Public Library at 540-268-1964. We look forward to serving

our community and making a positive impact on the lives of Eastern Montgomery County

families this summer.

Submitted by the MFRL

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library launches 2023 Summer Reading Program

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated return of its Summer Reading Program from June 2 to July 29, 2023. This year's program, themed 'All Together Now,' focuses on the importance of community and fostering connections. Readers of all ages, from toddlers to adults, are invited to join in the festivities, read books, participate in various programs and activities, and have the chance to win exciting prizes all summer long!

Recognizing the potential for learning

loss during extended breaks from school, particularly over the summer, the Summer Reading Program aims to keep young minds active through reading and engaging educational activities. By offering an array of enriching experiences, the library hopes to combat learning gaps and nurture a love for books and learning in the community.

The Summer Reading Program kicks off on June 2 with a special Chalk Walk celebration at the Christiansburg Library, taking place from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participants of all ages can look forward

to picking up flyers and information about the program, get hands on help with registering in Beanstack, <https://mfrl.beanstack.org/> or downloading the Beanstack app, as well as decorating parts of the sidewalk or Storywalk. The event will be filled with enjoyable activities, bubbles, and sweet treats for everyone

to enjoy.

In addition to the traditional reading program, the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has curated an exciting schedule of fun and educational activities across multiple locations. Families are

See Reading, page 6

Dodson

from page 1

Law enforcement (CALEA). Dodson has a Masters in Criminal Justice Management, a Bachelor of Science in Management and Leadership, as well as an Associate's Degree in Police Science. He is graduate of the PERF's Senior Management Institute for Policing (SMIP), Professional Executive Leadership School (PELS),

and the FBI National Command Course. Dodson serves as an Executive Board Member for the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and was appointed by Governor Youngkin to the E-911 Services Board in 2022.

Radford News Journal staff report

DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS VS SALEM RED SOX

JUNE 13TH 11:05AM
CAMP DAY - GATES OPEN AT 10:00AM

JUNE 14TH 5:35PM & ~7:30PM
DOUBLEHEADER - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JUNE 15TH 7:05PM
GAME 3 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 16TH 7:05PM
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 17TH 6:05PM
COUNTRY NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JUNE 18TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

Marketplace ourvalley.org

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Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104

Case No. **CA23000012-00**

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.COUGH, CLERK

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 multi-year 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 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 Sheltman Street or on the Town's website at 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules 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.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-4314 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 26, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comment regarding the following written request to withdraw 46.990 acres owned by DW, LLC, from AFD District 7: Request by DW, LLC to withdraw approximately 46.990 acres from Agricultural & Forestal District #7 in order to apply for a Special Use Permit to convert the property to an RV Park for short-term transient vehicles. The property is identified as a portion of Tax Map No. 080-5-1, Parcel ID 033688, located on Brammer Lane, off of Houchins Road, in the Shawsville Magisterial District. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Burch Properties LLC, Property Owner, and Kevin Lagos, Lessee, to allow a Public Billiard Parlor and Poolroom on the property located at 1635 North Franklin Street, Tax Parcel 466-(A)-20C, Parcel ID 013214; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial 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

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by Summit Community Bank, Inc., Property Owner, to rezone the property located at 100 Akers Farm Road, Tax Parcel 466-(22)-1; Parcel ID 100283, from Limited Business District B-1 to General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial 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

Public Notice

is hereby given that TotalEnergies Renewables is planning a Community Solar Project Event for a proposed solar development project. The proposed project consists of an approximate 25 acre – 4.89 MWac ground-mounted solar electric generating facility located at 1 Pattonsburg Lane in Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia. The Project is intended to benefit Botetourt County by providing renewable energy to the local community. Please join us at the Botetourt Branch Library on Monday, June 12, 2023, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM for more information.

BAG A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

THE CLASSIFIEDS - Where the Deals Are!

Classified Advertising DELIVERS

Graduation from page 1

graduates are now eligible to take the registered nurse licensing exam.

Helen Wolfe, interim coordinator of nursing programs at NRCC, presided at the event. Nursing students Cassie Craven, Larissa Gilbert, and Jordan McGrady presented remarks via video message on behalf of the 2023 nursing class.

Other nursing faculty participating in the ceremony included Michelle Goodman, Wendy Hay, Lisa Helmick, Caitlin Reed, and Heather Umberger.

Ending the program, Dr. Graham Mitchell, professor of psychology and religion, led a "Blessing of the Hands" ceremony with nursing faculty and students to bring "healing and wholeness" to the nurse's touch.

The 2023 graduating class of associate degree nurses at NRCC includes Kristy Dawn Albert, Lynette Nicole Carroll, Kalayna Marie Cassidy, Taylor Nicole Conley, Ashley Nichole Cox, Cassie Muncy Craven, Sylvia Jeannette Cupp, Amanda Nicole Davis, Rachael Wray

Durham, Hannah Elaine Evans, Kendra Brea Franklin, Kayla Megan Gardunio, Morgan Taylor Gee, Larissa Shyanne Gilbert, Madison Hope Hinton, Allison Rose Hosey, Angela Marie Hubler, Rachel Elisabeth Huffman, Valery Anne Jacobson, Nathan Isaiah Jenkins, Abigail Elizabeth Grace Lafon, Jennifer Kaitlyn Lawrence, Kayla Lynn Mabe, Ruth Jean-Maria Martin, Samantha Jane Mathews, Jordan Danielle McGrady, Kendra Camille Morris, Jenna Rene O'Neill, Caitlyn Deziree Ousley, Adelee Morgan

Palmer, Jenna Marie Quesenberry, Alyssa Faith Saunders, Ashlee Nichole Slusher, Ally Kathleen Smith, Madison Autumn Smith, Kealee Nichole Stanford, Ashley Nicole Stewart, Emma Nicole Sutphin, Cohen Gage Taylor, Christopher Lee Thompson-Hudson, Amy Nicole Thornton, Kenna Nicole Tienvieri, Jessica Jake Wheeler, Brittany Nichole Williams, Carlin Paige Williams, and Faith Hazel Williams.

