

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, July 29, 2023

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USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Town of Christiansburg names new police chief

CHRISTIANSBURG – Major Chris Ramsey, a veteran of more than 20 years with the Christiansburg Police Department (CPD), has been named Chief of the agency, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

The Town Council decision to promote Ramsey was announced Tuesday night at the Christiansburg Town Council meeting.

“We welcomed several applications with a variety of backgrounds and experiences,” said Christiansburg Mayor Mike Barber. “Through the interview process, we found that

the most qualified, educated, and experienced candidate was already within our organization.”

Ramsey is a graduate of the 261st session of the FBI National Academy. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Virginia Tech, followed by a Master of Science in Criminal Justice through Radford University.

Since 2017, Major Ramsey has served as the Assistant Chief of Police for the Christiansburg Police Department, after holding the position of Operations Division

Captain from 2009-2017. Ramsey climbed the ranks throughout his career, first beginning as a clerk, Deputy Sheriff, Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, and Professional Standards Lieutenant. He has completed more than 24 career development programs including Crisis Negotiations, Managing Police Discipline, and numerous tactical and SWAT command trainings. He has been recognized as Officer of the Year,

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Chris Ramsey

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

Board of Supervisors votes in support of the Virginia Line of Duty Act

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on July 24 in support of a resolution requesting a General Assembly amendment allowing for private officers to be eligible for the same benefits afforded to public police officers under the Virginia Line of Duty Act.

Additional action was taken by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors in a resolution honoring Police Officer Mark Christopher Wagner, II, who was killed in the line of duty on June 16, 2023, while serving with the Wintergreen Police Department.

Supervisor and Chair Sherri Blevins spoke in support of the amendment stating that her husband, a retired state police officer, now works for Carilion Clinic as a private police officer.

Additional information about the VALODA, Virginia Line of Duty Act, can be found on their website at <https://www.valoda.org/>.

A special use permit for a short-term rental property was unanimously approved by the Supervisors. Justin Sanders, Senior

Planner, presented to board members on the request for the property on 1950 Oilwell Road, located in the county between Christiansburg and Blacksburg.

Supplemental regulations require that short-term rental properties meet with certain standards regarding safety, noise ordinances, property boundaries, and other requirements as stated in the county code. Blue Ridge Escapes would manage the property, upon approval of the proposal, in the absence of the owner who currently lives outside the area.

The Board of Supervisors also unanimously approved a total increase in the FY 24 budget, due to the appropriations itemized in the agenda on the www.montcova.com, totaling \$105,243,124. This total includes \$98,984,978 for school capital project balances and \$6,258,146 in school capital project encumbrances. A public hearing must be held when the amount of the cumulative appropriations exceeds one percent of the currently adopted budget.

Citizens were invited to speak on either agenda item with no one coming forward to address the Board.

See **Support**, page 4



An image of a male cardinal on a snowy branch.

PHOTO BY LYNDIA RICHARDSON

Expert offers tips for photographing birds

Birds are probably the most photographed of all wildlife.

They bedazzle us with their colors, songs and curious behaviors. We see and hear them everywhere throughout the year. No wonder they are a favorite subject for photography.

Photographing birds

can be as easy or hard as you want to make it. Most folks gravitate to super telephoto lenses but you can, with a little extra work, capture photographs with shorter lenses using remotely triggered cameras.

The easiest way to start is in your own backyard. By planting bird-friendly

plants that produce berries, nectar, and draw insects, and putting up feeders, you will attract resident and seasonal birds to you! If you have to wait until spring to plant, don't despair. Bird feeders will work now.

When you pick a

See **Birds**, page 4

Eastmont Community Foundation puts funds from sale of rescue squad to work for community

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Funds from the recent sale of the Shawsville Rescue Squad have been placed into an endowed fund, providing scholarships for graduates from Eastern Montgomery High School.

Eastmont Community Foundation Board's Distribution Committee oversees specific scholarships as well, set aside for deserving Eastern Montgomery High School students entering into a medical or first-responder educational program.

“The first responder fund will be focused on firefighters, law enforcement, rescue squad and EMS, and medical doctors and nurses,” Lauren Tate, President of the Eastmont Community Foundation Board said. “The decisions

on the criteria for the scholarship funds will be available in the next scholarship cycle.”

The Eastmont Community Foundation Board (ECF) supports the eastern part of Montgomery County, or Shawsville municipality and community, in many other ways as well. Founded in 1982 and formerly known as the Mountain Valley Charitable Foundation, ECF is a non-profit organization that operates Old Town Fields, the Shawsville Middle School athletic complex, the Eastmont Thrift store located in the old fire station, and the Waldron Fitness Center.

According to their website at www.eastmontcf.com, ECF also supports LINC, a non-profit newsletter. The goal of publishing the quarterly LINC Letter is to help keep the community connected.

Outreach programs and activities are aimed at improving health, well-being and education in the community.

ECF does not receive any financial support from government entities; therefore, donations, grant funds, and fundraising are utilized in supporting the ECF's work. One way the foundation works to raise funds is providing events such as concerts in the Old Town Fields. Additionally, the Eastmont Thrift Store continues to be very successful and frequented by community members and visitors.

The Waldron Center offers meeting spaces to the community and will lease out small business offices. They also have a big community room they can rent out by reservation. Eastern Montgomery County High School Prom was held in the center,



PHOTO COURTESY OF ECF

Eastmont Community Foundation is located in the Meadowbrook Center, supporting events, scholarships, and other community support to the Shawsville municipalities.

providing a large space for these types of venues. The Meadowbrook Museum, also located in the same building, has several rooms to operate out of it. It is a separate entity, and they have that central space for their displays.

Old Town Fields will be the location of a back-to-school event on August 5, 3-5 p.m. Students returning to

schools in the district are invited to come out for an afternoon of fun and in preparation of returning for the new school year.

The website offers detailed information on ECF's contributions and operations for community members and visitors to the region. Donations are welcomed with all dollars going directly to the ECF's programs

that benefit the citizens of eastern Montgomery County.

Eastmont Community Foundation strives to bring the community together and allow for opportunities that all citizens can enjoy.

“I love our community,” Tate said. “It is a unique community and we definitely do try to improve things and connect others.”