Submitted by NRCC

Playground from page 1

a playground design company that created the original playground over three decades ago, to design the new park.

"Bob Leathers started that company. His son, Mark, took over that company now, and his grandson was actually on

this build," Dean Crane, Director of Parks and Recreation, said during the opening remarks. "We also wanted to honor the past by refurbishing the old pickets. We added also new ones."

Anyone wishing to purchase a personalized

picket to add to the fence line can still do so for the cost of \$75, with checks payable to the Town of Blacksburg. A form was available at the event, but pickets will remain on sale through the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation department. Individuals can personalize each picket they purchase with names of family members, organizations, or other special persons they wish to memorialize on the playground fence line.

Crane went on to explain the number of volunteers involved in the preparation of the park for the reopening.

"After the construction was completed, we asked for volunteers to come out and spread six tractor-trailer loads of mulch. I want to thank them," Crane said. "Public Works; they did all the labor of taking down the playground, which was no small task. Doing the prep site; the hauling, the paving, and the clean-up."

Crane also stated that the Blacksburg Community Relations department has provided updates to their YouTube videos, with filming continuing to take place at the ceremony. The updated videos should be made available to the public in about two weeks.

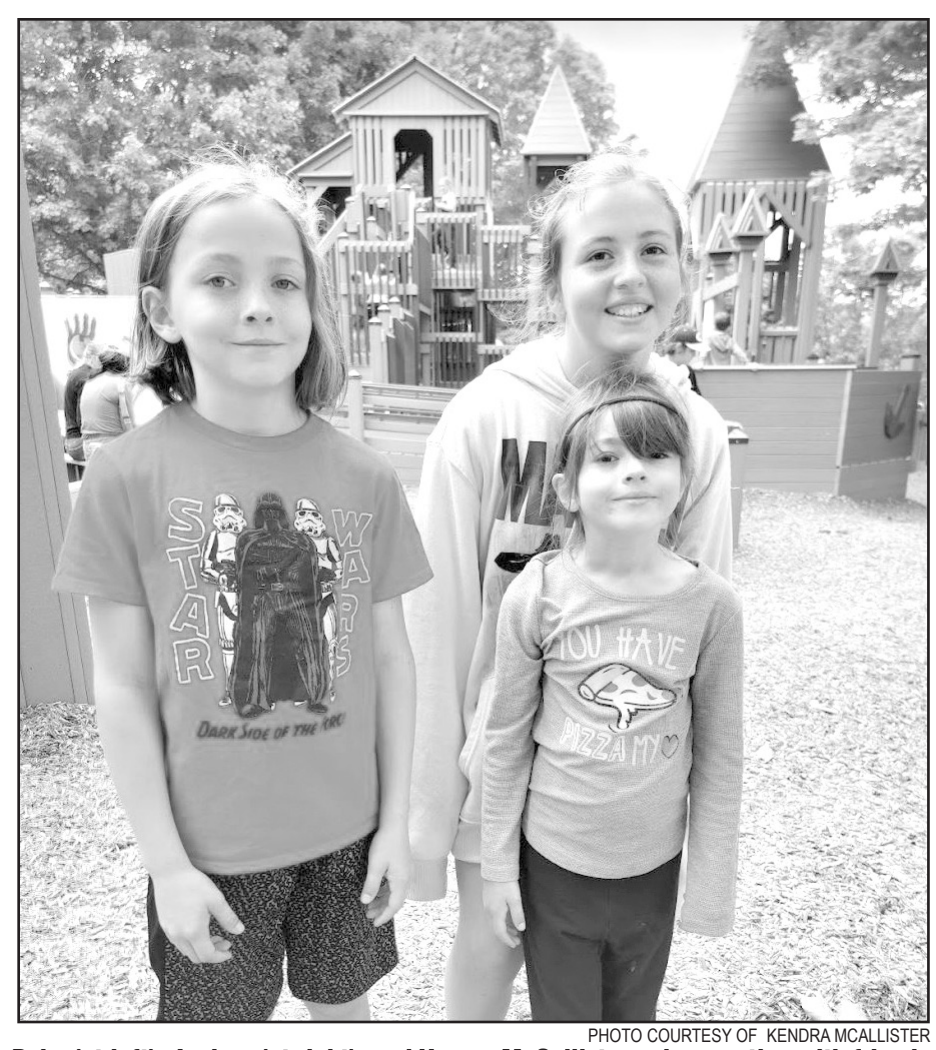


PHOTO COURTESY OF KENDRA MCALLISTER
Rohn (at left), Juniper (at right), and Vesper McCallister enjoy meeting with friends on the new Hand-in-Hand Playground.

it," Austin said. "From a builder perspective, there is no wood, it is all composite. The old one started rotting after about 25-30 years, this won't rot. You won't get splinters, its safe for the kids, it is completely composite, very well built."

Austin explained that many improvements to the style and structure of the playground equipment were also part of the rebuild. The structures are taller, several more slides were added, there are quite a few ropes, there is a boat-like structure that rocks back and forth, a rock-climbing wall, and

what instantly seemed to become a popular spot for the kids was the zip line.

An added bonus at the ribbon cutting event were the donuts provided by Carol Lee Donuts and the food truck, Sam's Hot Dogs. The most exciting part for the children and the adults as well was seeing the smiling faces of the children as they burst through the park's entrance and began climbing, swinging, and sliding on the new equipment.

Siblings visiting the new park, ten-year-old Rohn McAllister and seven-year-old Juniper McAllister,

were also anxious to see the new look of the playground.