A new climbing dome is in place at Prices Fork Elementary School



The Kiwanis Club also donated money for this new mud kitchen on the playground. PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIWANIS CLUB

Kiwanis Club supports Price's Fork Elementary School playground

Funds used are in honor of memory of Kiwanian Bob Wheeler

BLACKSBURG - A mud kitchen and climbing dome were recently added to the younger children's playground at Price's Fork Elementary School using funds donated to the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg Foundation in memory of Kiwanian Dr. Bob Wheeler who passed away in 2020. Wheeler enjoyed reading to Pre-K children at the school, and his family wanted to make a contribution that would be used to support young

children. The teachers and staff at Price's Fork Elementary felt that children would enjoy having these additions to the playground. In addition to these contributions, the Kiwanis Club makes a monthly donation from its service account to provide food and personal care items to the school's food pantry for Pre-K children. This year's Kiwanis fundraising (golf tournament, pancake breakfast and Brunswick Stew sale) has

surpassed previous fundraising events and will allow the club to increase our contributions to our community. Kiwanis would like to thank the following for sponsors at the golf tournament: Moog, Poly Scientific Employees Federal Credit Union, Green Valley Builders, McCoy Funeral Home, Marty Muscatello Smart Yards, Edward Jones Financial advisors Trevor Gray and Meghan Kuczarski, In Motion, Electrical Supply, LL Brown Insurance,

State Farm Chris Turman, Ameriprise Financial Mark Tapp, Clinton's Transfer and Storage, Blacksburg True Value Hardware, Shear Artistry, Mike Eggleston/Coldwell Banker Townside, Budget Blinds, M & M Tire and Auto, Macado's, East Main Rides, and numerous anonymous Kiwanians. Submitted by the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg

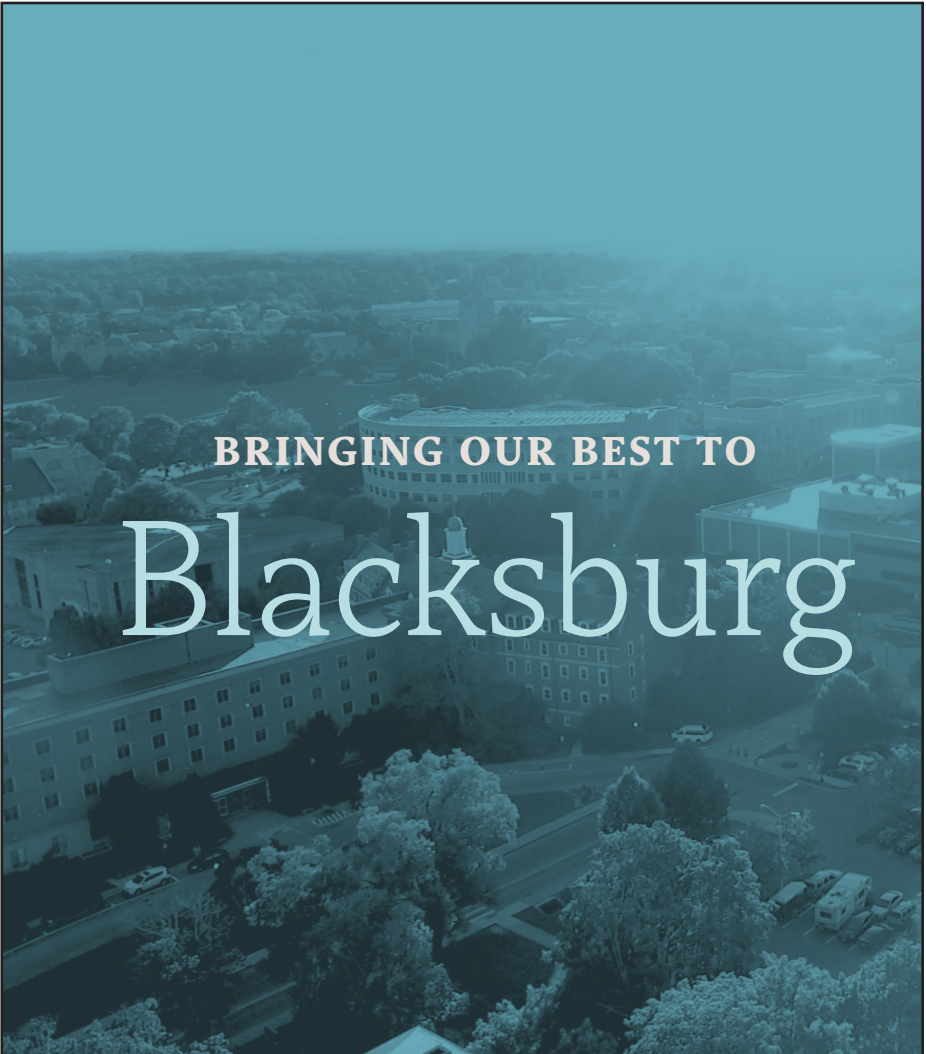
Virginians may now indicate their blood type on their driver's license or ID

New information will be used to assist first responders in case of an emergency

RICHMOND - Virginians may now choose to indicate their blood type to include on their driver's license to assist first responders in the event of an emergency. Virginians have the option to indicate their blood type when they renew or replace their driver's license or ID at dmv.virginia.gov or in-person at any Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) customer service center. Customers who are applying for a license or ID for the first time must visit a customer service center in person. If you renew or replace your credential online,

you will be prompted with a question whether you'd like to indicate blood type during the transaction. Choosing to have your blood type displayed on your license or ID is optional. The blood type will be displayed in a small icon on the front of your license or ID. It is not required to show proof of your blood type if you'd like it to appear on your credential. It is your responsibility to self-certify, and make sure you have your correct blood type. "The law was intended to aid individuals and

first responders when every second counts in an emergency," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "DMV is proud to provide Virginians with options. On your driver's license or ID, you can indicate not only your blood type, but also your willingness to be an organ donor, your veteran status and can even list important medical indicators." Senate Bill 345 was introduced by Sen. George L. Barker. Submitted by the Department of Motor Vehicles



NRCC announces three percent tuition increase

New River Community College (NRCC) tuition will increase for the first time in five years. The three percent increase of \$4.61 per credit hour will go into effect for the 2023-2024 academic year. Recognizing the impact of mandatory cost increases, which include statewide adjustments for compensation and benefits, the State Board for Community Colleges recently voted unanimously to increase

tuition at all 23 Virginia Community College System institutions. The new rate is \$158.61 per credit hour, or \$2,379.15 for a 15 credit-hour semester. At about one-third of the comparable costs of tuition of Virginia's public four-year universities, NRCC continues to be an affordable option for those in the college's service region. With programs like Access to Community College Education (ACCE), G3

tuition assistance, and scholarships through the NRCC Educational Foundation, NRCC remains committed to assisting students reach their educational goals. Fall classes at NRCC begin on Aug. 23. For more information about classes, tuition, financial assistance or to register for the fall semester, visit www.nr.edu/registernow. Submitted by NRCC

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

www.montcova.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 29:

Page to Screen Movies: Jaws!

At the Radford Public Library; noon. Come see Spielberg's classic 1975 adaptation of Peter Benchley's 'Jaws!' Gourmet popcorn from Lil' Bit Corny LLC will be available while supplies last.

Quilting Marathon

At the Meadowbrook Library; 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. The Meadowbrook Quilters are hosting a quilting marathon! The public is invited to see these skilled individuals quilting. The group will be working on individual projects. This is a great opportunity for you to see their handiwork, you may bring your quilting projects or questions and they will help you. This program is open to all ages.

Music on the Lawn: Ash Devine

At the Christiansburg Library; 6-7:30 p.m. Join us for the third show in our Music on the Lawn concert series. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. This free concert is rain or shine! Ash Devine is an accomplished songwriter, touring musician, ukulele and guitar player, and community-based theater artist whose work is influenced by her upbringing in Blacksburg, and by her international travels to perform in health care facilities with Patch Adams M.D. She tours nationally and internationally, performing over 100 shows a year.

Monday, July 31:

Summer Cooking Club for Kids

At the Radford Public Library; 2 p.m. Guac is extra. Just kidding, it's free and at the library! Kids under 13 (little ones are welcome with supervision) are invited to join Youth Services Librarian Morgan in making homemade guacamole to enjoy with chips! We will be using the library mobile kitchen, the Charlie Cart. Registration is required and spots are limited. Call 540-731-3621 or email morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov to sign-up!

Thursday, August 3:

Get Ready for Kindergarten with a

Kindergarten Teacher!

At the Radford Public Library; 11-11:30 a.m. Is your child about to start kindergarten? A Radford City Public Schools Kindergarten teacher will be at the library to host a storytime and talk to children (and parents!) about all things Kindergarten! Learn about a typical day in a kindergarten classroom and practice some school skills! This special event will take place in the children's section.

Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series

The Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series takes place in the heart of Wildwood Park at the Outdoor Classroom (pavilion). To get to the site, attendees can park at the Sundell Drive parking lot for Wildwood Park and take the walkway into the center of the park. The talks start at 7:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine unless there are thunderstorms. August 3: Geology (Liz McClellan, Radford University).

American Legion meeting

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

Saturday, August 5:

Genealogy Saturdays

At the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation, first Saturday of each month, 1-4 p.m. Ancestry experts will be on hand to assist you as you explore your family tree. Come with questions about research and discovering your roots.

Saturday, August 12:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry on Saturday, August 12 from 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 we will be entertained by The Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra. The fish fry is a fundraiser for the Ruritan Club's community service projects and scholarships. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan

Monday, August 14:

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, August 15:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The 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, August 17:

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, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to this meeting. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 - 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

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

Held 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.

Registration open for Potter in the Park race

Calling all wizards of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin! Have you signed up for the TriWizard TriMile Potter in the Park Race yet? Annual family-fun event s ion Saturday, August 26 at 8:30 a.m. Register at www.lvnrv.org.

Marketplace ourvalley.org

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Legals - Montgomery County

New River Valley HOME Consortium and Town of Blacksburg 2023 Annual Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan
HOME and Community Development Block Grant Programs

Notice of Public Comment Meeting

In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg will hold a public comment meeting on the development of the 2023 Annual Action Plan for the New River Valley's HOME Program and the Town of Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Comments will also be received on amendments to the Town of Blacksburg Citizen Participation Plan. The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of HOME, CDBG, and other funds allocated towards the implementation of objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. Every CDBG-funded activity must qualify as meeting one of the three national

Legals - Montgomery County

program objectives:

- Benefiting low- and moderate-income persons,
- Preventing or eliminating slums or blight, or
- Meeting other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

HOME funds must be used in accordance with the following HUD HOME program objectives:

- To expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing.
- To make housing more affordable for low-income and very low-income families.

The 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan can be reviewed on the Town's website at: <https://www.blacksburg.gov/departments/departments-a-k/housing-and-neighborhood-services/consolidated-plan>. The Consolidated Plan regulations stipulate that each grantee is required to prepare a Citizen Participation Plan that details the community's procedures for involving the public in its program planning and implementation. Proposed amendments to the Town of Blacksburg Citizen Participation Plan will be voted on by Town Council at their regular meeting on August 22, 2023.

Legals - Montgomery County

The draft revised Citizen Participation Plan can be reviewed on the Town website at: www.blacksburg.gov/cpp. The public comment meeting will take place on Monday August 14 at 10 am at the Town of Blacksburg Housing and Community Connections office at 303 Wilson Ave, Blacksburg, VA.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1613.

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

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by DAJ Ventures LLC, Property Owner, to allow 21 townhouses on approximately 2.149 acres located at the western end of Montgomery St NE, and between the south side of Church St NE and the north

Legals - Montgomery County

side of Lucas St NE, identified as Tax Parcels 496-(3)-2 and 496-(3)-3; Parcel IDs 260024 and 260025; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Residential 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 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 AUGUST 9,

Legals - Montgomery County

2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by PRIMO-CON INC., dba WACO INC. for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Contractor's Service Establishment in existing structures. The site is located at 6604 and 6620 Roanoke Road, Shawsville (St. Rt. 11), and is located approximately .5 miles west of Alleghany Spring Road (St. Rt. 637). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 083-C1-A71, 083-C1-A73, 083-C1-A72, 083-C1-A70 (Parcel IDs: 013297, 071261, 070708, 070709), 1.547 acres, zoned General Business (GB) in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan and is further designated as Civic in the Shawsville Village Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 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 August 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinance:

A request by John and Stacy Lloyd for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Contractor's Storage Yard, as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, on vacant land.

Legals - Montgomery County

The property is located at the intersection of Batts Road (Private) and Coal Bank Hollow Road (St. Rt. 649), approximately 0.01 miles from the intersection of South Jefferson Forest Lane (St. Rt. 818) and Coal Bank Hollow Road. The property is further identified as Tax Maps 028-A 15 and 028-A 16 (Parcel IDs: 009224 and 009225), 6.8 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

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Birds from page 1

feeder location, consider several things. First, figure out which direction you will be shooting from: an open window in your home or a blind placed in the yard? From where you are shooting what does the background look like? Will this background be “clean” or distracting in the photographs? If distracting, try a more shallow depth-of-field, move the feeder, change your angle of shooting, or put something in the back-ground that will clean things up.

How will you light the subject? If using available light consider the direction of the sun when placing a feeder. Normally, you want light coming from over your shoulders and shining on your subject. In other cases you might want the light from behind your subject, using a flash to fill in so the subject doesn't go too dark. Using flashes triggered remotely is a possibility as well.

Now consider the height of your bird feeder. I prefer it set at eye level from where I'm shooting. You can capture more intimate portraits when looking directly at a bird rather than from underneath.

Despite being hungry birds need to feel safe when coming to a feeder. Are there shrubs and trees nearby for them to perch in? Be aware that sneaky raptors

make it a habit to hang out around feeders to dine on unsuspecting birds. Yes, this could provide a great action shot, but birds will feel safer given an escape route.