"It is a big difference. It's hard to recognize the playground because it's so different," Rohn McAllister said. Rohn's sister Juniper was also very excited about the new playground and especially seeing her friends, a highlight of coming to the community park.

"Some of the new things remind me of some of the rollercoasters I like," Juniper McAllister said. "It's really easy because I feel it's a bit taller. I can basically spot my friends" Juniper McAllister said.

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*
Heather Bell, *Editor*
hbell@mainstreetnewspapers
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*
aboyn@ourvalley.org
Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*
advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:
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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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CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Plant anchor
5. 13th Hebrew letter
8. Microelectromechanical systems
12. Number system base 8
14. Doctors' group
15. Greenish blue
16. Sent by USPS
18. A Communist
19. Southern swear-word
20. Get free
21. North northeast
22. Uncommon
23. Commit anew
26. Lion, goat & serpent
30. Irregularly notched
31. Lessened
32. Constitution Hall ladies

CLUES DOWN
33. Fidelity
34. Mother of pearl
39. Help
42. Arouse passion
44. Avoid
46. About roof of the mouth
47. In a very soft tone
49. Periodic publications (slang)
50. ___kosh b'gosh
51. Rouse from sleep
56. El Dorado High School
57. Golf ball stand
58. Tranquil
59. Pear shaped instrument
60. Anger
61. Raja wives
62. Dashes

63. Cardboard box (abbr.)
64. Human frame (slang)

CLUES DOWN
1. Italian capital
2. Organization of C. American States (abbr.)
3. About organ of hearing
4. = to 100 sene
5. Champagne river
6. Improved by critical editing
7. Amber dessert wine
8. Indian plaid cloth
9. Equalize
10. Guillemot
11. Of sound mind
13. Irish elf
17. Makes tractors
24. Father
25. Bachelor's button
26. Vacuum tube
27. Of she
28. Wedding words
29. Em
35. Pie ___ mode
36. Feline
37. Sandhurst
38. Snakelike fish
40. Crackbrained
41. Last course
42. Indicates near
43. Indian given name
44. Ordinal after 7th
45. Young women (Scot.)
47. "Taming of the Shrew" city
48. Luster
49. Conflate
52. Person of Arabia
53. Lotto
54. Children's author Blyton
55. "Untouchables" Elliot

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OBITUARIES

Lyons, Brenda Pence

Brenda Pence Lyons, 76, passed away at her home in Christiansburg on Monday, May 29, 2023.

She was a retired math teacher with Wilkes Central, Shawsville and Christiansburg high schools, and New River Community College. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bernie Pence and Frances Williams.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Doyle Lyons; daughter, Nicole Lyons; son, David Lyons (Laima); grandchildren, Sofia



and Erik; brother-in-law, Carlton Lyons; sisters-in-law, Peggy Lyons, Lu Lyons, and Rachel Lyons; and many other relatives and friends.

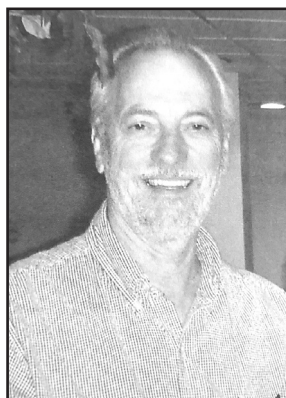
The family received friends on Friday, June 2, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Rev.

Don Shelor officiating.

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

Webb, William Glenn

William Glenn Webb, 80, of great granddaughter, Raelynn; sister, Mary Ann Estes; brother and sister-in-law, Larry D. and Joyce Webb; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Radford, passed away Sunday, May 28, 2023. He retired from the Radford Army Ammunitions Plant. Glenn was preceded in death by his parents, William and Mary Webb.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Jackie Webb; sons and daughters-in-law, Torri and Kerissa Webb and William Shawn and Wendy Webb; grandchildren, Noah, Carson, Dylan, Chandler, Kayla, Megan and Madison; a

The family received friends Friday, June 2, 2023, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with William Ratcliffe officiating.

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

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.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

FINDING STRENGTH IN GOD

Read 1 Samuel 27:1 through 31:13

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God (1 Samuel 30:6).

David and his men, just arriving home from battle, discovered that the enemy had kidnapped their families. His men were distraught, and they wanted someone to blame. David, their leader, was the obvious scapegoat, and they discussed taking revenge on him.

David, grieved at his own family's disappearance, now faced betrayals and accusations from his friends. Here, at an extremely low point, David did what always works. He turned to God and found strength in Him.

Exactly how David found strength in God is displayed throughout his psalms. David remembered God's promises, and more so, he reminded himself of who God is: his Rock of refuge; his compassionate, gentle Father; his faithful Provider; his all-wise Teacher, and so much more. As David turned to God, he gained the strength to rally his men on a rescue mission.

Prayer for Today: Father, please help me turn to You for strength in all things.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 30: 3-8, 18-19

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 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

Send community news and photos to
communitynews@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces Visions of Blacksburg exhibit

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation (BMCF) presents Visions of Blacksburg from June 9 – July 28, 2023, in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg.

Admission is free, hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Visions of Blacksburg is a visual journey of Blacksburg's history through photographs and maps.

"I am excited to share some iconic and some not so well-known images of the town," said the Museum's curator Janean Williams, "with the earliest photograph dating

from the 1880s to images of shopping areas of the 1960s. These photographs are a window into a century of change."

In addition to photos, the exhibition includes historical maps of Blacksburg, as well as Montgomery County beginning in 1789. Two of the maps featured are hand drawn and whimsical renderings of Lucy Lee Lancaster and Luis Miller.

Some activities scheduled during the exhibition include a performance by local musician Jim Lloyd on June 16, 7 – 8 p.m. Lloyd is a musician, music teacher, banjo historian

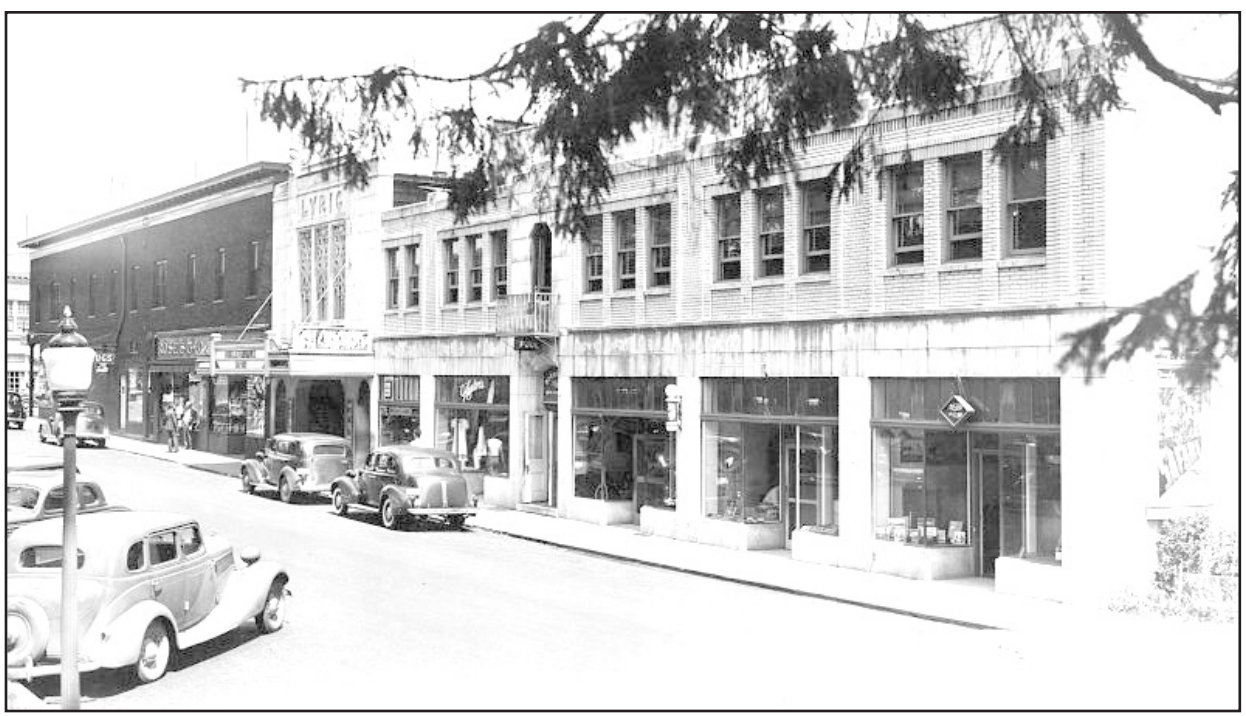


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BMCF

Historic photographs, including this one of the Lyric Theater, will be featured at the BMCF's Visions of Blacksburg exhibit.

and radio host who specializes in old-time and bluegrass genres. His latest release, "Play Guitar in Seven Days," captures the Doc Watson-

like variety of music that he interprets through his mountain lens. The Jim Lloyd performance is free and open to the public. On Thursday evening,

June 29 at 6:30 p.m., Dr. W. Cully Hession, Professor of Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech, will give a talk on streams and water

sources in the Town of Blacksburg. This event is free and open to the public.

Submitted by the BMCF

Virginia Tech researchers conduct proof-of-concept study on mosquito's scent preferences

Humans smell. Each and every one has a unique body odor.

People have been using commercial products to alter their scent for generations. From soaps to perfumes, people gravitate to floral and fruity smells.

Whether we think these smells are good or bad is of little consequence to mosquitoes, transmitters of diseases that kill hundreds of thousands of people each year. Additionally, mosquitoes rely on plant nectar to get some sugars needed to sustain their metabolism in addition to needing nutrients in the blood to produce eggs.

And humans with nutrients and a floral scent? That's two strikes.

In spite of these scents being right under humans' noses, the impact of soap smell on mosquito preference was largely ignored until Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences asked this question.

And they found that certain soaps could make people more or less attractive to mosquitoes.

"Just by changing soap scents, someone who already attracts mosquitoes at a higher-than-average rate could further amplify or decrease that attraction," said

Clément Vinauger, an assistant professor of biochemistry and co-principal investigator on the proof-of-concept study alongside his collaborator Chloé Lahondère, also an assistant professor of biochemistry.

The research on mosquito soap interactions was published on May 10, 2023, in iScience and was funded in part by the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Hidden under human noses

The connection between soap and mosquito attractiveness was studied through four volunteers. First, the research team, comprised of Morgen VanderGissen, graduate student, Anaïs Tallon, a postdoctoral associate, in addition to Lahondère and Vinauger, studied the unique scent profile of each individual, unwashed and washed with each Dial, Dove, Native, and Simple Truth soaps.

According to Vinauger, more than 60 percent of what is smelled after washing comes from soap, rather than natural body odors.

"The other aspect is that it's not simply adding stuff to our body odor, but it's also replacing some chemicals

while eliminating others, that are washed away," Vinauger said. "So, we think there is a lot of chemical interaction between our natural chemicals and soap chemicals."

To test the interactions between smell, the researchers released mosquitoes in a meshed cage that had two cups containing odor extracts and gave them a choice – unwashed scents gathered from the individuals along with their washed scents. These were gathered from a nylon sleeve on the forearm with the body in both washed and unwashed states. Tests were repeated for the various combinations of scents.

"This way we can really measure and quantify the effect of the soap in terms of increasing or decreasing the attractiveness of the individual," Vinauger said. "That's where we found that not all soaps have the same effect on all volunteers."

In terms of fragrance preferences, three of the four soaps increased mosquito attractiveness while one decreased. All of the soaps had a fruity or flowery scent. The one that decreased attractiveness was coconut scented.