Give the birds some time to find your feeder. Study which species come in to feed, when, and what they do while feeding. What direction do they fly in and then leave? Do they eat on the feeder or fly off to eat, and if so, where do they go? By studying the bird's habits you learn to anticipate their actions; this will help you decide when to shoot to capture the images you want.

Most people capture tight, full body or head shots, but there is more to birds than that! Consider behavioral shots to include feeding, drinking, bathing, breeding, singing, perching, defending territory, fighting, nest-building, and feeding young. One cool trick is to make your own tree branch. I use a light stand and clamp a beautiful branch to it, with or without leaves. Placing it near the feeder allows birds to “stage” nearby and provides a natural looking perch.

It's time to start shooting! A few shots on the feeder might be okay but here is your chance to practice photographing birds actually flying! Read up on how



PHOTO BY KEN COHEN

An image of two European starlings at a feeder. Getting on eye level helps get dynamic images.

to capture moving subjects with your camera. I like to set my Canon EOS 7D Mark II on AI Servo to allow continuous AF tracking, high-speed continuous burst mode, AF Point Expansion (9 focus points), and Tracking and Focus Sensitivity set to Case 3, lens AF set to ON and Mode 1. Combined with high shutter speeds, these settings should be a ticket to success with birds on the move. It takes a lot of patience and practice but don't give up. Try other settings to see

what works best for you. Sometimes the settings are right but your timing is off, so carefully evaluate what you are doing. Birds are delightful subjects, offering many creative challenges to the photographer. By starting in your own backyard, you too can enjoy photographing them! Happy Shooting!

Lynda Richardson, Department of Wildlife Resources

News Messenger

Established 1869

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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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

Support from page 1

Deputy County Administrator and CFO Angie Hill opened discussions with the supervisors in the work session part of the meeting to discuss legislative priorities for 2023. Hill stated that these priorities must be finalized by October.

“I fully support and fully agree with all our legislative priorities except for the final legislative priority under education ‘Support School Vouchers or Tuition Tax Credit for elementary and secondary students who attend private and home schools. Provide public school students with

a voucher or tax credit to be spent on private school or home school tuition,” Supervisor April DeMotts said. “As in the previous two years, if that remains on our legislative agenda, I will vote against our legislative priorities.”

Supervisor Mary Biggs agreed with DeMotts on the education item concerning school vouchers and tax credits. A study done by JLARC, or Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, addresses this funding for education.

“They are basing the funding on staffing instead of the number of students,”

Biggs said.

Supervisor Todd King, Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski, and Supervisor Darrell Sheppard spoke in support of the provision of school vouchers or tuition tax credit.

“I think they need to have a choice and so, I am definitely in favor of it,” Fijalkowski said.

Blevins also spoke in support of the school vouchers and tuition tax credit.

“There's a lot of frustration with parents in our school systems right now and this just gives them another opportunity and a choice,” Blevins said.

King requested an update from the Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, Dr. Bernard Bragen, on the ongoing Eastern Montgomery Elementary School's fire suppression system.

“They had to test it, a monthly test for what the rate would be. Off the top of my head, I don't know if that's completed exactly or what that would be,” Bragen said. “I will give you an update tomorrow morning.”

“Until it's fixed, we still have firewatchers?” Blevins said.

Bragen confirmed that they are in place.

Chief from page 1

received a Police Star, Combat Ribbon, and multiple Meritorious Service recognitions, amongst others.

During his time at the CPD, Major Ramsey has been crucial in helping serve the community through various response efforts. He is credited with developing the agency's first Emergency Response Team (SWAT) and served as First Commanding Officer; served as one of the first responding officers to the 2011 Interstate-81 shooting, resulting in capture and conviction of a murder suspect; and served in the incident command post for various critical events in the region, including the William Morva manhunt and April 16th shootings at Virginia Tech.

“It has been a privilege to have served my community alongside the men and women of the Christiansburg Police Department for the last three decades and it is the honor of a lifetime to have been chosen to lead them as Chief,” said Ramsey. “I am fortunate to be assuming command of an excellent Department staffed by the finest officers. It is our commitment to the citizens that we will continue to work in partnership with our community to not only provide the best possible police service, but even more so, to take every opportunity to enhance public trust, increase public safety and make Christiansburg the best possible community in which to live, work or visit.”

Current Christiansburg Police

Chief Mark Sisson will be retiring on Aug. 31, 2023 after nearly 30 years with the department and 16 years as Christiansburg Chief.

“I am confident that the Christiansburg Police Department has effectively implemented strong succession training for its leadership,” said Sisson. “For this reason, the agency will continue to be successful during its transition of command to Chris Ramsey. Chris Ramsey has been an integral part of the agency command staff for many years and will be a great leader for the agency and the Town of Christiansburg.”

Submitted by the Town of Christiansburg

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		
16				17					18		
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54		55				56			57	58	59
60					61				62		
63						64				65	
66						67				68	

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Dried corn kernels (pl.)
 - 6. A dog is one
 - 9. Medieval feline
 - 13. Appeal emotionally
 - 14. Uncommon
 - 15. Chinese currency
 - 16. Gain as interest
 - 17. Habitat
 - 18. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
 - 19. 2015 NL batting champ
 - 21. Makes wet
 - 22. Discounts
 - 23. Beavers build this
 - 24. Between south and east
 - 25. Promotional materials
 - 28. Arbiter
 - 29. Ancient Greek ruler
 - 31. Where coaches spend their time
 - 36. LA landmark ___ House
 - 38. Nothing
 - 39. Chickpea plant
 - 41. Revolutionary War militia member
 - 44. Civil rights organization
 - 45. Fathers
 - 46. Carries things
 - 48. Frequently
 - 49. Location of White House
 - 51. Small amount
 - 52. A structure forming a covered entrance
 - 54. Soothes
 - 56. Shameless
 - 60. Middle Eastern nation
 - 61. Footsteps
 - 62. Russian river
 - 63. Once-influential student organization
 - 64. Jags owner Khan
 - 65. Bura-___: Nigerian language
 - 66. Small boy
 - 67. Belonging to a thing
 - 68. Mosses
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Went too fast
 - 2. Protruding ridge on worms
 - 3. Insignificant
 - 4. Pains
 - 5. South Dakota
 - 6. Greek island
 - 7. Emerald Isle
 - 8. Golfers know this well
 - 9. Desire to set fire to things
 - 10. A glow
 - 11. Levels
 - 12. Enzyme
 - 14. Explains again
 - 17. City in South of France
 - 20. Paddle
 - 21. Sallian
 - 23. Split pulses
 - 25. Consumed
 - 26. Small drink of spirits
 - 27. Indigenous people
 - 29. Elaborated
 - 30. Painting technique
 - 32. Repentance
 - 34. Not bright
 - 35. Kansas hoops coach
 - 37. Koran chapters
 - 40. Dead end
 - 42. Foul-mouthed bear
 - 43. Nostrils
 - 47. Game Cache File
 - 49. One who believes in a supreme being
 - 50. Carnival worker
 - 52. Gnawing animals
 - 53. German town
 - 55. Conquer
 - 56. Thai money
 - 57. Taxis
 - 58. ___ Clapton
 - 59. A form of Persian
 - 61. Pounds per square inch
 - 65. Nighttime



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OBITUARIES

Aracco, John Allen

John Allen Aracco, 79, of Blacksburg, passed away on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

He was the son of the late Joseph and June Aracco. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Jay Aracco.