"That was very interesting for us because there is other evidence in the literature that elevating certain fatty

acids, such as those found in coconut oil derivatives, could serve as a repellent for mosquitoes and other insects," Vinauger said.

Odors are everywhere With the results of the proof-of-concept study in hand, the research team hopes to expand the study with additional people and soap varieties to get a clearer understanding of the implications.

"Trying different soaps is important because we are showing that it's really the combination between your natural odor and a specific soap that matters," Vinauger said. "We also need to study the duration of these effects. What if you shower in the morning? The evening? We need to answer these questions in our future work."

Soap is only one part of the equation. Deodorants, laundry detergents, and other scented products could also play a factor.

While there is more work to be done, research shows that using coconut-scented soaps could reduce attractiveness to mosquitoes.

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

Obituaries from page 5

Woolwine, Malcum Harvey

Malcum Harvey Woolwine, 86, his memory of Blacksburg, died Monday, May 29, 2023, at his home.

He was born in Merrimac on August 22, 1936, to the late Charlie and Hazel Linkous Woolwine.

During his life, he worked first in the Merrimac coal mines, then moved to the VPI Sanitation Authority. After 33 years of service, Malcum retired to pursue his love of farming. Malcum loved to cut wood, put up hay and gather chicken eggs from his beloved flock. Malcum also had a great passion for making apple butter at his church, Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness, where he and Lois were crowned the apple butter king and queen. Malcum served his church as a faithful deacon and remained on the church council until his passing.

Malcum leaves behind to cherish



his wife of 63 years, Lois; daughter Myra Cox (Phillip); sons, Kevin Woolwine (Donna) and Phillip Woolwine (Kim); grandchildren, Brandon Woolwine, Kyndra Merrixx, Jared Cox, and Zachary Cox; great-grandchildren, Levi Davis, Aubrey Davis, Shalana Woolwine, Bradon Woolwine, Mattie Cox, Kolby Cox, Gavin Cox, Layni Cox; and his faithful four-legged friend Brownie.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, June 1, 2023 in the Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church with the Rev. Todd Porter, Rev. Phillip Cox, and Rev. Richard Hall officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The family received friends Wednesday evening at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

Virginia Tech neuroscientist offers insight into how loneliness can affect health

Efforts are underway to address the "epidemic of loneliness and isolation" affecting the country, as recently addressed by the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy who is laying out a "National Strategy to Advance Social Connection" initiative.

Virginia Tech neuroscientist Georgia Hodes says that reports of depression and anxiety are up at least 3-fold since the start of the COVID epidemic. "While loneliness and isolation are likely contributors, the COVID infection itself triggers a depressive episode in approximately 20 percent of people. Understanding how infection impacts mood may help us find new ways to treat individuals that do not fully respond to current antidepressants."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, social isolation and loneliness have been linked to increased risk for heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression and anxiety, suicidality and self-harm, dementia, and earlier death.

Hodes' research explores biomarkers and treatments for depression that target the body's immune response system. For studies linking loneliness and isolation to effects on the brain, she points to one study that showed "people who reported they were lonely but were otherwise healthy adults had greater pro-inflammatory immune responses to acute stress and immune activation. The data suggests that

loneliness is priming the immune system to react more strongly to stress."

Hodes says that most studies on loneliness in humans have been done in older adults. She points to a recent study by Isabelle F. van der Velpen et al, that used MRI images from the Rotterdam study to examine the relationship between loneliness and brain matter volume. "At baseline higher loneliness scores were associated with decreased white matter volume. Perceived social support correlated positively with total brain and grey matter volume. In general, though there is little on perceived loneliness and specific changes in brain structures in humans."

"One of the most replicated findings is perceived loneliness in humans is related to higher levels of the cytokine IL-6 in the periphery. Previously, in mice we reported that altering IL-6 produced in the periphery by the white blood cells could induce or block the effects of stress on social behavior," says Hodes. "This is a protein that has increased levels when someone is sick. The human data suggest that loneliness is putting people into a constant state of low-grade inflammation which may then promote social withdrawal, depression and/or anxiety."

Margaret Ashburn for Virginia Tech

Reading from page 3

in for a treat with a series of FREE performances by talented artists, including:

Professor Whizzpop:
Friday, June 2, 3 p.m. at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library
Monday, June 3, 10 a.m. at Blacksburg Library
Monday, June 3, 2 p.m. at Meadowbrook Library
Monday, June 3, 6 p.m. at Christiansburg Library
Joelle Shenk:

Friday, June 23, 11 a.m. at Christiansburg Library
Friday, June 23, 3 p.m. at Meadowbrook Library
Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m. at Blacksburg Library
Soap Bubble Circus:
Friday, July 21, 11 a.m. at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library
Friday, July 21, 3 p.m. at Meadowbrook Library
Saturday, July 22, 2 p.m. at Christiansburg Library

Other exciting programs include Youth Yoga, Adult Yoga, D&D Workshops, Mobile Movie Nights, and to conclude the Summer Reading Program, a highly anticipated Silent Disco on July 28. For a complete schedule of activities and more information about the program, visit www.mfirl.org

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is committed to providing a stimulating and inclusive environment that fosters the love of reading and lifelong learning. The Summer Reading

Program is an excellent opportunity for the community to come together, embrace the joy of reading, and explore the wealth of resources available at the library. Thank you to the Friends of the Library and all of the community sponsors who have helped make this year's program possible.

For more information, contact Kerri Copus at kcopus@mfirl.org or call (540) 382-6969 ext. 215.

Submitted by MFRL

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Virginia Tech announces new HOF inductees

The Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame has added to its prestige this week, as it announced its seven newest members as part of the 2023 class on Tuesday.

The 2023 class of inductees includes:

Bob Bowman, a three-sport athlete that earned 12 varsity letters at Virginia Tech and claimed two Southern Conference wrestling titles.

Malcolm Delaney, a two-time AP All-American (honorable mention) that currently ranks third in program history in career assists and points.

Kyle Fuller, an All-American in 2013 with All-ACC recognition in three seasons and the No. 14 overall pick in the 2014 NFL Draft.

Carrie Mason, a four-year starter for the Hokies that finished her career as the school's all-time leader in 3-pointers made and games started at the time.

Jazmine Reeves, an integral piece of the Hokies' 2013 College Cup side that was the first Hermann Trophy semifinalist and first-team NSCAA All-American in program history.

David Wilson, the 2011 ACC Player of the Year and second-team All-American that still holds the program's single-season rushing yards record.

Alexander Ziegler, a three-time NCAA champion and seven-time All-American that claimed four ACC titles in his career at Tech.

The seven-member class will be honored during the Tech vs. Purdue football game weekend. The hall of fame dinner and ceremony is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 8 at The Inn at Virginia Tech. As in years past, the hall of fame class of 2023 will be recognized at halftime of the football game on Saturday, Sept. 9.

With the addition of this year's class, the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame will reach a total of 225 members. The hall of fame, which was established in 1982, is located at the south end of the Cassell Coliseum ambulatory.

Bob Bowman

Sport: Wrestling, track and field, cross country

Years at Virginia Tech: 1956-60

Notable: Three-sport athlete, 1959 and 1960 Southern Conference wrestling champion (123 pounds), 1960 Monteith Award winner

Bowman, one of the hall of fame's most well-rounded members, excelled in several phases of the student-athlete experience while at Virginia Tech. As a Corps of Cadets member, he competed at a high level for the track, cross country and wrestling programs.

On the mat, the Roanoke, Va., native was a member of two Southern Conference Tournament champion teams in 1958 and 1960. In 1959 and 1960, Bowman won the 123-pound weight class conference titles, as well. His 1959 campaign culminated in an appearance in the NCAA Championship that season.

Malcolm Delaney

Sport: Men's basketball

Years at Virginia Tech: 2007-11

Notable: Two-time AP All-American (honorable mention), two-time first-team All-ACC, third all-time at Virginia Tech in career assists (543) and third all-time in career points (2,255)

Delaney, a 6-foot-3 guard from Baltimore, Md., cemented his name across the Virginia Tech record book. As a four-year starter for the Hokies, he claimed two Associated Press All-America honorable mention recognitions and three All-ACC honors.

As a senior, Delaney became the first Tech player to

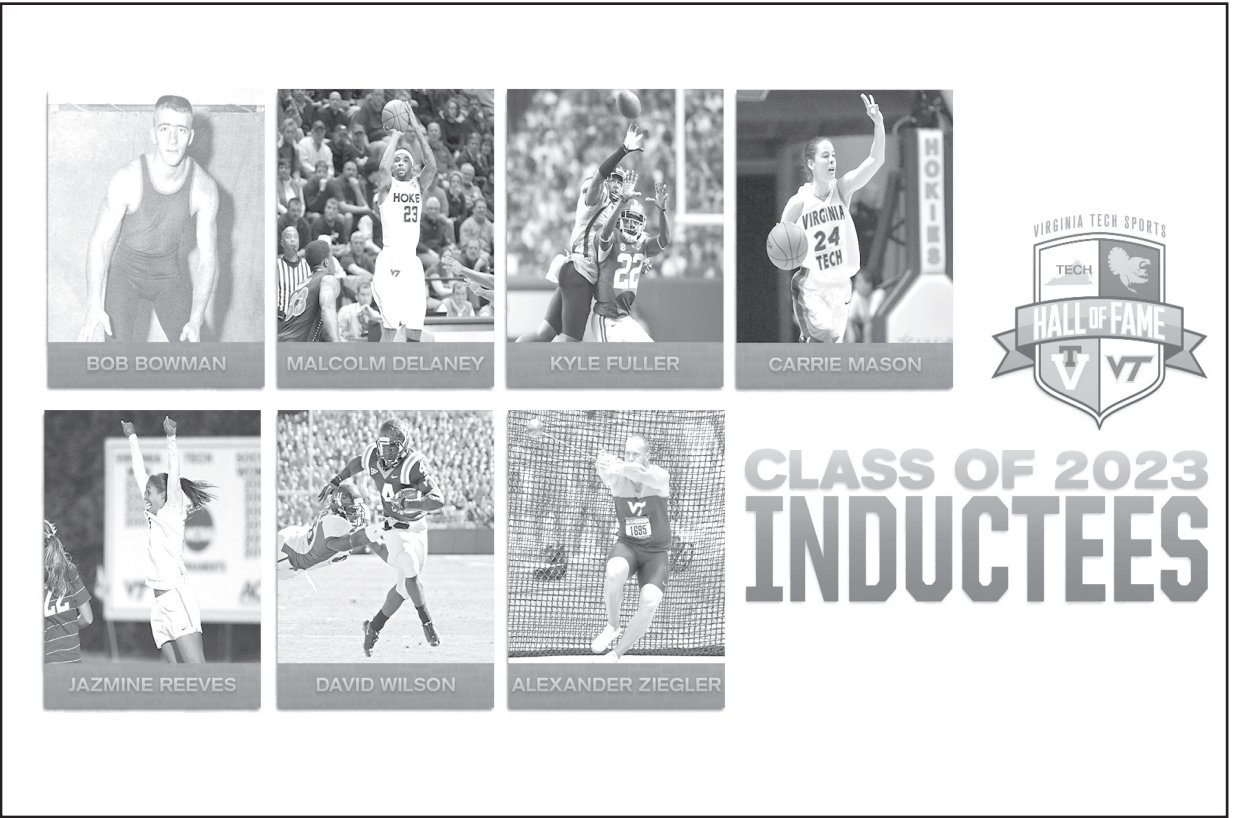


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

receive All-American honors in two separate seasons, as he earned an AP All-American honorable mention nod again. Averaging 18.7 points and leading the team in assists, he also was named first-team All-ACC, becoming the first player in Virginia Tech history to be named All-ACC first team twice in his career. Delaney currently ranks third at Tech in career assists (543) and career points (2,255). He sits atop the list in career free-throw percentage (.845) and career minutes played (4,688).