He is survived by a sister, Judith Aracco Hummer (Robert), a niece, Jacklyn Hummer, a nephew, Ryan Hummer, and two very special friends, Peggy Skinner Morgan, and Dean O'Donnel.

There will be no formal services.

Brooks, Michelle "Missy" Lee

Michelle "Missy" Lee Brooks, 47, of Riner, passed away on Sunday, July 23, 2023 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.



Missy was born August 8, 1975 in Radford. She is preceded in death by her mother, Ellen Faye Dalton Brooks, and her grandparents Wiley Dalton, Sabra Jackson Dalton, Ruth Dalton, and Jessie Brooks.

Missy is survived by her father, Larry James Brooks of Riner. Also, she is survived by Chris Salloway who was like a son to her. She will be sadly missed by her aunts, uncles,

cousins, friends, neighbors, and her special furry friends! Missy graduated from Auburn High School in 1994. Some of Missy's happiest times growing up were going fishing and camping with her mom and dad.

The family would like to thank Melissa Lucas and her family for their love and support during this

time. The family will receive friends on Saturday, July 29, 2023, from 3-5 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg.

Fisher, Jimmy

Jimmy Fisher, 71, of Radford, and most importantly...the life passed away peacefully at home on July 23. He was surrounded by his family who loved him and laughed with him right up until the end.



Jimmy is survived by his wife of 52 years, JoAnn; daughter, Shelly Fisher, of Radford and her children, Julius, Anabel, Patton, and Sophie, of Radford; daughter, Jamie Moffitt and son-in-law Ian Moffitt (known to Jimmy as "Ivan") of Hernando, Miss., and their children Hank and Ruthie; sister Patty Reynolds, of Wytchville; and two special fur babies, Nikki and Emmy.

Jimmy was a Navy Veteran, an avid hunter and fisherman,

and never missed the opportunity to tell a joke, many of them inappropriate, all of them hilarious. Everyone he encountered walked away from him smiling and laughing.

Per his request, Jimmy will be cremated and there will be no service. There will be a celebration of life held at a later date.

If anyone wishes to make a charitable donation in Jimmy's honor, please consider donating to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital by using this link, <https://raise.stjude.org/fundraiser/4814991>.

See Obituaries, page 6

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

New Hope Church of God, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal 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 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eu-

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Declare the Truth

Read Isaiah 43:1 through 45:25

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me" (Isaiah 43:10).

When the people of Israel persisted in looking to the gods of the nations that surrounded them, the Lord was provoked to address their unfaithfulness. He called Israel to make a thoughtful examination of exactly what the gods of other nations had to offer. He then contrasted these false gods with himself.

These gods of the nations, which were no gods at all, could not choose Israel. But

God, who is the only God, did make a choice. In His choosing, He had a purpose. He wanted Israel to know that He alone is God, to believe in His character, and to understand His love for His chosen.

Then He wanted one more thing. He wanted His people to acknowledge Him before all others and declare His glory. Instead of seeking false gods, Israel should have been declaring: "Only our God is God; no other is like Him."

Thought for Today: God wants our love for Him to be evident to all.

Quicklook: Isaiah 43:9-13

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

charist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook 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-gbyjmV5ce9mr43db-Cw>. 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

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

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.

Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church, 5007 Jewell Dr., Shawsville Va. Sunday morning service 11am. Pastor Tim Clyburn. 8 miles from Shawsville Rt 460, on Alleghany Spring Rd.

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. G. Lance Presley. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00am. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.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

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: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

Obituaries from page 1

Harris, Mary Virginia Webber

Mary Virginia Webber Harris, 81, of Radford, passed away on Saturday, July 22, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, James Leroy and Mary Ruth Huff Webber; her loving husband, Robert "Buckeye" Painter Harris; and her brother, Jimmy Webber.



Survivors include her son, Mark Harris; daughters and sons-in-law, Sandy Prisk Buettiker (Alex) and Karen Lea Savvides (Savva);

grandchildren, Katy and A. Duncan, Jessica Prisk, Matthew Prisk, George Savvides, Athena Savvides and Ares Savvides; sister, Kathy Caplan; sister-in-law, Yvonne Webber; and many other family members and friends.

Per her request, no services will held at this time.

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

McCormick, Christopher Scott

Christopher Scott McCormick, 54, of Radford, passed away on Monday, May 8, 2023.



Christopher served in the Army Reserves as an Army MP, Civilian Police Officer, and he specialized in Army Safety. He previously served as a dedicated police officer for the City of Radford, as well as Virginia Tech. Christopher was preceded in death by his father, Jim McCormick; grandparents, James and Gladys McCormick and Claude and Helen Matthews.

Survivors include his loving wife, Angel McCormick; son, Christopher Scott McCormick, II; his mother, Ann McCormick; brother and sister-

in-law, Bill and Denise McCormick; nieces, Haley, Mallory and Kendall McCormick; his wife's family; and numerous other family members and close friends.

A graveside service, open to the public, with full military honors was held Friday, July 28, 2023, at the Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery in Dublin with Tim Utt officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Red Cross, PO Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839.

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

Long, Jerome Rudisill

Jerome Rudisill Long, born on May 17, 1935 in Lafayette, La., passed away on July 26, 2023.



He recently celebrated his 33rd wedding anniversary with his beloved wife, Peggy Beeken Long. Jerome's life was filled with love, accomplishments, and a dedication to helping others.

Jerome's journey in academia led him to earn a Ph.D. in physics from LSU. For 42 years, he shared his wealth of knowledge and passion for physics as a dedicated professor at Virginia Tech. He was not only an exceptional teacher but also an advisor and an inspiration to countless students, leaving an everlasting impact on their lives and careers.

Beyond his academic pursuits, Jerome was an active member of his community. He served as the Scoutmaster for Blacksburg Troop 704, where he mentored young minds and instilled values of responsibility, integrity, and compassion. His guidance extended beyond their time in the troop, as he continued to support and encourage them in their future endeavors.