Kyle Fuller

Sport: Football

Years at Virginia Tech: 2010-13

Notable: All-American in 2013, three All-ACC honors, competed in the 2011 Orange Bowl and the 2012 Sugar Bowl, No. 14 overall pick in the 2014 NFL Draft

Fuller, a four-year staple in Virginia Tech's defense, appeared in 50 games throughout his career in Blacksburg. As a versatile piece that started at both linebacker and cornerback during his tenure at Tech, he made 41 career starts and recorded six interceptions.

In his freshman season, Fuller worked his way into the Hokies' starting lineup in its nickel defense. The Baltimore, Md., native posted 32 tackles, including four for loss in 14 games, ending his rookie year with starts in the ACC title game and the Orange Bowl.

Fuller became Virginia Tech's ninth first-round NFL Draft pick in 2014 when he was selected by the Chicago Bears with the 14th overall pick. With the Bears, Fuller was named first-team All-Pro in 2018, while being the NFL's interceptions co-leader.

Carrie Mason

Sport: Women's basketball

Years at Virginia Tech: 2002-06

Notable: Led Virginia Tech's program in career 3-pointers made, games started and minutes played at end of her career; still ranks top-10 in points, 3-pointers made, free-throws made, free-throw percentage, assists and steals

Mason, the centerpiece of Virginia Tech's longest NCAA Tournament streak (2003-06), wrapped up her career as the Hokies' all-time leading 3-point shooter, knocking down 200. Although many of her top scoring marks have been surpassed, the four-year starter led Tech to four NCAA postseason berths while competing in the BIG EAST and ACC. Mason started in 121 of the 123 games in which she played.

The Seneca, Pa., native saved her best offensive

season for her senior year, as she averaged a career-high 11.9 points and shot 44.3% from beyond the arc, including a program-best 50.3% in ACC play.

Jazmine Reeves

Sport: Women's soccer

Years at Virginia Tech: 2010-13

Notable: Virginia Tech's first NSCAA All-American first team selection, Hermann Trophy semifinalist and All-ACC first team member, led the Hokies to the 2013 College Cup

Reeves, a forward from Dover, Del., was a mainstay on the pitch for Virginia Tech from 2010 to 2013. With 91 career appearances, she's among one of the Hokies' most capped players of all-time. As a senior, Reeves' career-high 27 points paced the Hokies to the 2013 College Cup, a program-first achievement. Reeves appeared in 91 career matches, tied with Katie Yensen for the program record.

David Wilson

Sport: Football, men's track and field

Years at Virginia Tech: 2009-11

Notable: 2011 ACC Player of the Year, 2011 ACC Offensive Player of the Year, 2011 All-ACC first team, 2011 second-team All-American (AP, CBSSports.com, Yahoo! Sports), 2011 All-American (triple jump)

As a two-sport All-American, Wilson fascinated Virginia Tech fans with one of the most impressive calendar years that a student-athlete can have in 2011. Through the spring and fall of his sophomore and junior years, the speedy Danville, Va., native impressed with a pair of All-America showings in both football and track and field.

Alexander Ziegler

Sport: Men's track and field

Years at Virginia Tech: 2009-13

Notable: Three-time NCAA champion, seven-time All-American, four-time ACC champion, 2013 ACC Men's Indoor Track and Field Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Ziegler, one of three Virginia Tech student-athletes ever to have three or more national championships, was dominant across his four-year career in Blacksburg. In seven NCAA championship appearances, he never finished below third.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Pulaski River Turtles announce promotional nights

In conjunction with the launch of individual game night ticket sales, Calfee Park Baseball, Inc. and the Pulaski River Turtles have released their 2023 promotional nights calendar.

The expansive list of promotional nights includes traditional favorites such as Agriculture Night, the return of the popular Saddle-Up Sunday cowboy-themed night and new promotions such as Star Wars Night.

A preview of the exciting slate of promotional events are highlighted below:

Friday, June 9: Star Wars Night

New! Mingle with characters from the legendary movie. Several characters will be on-site throughout the game to interact with fans and take photos. Character lineup TBA.

Sunday, June 11: Saddle-Up Sunday presented by 94.9 Star Country

Yee-haw! Saddle-Up Sunday returns June 11 presented by 94.9 Star Country. Come early for free cowboy hat giveaways (while supplies last) and take a ride on our buckin' mechanical bull. Rides are free of charge.

Friday, July 7: Christmas in July presented by Shively Electric

Help us give back to our community and we'll pay it forward. Bring a packaged toy and receive two dollars off a General Admission ticket purchased at the gate on the day of the game. Santa will be present to gather wish lists from the youngest among us!

Saturday, July 15: Agriculture Night presented by Farm Credit

A Calfee Park tradition. Agriculture Night presented by Farm Credit is returning this season featuring the popular Ag Night jersey raffle! Don't miss the fashionable

threads the River Turtles will sport on July 15. A petting zoo will also be on-site for fans of all ages courtesy of 4-H and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Pulaski Office. The annual Hagan Cattle Company beef raffle drawing will be held during the game. Raffle tickets are just \$5 and will be sold all season long at the Information Tent. Two winners receive a \$250 beef certificate to the Hagan Cattle Company.

July 31: Circus Night presented by Pennzoil & K92

Last season's top promotional night is back. The 2023 season concludes with Circus Night presented by Pennzoil and K92. Calfee Park welcomes award-winning entertainment act Tyler's Amazing Balancing Act (<http://www.amazingtyler.com/>) for a night of dazzling stunts during the game. Chuckles the Clown will also be present to create balloon masterpieces for fans of all ages.

In addition to special

promotional nights, Calfee Park will host the following weekly promotions in 2023:

Sunday Games: "Sunday Savings" concession specials presented by Pulaski First United Methodist Church.

Wednesday Games: "Waggin' Wednesday" - bring your dog to the park.

Thursday Games: "Thirsty Thursday" drink specials.

Friday Games: "Fireworks Fridays" - a Fireworks display following the game.

Tickets:
GA: \$5
Upper-Level Reserved: \$11
Reserved Seating: \$12
Club: \$15
Party Zone/Deck: \$12
Seniors 65+ get \$1
General Admission tickets at the gate.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PULASKI RIVER TURTLES

For more information call 540-980-1070. on promotional nights, email info@pulaskiriverturtles.com or Pulaski River Turtles

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Blacksburg forward Mila Santsaver-Jones fires a long range shot for a first half goal against Orange County during a Region 4D semifinal 2-0 win.



Blacksburg's Erin Bishop gets a hug from her sister Emily after scoring on a second half header in a 2-0 win over Orange County.

Blacksburg boys, girls advance



Blacksburg's Sean DeLorenzo latches onto a long pass and scores an early goal to give the Bruins a 1-0 lead against Salem. DeLorenzo would score again in the second half in Blacksburg's 6-2 Region 4D semifinal win over Salem.



Blacksburg's Edric Zhang fires a shot against Salem keeper Maxwell Benne for a first half score in a Region 4D semifinal match.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Two Hokies named among top collegiate sportscasters in nation

Whether it was playing wiffle ball in the neighborhood or pretend broadcasting Syracuse University basketball games together, Kyle Marchak and Giovanni Heater have long

been acquainted, growing up together in Syracuse, New York. They both dreamed of becoming sports broadcasters. As it became time to

choose a college, the duo decided that Virginia Tech and its sports media and analytics major in the School of Communication would be the best school to attend and work toward their career

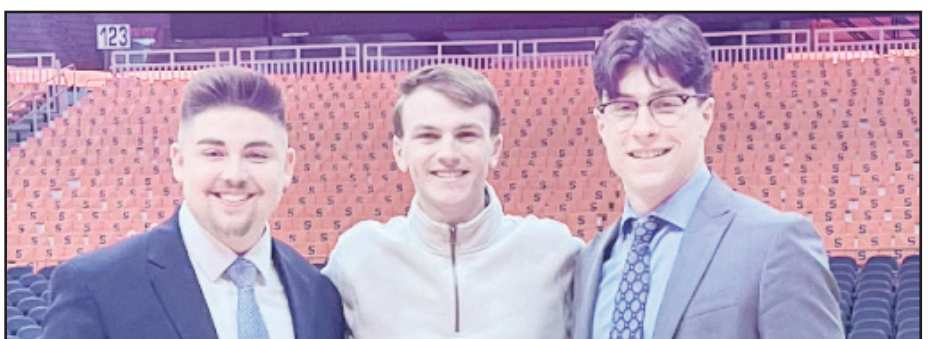


PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI HEATER

Giovanni Heater (at far left) and Kyle Marchak (at far right) find a number of opportunities to broadcast games as a part of the sports media and analytics major.



Floyd Artisan Trail
Floyd, Virginia

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FloydArtisanTrail.org
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aspirations. Two years later, it's safe to say Marchak and Heater, who both just finished their sophomore years as Hokies, are on the right track.

On May 26, Marchak was named a first-team All-American broadcaster and Heater was named to the second-team All-American list by the Sportscasters Talent Agency of America (STAA) All-America program. The program recognizes each year the nation's outstanding collegiate radio and TV sports broadcasters with a live show streamed on YouTube.

"It was a special moment," Heater said. "[Kyle] was my first phone call right away. He said, 'Somebody sent me a fake stream. This isn't real.' It was a special moment where he and I were just so happy and so proud of each other."

As the adrenaline and shock of the announcement began to subside, Marchak had another reaction.

"I have to call my mom." That's what I thought," Marchak said. "My first thought was to call my parents and just how amazing this is for the [sports media and analytics] program. Virginia Tech is new and it's up and coming, and Gio and I helped put it on the map."

As a first-team All-American, Marchak receives three free months of agency membership, a certificate of achievement, and the prestige and exposure that come with being recognized by the group as one of the nation's top young sports broadcasters.

When the School of Communication launched the sports media and analytics major in 2020, it had the vision of becoming

the premier spot for students pursuing a profession in sports media.

That vision is coming into focus with a heap of evidence to back it up. Marchak's recognition marks the fourth consecutive year that a Virginia Tech student has been honored as a first-team All-American, which includes those ranked in the top six, by the agency.

Evan Hughes finished second in 2020 before being named the 2021 Jim Nantz Award winner, named after the iconic American sportscaster. Hughes is now assistant director of broadcast services for women's basketball and baseball for Virginia Tech. Kevin DiDomenico, now the play-by-play voice of the Reno Aces, was honored as a first-team All-American in 2022.

It's also the second year in a row that two Hokies were on the list with Heater (honorable mention) joining DiDomenico in 2022.

"We are tremendously happy for Kyle and Giovanni," said Bill Roth, a professor of practice in the School of Communication. "Each has worked incredibly hard to improve his craft, and they deserve this national recognition. These honors are a result of the passion of our students and the opportunities each has to learn, improve, and grow in our sports media and analytics program."

As first year students, Marchak and Heater immediately established themselves in the sports media and analytics major. The duo got to work calling Virginia Tech sporting events and hosting studio shows with 3304 Sports, the multimedia platform for student sports journalism at Virginia Tech.

Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech



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