Jerome found solace and joy in the great outdoors. He cherished backpacking trips, exploring the beauty of nature, and nurturing his garden. Together with Peggy, he ventured to various destinations around the world, creating cherished memories and discovering the wonders of different cultures.

Music was another passion that brought Jerome immense happiness. He lent his beautiful voice to the church choir, filling the hearts of those who heard him sing with harmony and spiritual upliftment. Jerome's love for music was a testament to his vibrant spirit and his ability to touch lives with his voice.

Jerome was a voracious reader, always seeking new knowledge and perspectives. He loved engaging in lively conversations, particularly about his favorite subject, politics. His openness to different opinions and

his ability to engage in meaningful discussions made him a respected and valued voice among family and friends.

Above all, Jerome was a pillar of loyalty and selflessness. He treasured his family and was always there to offer unwavering support, guidance, and love. His devotion to his loved ones was immeasurable, and he created a home filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished memories.

Jerome Rudisill Long is survived by his wife Peggy of 33 years; sons, Christopher T. Long (wife Leslie) of Savannah, Ga., and Jeremy T. Long of West Hartford, Conn.; along with his granddaughter, Hollis A. Long of New York, N.Y.; and grandsons, Andrew C. Long of Statesboro, Ga., David C. Long of Savannah, Ga., Jacob E. Long of West Hartford, Conn.; stepsons, John E. Beeken of Cocoa Beach, Fla., Jeffrey T. Beeken (wife Wanda) of Pikeville, N.C., Jason B. Beeken (wife Melissa) of Rockledge, Fla.; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his faithful dog Maggie. His passing leaves a tremendous void in their lives, but his memory will forever be a source of strength and inspiration.

Jerome's wishes were to be cremated. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Jerome would appreciate donations to St. Paul's Methodist Church in Christiansburg or another charity in his memory.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to all those who have shown their support and love during this difficult time. Your kind words, gestures, and presence have provided comfort and strength to our family.

Though our hearts ache with grief, we find solace in knowing that Jerome is now at peace, surrounded by the wonders of the universe he loved so dearly. May he rest in eternal peace, forever remembered for the extraordinary person he was.

Forever loved and never forgotten.

Nunley, Linda Fay

Linda Fay Nunley, 75, passed away on Friday, July 21, 2023.



She was a 1967 graduate of Christiansburg High School and attended Piedmont Bible College in North Carolina. She was a tomboy growing up. She loved to climb trees and play in the woods. She was a cashier at Sears during her 20's in Winston-Salem. She could work on cars and drove an 18-wheeler later on in life. Linda moved back to Christiansburg and drove a school bus in Riner for Montgomery County Schools.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Howard and Ethel Shrader Nunley; and her brother, Bobby Ray Nunley.

She is survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law, Ronnie Nunley (Rita) and Johnny Nunley (Rena);

and niece, Brenda Kittinger and Michelle; best friend and cousin, Marsha Brady; and many other nieces, nephews, family members and special friends.

The family received friends Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Johnny Nunley officiating.

A graveside service was held Thursday, July 27, 2023, at Park Lawn Memorial Gardens, 2730 Peter's Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27127, with Pastor Johnny Nunley officiating.

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

Reed, Roy Walter

Roy Walter Reed, 74, of Christiansburg, passed away July 23, 2023, at the VA hospital in Salem.



He was born December 25, 1948, son of the late Marvin and Hazel Reed. Roy joined the US Army in 1968 where he served during the Vietnam War and earned a purple heart and numerous medals. Roy was a loving father, brother and papaw who enjoyed the simple things in life. He loved animals more than anything, especially his "four legged grand babies" Bandit, Peaches, and Coco. He enjoyed playing solitaire and working in his garden.

He was preceded in death by his father Marvin Reed; his mother, Hazel Reed; and his brother Milton Reed.

Roy is survived by his daughter,

Betina and husband, Steve McGuire; stepson, Tony (Joyce) Hopkins; one sister, Joyce Nunley; brother, Tommy Reed and special sister-in-law, Linda. Also close to his heart is his sister-in-law, Suesue Stamper; many nieces and nephews and dear to his heart were two, Kim Stewart and Rob Flowers; special grandchildren,

Rachel Reed, "adopted" Bayla Duncan, Christ (Dustin) Kayla and Chris (Alicia) McGuire; great-grandchildren, Carter, Daelyn, Delaney and Avery; special friend and military brother, Don Thompson, who they share many memories together including cutting their fingers as children to become "blood

See **Obituaries**, page 7

THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE VISCOE ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY

Find out about the study progress and potential safety improvements along Viscoe Road in Pulaski County. The meeting will be held at the Pulaski County Innovation Center in the New River Room located at 6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 305 in Fairlawn on August 16, 2023 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. In addition to the in-person meeting, public meeting materials can be found on the New River Valley's website at www.newrivervalleympo.org. It is also available for review at the offices of Pulaski County and the New River Valley MPO. Give your written comments at the meeting or submit them via USPS to the NRV MPO's office, located at 755 Roanoke St. Ste. 21, Christiansburg, VA 24073. You may also e-mail your comments to viscoestudy@rkk.com. Please reference "Viscoe Road Study" (Pulaski County) PH Comments in the subject line. Comments for this study will be received until 5:00 PM, August 24, 2023.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the Viscoe Road Study meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c). The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

NRCC to offer EMT program in fall semester

New River Community College will offer the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) career studies certificate program this fall.

The 16-credit program consists of five courses that can all be completed in one

semester. The EMT program is designed to lead to entry-level employment opportunities in the emergency medical services field. The program prepares students to assess and care for patients at the basic life support (BLS)

level. Students who successfully complete the required courses can sit for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians EMT certification exam.

Program courses include HLT 105 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), EMS 111 Emergency Medical Technician, EMS 120 Emergency Technician—Clinical, BIO 141 Human

Anatomy and Physiology I, and ENG 111 College Composition I.

The program is based on the Virginia EMS Education Standards (VEMSES) which are derived from the National EMS Education Standards (NEMSES). The EMT program is also approved by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services.

Classes begin August 23. For more information, including Virginia Department of Health eligibility requirements, visit www.nr.edu/ems/ or contact Sheila Hart in Admissions & Records at (540) 674-3600, ext. 4204 or shart@nr.edu.

Submitted by NRCC

game time AT THE SUPERBOWL

Fall Leagues Schedule 2023

Many Leagues Begin Middle of August

LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Monday Moose (Meeting August 14th)

Tuesday Open (Begins August 15th)

Up and At 'EM Senior League (Meeting Aug. 9th)

Call 540-382-5525 for information about all leagues

575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg

540-382-5525 • www.nrvsuperbowl.biz

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	A	M	P	S	P	E	T	P	A	R	D		
P	L	E	A	D	R	A	R	E	Y	U	A	N	
E	A	R	N	A	E	R	I	E	R	R	N	A	
D	E	E	G	O	R	D	O	N	S	O	A	K	S
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Pry emphasizes defense in year two

Marty Gordon
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Brent Pry came to Blacksburg after serving as the defensive coordinator at Penn State. Wednesday, he spoke at the ACC Media Kickoff and pointed to his second year at Virginia Tech with a heavy hand on the defensive side of the ball.

He told reporters there should be a lot of growth on that side of the ball.

“Defensively we lost a couple of leaders obviously with Chamarrri [Conner] and Dax [Hollifield], but I really like the speed and athleticism that returns on that side of the ball,” said Pry. “We got a fast group. Coach Marve has them racing to the football.”

The idea of defense

possibly being the strong point for the Hokies this season is no surprise, especially how the defensive-minded coach addresses the game plan.

Pry said the team has really honed in on fundamentals and techniques.

“We’ve got a good plan to create more explosives through personnel, through scheme, maximizing what we do well,” he said.

Pry was joined by defensive lineman Josh Fuga, tight end Nick Gallo and wide receiver Ali Jennings.

Fuga said Pry’s personality is contagious when you walk into the building.

“It’s nothing but good vibes,” said Fuga. “I’m



(From left) Virginia Tech wide receiver Ali Jennings speaks at the ACC Media Kickoff, as Head Coach Brent Pry and defensive lineman Josh Fuga look on.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

a family-oriented guy, and Coach Pry and the whole staff have done a phenomenal job since they got here of making that the vibe. That this is a family place.

“You can have hard conversations, and there’s nothing -- there’s no emotions to it. It’s a hard conversation. You have to be able to have a hard conversation, but then also, you

can also sit back and talk, whatever, about anything. You can laugh, joke with anybody in that building, and it means a lot. You don’t want to be uptight every day like, oh, man, I got to do this, I got to do that.”

Fuga (6-2, 313) is a redshirt senior from Woodbridge and will be leaned on heavy this season.

Last season, he played in 10 games, making five starts at defensive tackle, recording 12 tackles (one solo), 2.0 TFL (6 yards), 0.5 sacks (3 yards), two pass breakups and one quarterback hurry.

He, along with Mario Kendricks and Norell Pollard, will be the run stoppers in what should be a much-improved defense.

Meanwhile, the other side of the ball could depend on a lot of new faces. Wide receiver Ali Jennings has transferred from Old Dominion where he was a terror for opponents, including Virginia Tech.

He was an All-Sun Belt First Team, Phil Steele All-American Honorable Mention

See Defense, page 8

RU accuser ordered out in open

Marty Gordon
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U.S. District Judge Michael Urbanski has ordered a Radford University baseball player, who came forward accusing his former coach of mistreating players, to no longer stay in the weeds.

He must no longer be listed as “John Doe” in the lawsuit against former

Coach Karl Kuhn. Now, he must list his name in all court documents.

The court said it’s unfair to Kuhn, who resigned in the midst of player complaints. Urbanski called it an “inequality” in allowing the accuser to proceed pseudonymously while Kuhn is forced to defend himself publicly.

The former player said he sought to protect the privacy of his academic and medical records. In the suit, the student,

who is black, said Kuhn prohibited players from attending a racial justice rally, which was being held on campus. A second accusation said Kuhn grouped minority players together in an area of the locker room.

Kuhn has denied the allegations.

The court said it would take the request under advisement for the next days, during which the former player must amend the suit to include his real name.

The unknown player has said he was targeted by his former coach after

“leading” a group of players about their concerns over longtime verbal abuse.

Kuhn is the current pitching coach for the Charleston Southern Buccaneers, who are in the same conference as his former team, Radford.

In 2019, he was named the head baseball coach at Radford University. Three years later, he resigned in the midst of the investigation by the university’s human resources department. He was 47-64 at the school and was previously the pitching coach at the University of Virginia.

Obituaries from page 6

brothers.” Don taught Roy how to hunt and fish and he said that saved his life in Vietnam; and honorable mention of Champ Stone as well as special friends Pooh and Taz.

The family would like to give special thanks to the VA Medical Center for their outstanding care and compassion during this difficult time.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, July 27, 2023 in the

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Neal Turner officiating. Interment followed in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. The family received friends Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W., Blacksburg, VA. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for any donations to go to Franklin County Humane Society or Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers.

Wade, Helen Marie

Helen Marie Wade, 97, passed away Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 1 p.m. on Monday, July 31, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with the Rev. Dr. Paul Lane officiating. Interment will follow in Big Sands Cemetery in Indian Valley.

The family would like to give special thanks to Intrepid Hospice for the loving care they provided Helen.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like you to consider making a donation to Intrepid Hospice, 101 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141.

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

A funeral service will be held at



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ONLINE AUCTION
Ends Thursday, August 17th at 4 PM
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Looking for a great investment property in Wythe County VA? This property for sale features +/- 4.609 acres of industrial-zoned land off I81/I77 Exit 80. Property is cleared and level, making for a great building site for a business. The great road frontage makes for high visibility from the interstate. This is the perfect location for your newest investment! Whether it’s a restaurant, hotel, storefront, gas station, etc., don’t miss out on it! This commercial property for sale is being offered through an online auction.

Terms - 10% Buyer’s Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per required on day of sale (August 17th, 2023). Close on or before October 2nd, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on August 17th, 2023. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Chad Eversole at 540-808-7804 or email ceversolerealtor@gmail.com.

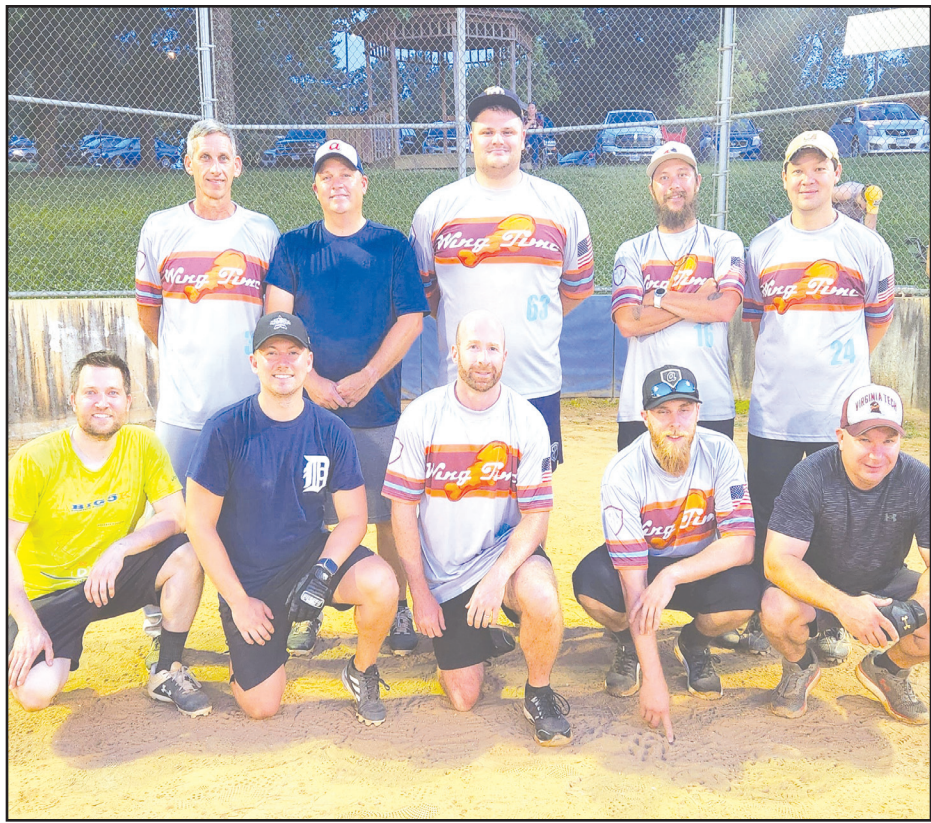
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Blacksburg Rec holds Men's softball tournament



Thai This is the Spring Tournament Champion for men's softball in the Blacksburg Recreation Department.



Wingtime finished in the runner up spot in the Spring Tournament Champion for men's softball in the Blacksburg Recreation Department, held July 24.

PHOTOS BY MARTY GORDON

RU, Tech mourn death of Sayer

Virginia Tech Athletics is deeply saddened to announce the passing of assistant men's tennis coach Martin Sayer. He was 36.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Sayer family and everyone impacted by the devastating loss of one of our own," director of athletics Whit Babcock expressed. "Martin was a beloved member of our athletics family whose passion for tennis and unwavering

commitment to our student-athletes were undeniable. His legacy will live on through the countless lives he impacted, both at Virginia Tech and Radford."

Sayer joined the men's tennis program as an assistant coach ahead of the 2016 spring season and served in that role for eight seasons. While with the team, Sayer played a pivotal role in three NCAA Tournament appearances: 2016,

2018 and 2021. Sayer assisted the oversight of Joao Monteiro's run to the NCAA Singles Final Four in 2016, which is the furthest a Hokie has progressed in the singles tournament. Mitch Harper, Jason Kros and Ryan Fishback later joined Monteiro as student-athletes that qualified in singles for the NCAA Tournament. Five doubles pairs qualified for the NCAA Tournament during Sayer's tenure at Tech,

as well. Prior to being named assistant coach for the Hokies in January of 2016, Sayer spent two seasons as head coach of Radford women's tennis – beginning in August of 2013. Ahead of his time with the Highlanders, he served as an assistant for both the Virginia Tech women's tennis team and the Radford men's tennis team.

Sayer was part of the Highlanders' staff when they claimed the 2010 Big South regular-season title and 2011 Big South tournament title. He was an integral part of Ivan Salec's development as a player en route to the NCAA Singles Tournament in 2010 and 2011.

As a player at Radford, Sayer was and will remain a standard for excellence. The program's all-time leader in wins (114), he was a four-time Big South Player of the Year and



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

made four appearances in the NCAA Singles Tournament – twice advancing to the Round of 32. Paired with Zack Watson, Sayer was part of the first RU duo to earn an at-large appearance in the NCAA Doubles Championship in 2009. On the international stage, Sayer was a member of Hong Kong's Davis Cup team and

was part of one of its most successful doubles pairs with Brian Hung, posting a 4-1 record. Sayer first represented Hong Kong in the 2005 Davis Cup. Sayer was married to the former Ashley Glass and the couple have one son, Roger.

Virginia Tech Athletics

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Wednesday, August 23rd at 4 PM
Multi-Use Barn for Sale at Auction in Pulaski County!
4241 Lee Highway, Dublin, VA 24301

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



We present a remarkable opportunity for investors, entrepreneurs, and nature enthusiasts alike! This multi-use barn style structure sits on 10 acres of pristine land in Pulaski County.

This extraordinary property, built in 1960 and in good condition, offers endless possibilities and holds immense potential for various purposes. The barn would be perfect for conversion into an auditorium, event center, barndominium residence, or even a mini farm. The main structure has 7,824 square feet with gathering areas and an office. The exterior is brick and metal roof. Property has public water and private septic. Mini-split units for heating and cooling. The interior is wood and concrete. There is also a machine shed and a brick building with a kitchen and restroom.

The barn, with its rustic charm and sturdy construction, invites creative minds to explore the vast potential within. With ample space and a versatile layout, you can customize this structure to suit your specific needs. Transform it into an auditorium or event center, hosting memorable gatherings and celebrations. Alternatively, convert it into a cozy barndominium residence, embracing the unique blend of rural aesthetics and modern comfort. For those seeking a slice of country living, this property is ideal for establishing a mini-farm or a family retreat, surrounded by nature's beauty.

Sprawling across 10 acres of picturesque landscape, while being situated in a highly desirable area. This property offers great potential for commercial use, benefiting from a strategic and accessible location. Whether you're envisioning a commercial establishment or a tranquil family retreat, this property is suitable for a range of ventures. The property is currently under agriculture zoning. Bidders are expected to research and verify what uses are permitted by Pulaski County.

Investors will appreciate the commercial prospects that this property holds, thanks to its prime location. With high visibility and easy access, you can tap into the growing demand for commercial spaces in Pulaski County, making it an excellent opportunity for various business ventures.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before October 9th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

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Defense from page 7

and led the team with 54 receptions for 959 yards and nine touchdowns, third in the country with 106.6 yards per game and led the Sun Belt with nine touchdowns including five, 100-yard receiving games.

"As most of you know, I've been a few places, but this environment here, it's the most tight-knit, family-oriented place I've been," said Jennings. "You see guys coming in every day, staying long hours even after the

mandatory meetings and workouts are done, doing whatever they can to help better each other, better themselves, and the team."

Tight end Nick Gallo has seen both the good and the bad in Blacksburg but is optimistic about the changes.

"I think we were definitely pretty disappointed with how we played last year, and I think kind of the first thing that we addressed was all the mistakes we were kind of making, putting ourselves in bad situations," said Gallo. "So, one of the fundamentals we talk about is details. Offensively we've been really dialed in on the details all offseason."

Gallo thinks with the experienced guys coming back, settling into the second year of Coach Bowen's offense, it's all going to pay off.

The ballots were handed out on where each team would finish this season, but the results have not been published as of yet. Right now, onlookers think the Hokies could finish in the lower part of the pack with at least six wins, meaning the Hokies could be back in the bowl swing of things.

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