



News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, July 15, 2023

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\$1.00

Detour planned for I-81 north at Exit 118 July 16-18

Drivers should expect detouring to Route 11, day and night

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Residency Administrator for Montgomery County David Clarke shared important information with the supervisors during their meeting on July 10 concerning the Interstate 81-project in the Salem area of Roanoke County at exit 137.

Drivers should be aware that bridge work off this exit will require the closure of a lane of I-81 north for a few days.

"We are going to do a lot of signing for detours," Clarke said. "It's going to be like a suggested detour. The problem is, we're going to try to get as many people off 128 and maybe 118, and maybe use route 11 as possible. You can't really put them back on at Dixie Caverns, that's 132."

The closure is proposed to start Sunday, July 16 through Tuesday, July 18, with workers on the job day and night.

Clarke also updated the supervisors on road maintenance in Montgomery County. According to Clarke, work completed fully expended the budget for the previous fiscal year and included the machining of roads, with patching along the roads of: Meadows Creek, George's Run, Alleghany Springs, Mount Pleasant, and Pilot Road. Ditch work was also conducted along Old Rough Road, Catawba, and Little Camp roads and on Chestnut Ridge.

Brush-cutting and work along 615 and along Huffville Road is additionally part of the work VDOT has or will be completing.

"We did a project down on Mossy Springs Road out to Catawba Road that was a sight distance problem, took a large bank off the side. That was with some safety funds, and we had to do a little bit of patchwork on that, so there's also some shoulder work there on Catawba Road," Clarke said.

The transportation department also plans to complete the six-year plan project this summer, which includes

an unpaved section of Craig Mountain Road.

Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski shared citizen complaints concerning brush on the roads of Willis Hollow and Mount Pleasant.

"I was on my way to the Blacksburg parade for Fourth of July and I went down Den Hill. I guess it's been a while since I've been down there. That is scary, how much that has grown into the road," Fijalkowski said.

The other citizen complaint stated by Fijalkowski is some patching work along Alleghany Springs Road.

"Right at the south end of Strawberry Circle," Fijalkowski said.

Board of Supervisors' Chair, Sherri Blevins reminded citizens of the expansion of the Slow Down, Move Over law, which took effect on July 1.

"Currently, that's any for red, white, blue, or amber flashing lights, we slow down and move over," Blevins said. "But, as of July 1, that will also include any disabled vehicles with amber flashing emergency lights or flare set up

as well, we will need to slow down and move over."

In items of consent, the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County unanimously appointed Deanna Cox to the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board effective July 1, 2023, and expiring June 30, 2027 and Kelly Edmonson to the New River Valley Community Services Board effective July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2026.

Additionally, supervisors approved the employment contract between Montgomery County and Angela M. Hill, appointing Hill as the new County Administrator, effective November 1, 2023.

As another item of discussion in new business, a total FY 24 budget increase of \$427,000 was approved in a 7-0 vote by the supervisors, apart from an amount of \$138,728 that was amended for EMS one-time costs. This particular line item will be discussed again at a later date after more information is obtained for the supervisors' clarification.

Christiansburg Town Council approves placing SROs back in town schools

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Christiansburg Town Council has agreed to fund SROs for town schools after a back-and-forth standoff with Montgomery County Board of Supervisors.

The Town Council had previously requested the Board of Supervisors cover the costs of the school resource officers but were not met with approval. On January 10, 2023, according to the town's agenda during the Tuesday, July 11 meeting, the council members stated that they would

resign the officers from the school system and put them on patrol, effective July 1, 2023.

The Board of Supervisors did not meet with Council to discuss paying an additional \$203,000, the cost of supporting three officers that the council members had asked for. However, the Supervisors did budget for three school resource officers to be provided for the county schools in Christiansburg.

"There's no animosity or hard feelings amongst this Council to any of those board members," Mayor Mike Barber said during the meeting. "It's

a matter of fact that we're willing to pay for the safety of our children and they're not."

A Cooperative Agreement for School Resource Officers was also approved in a 6-0 vote by Council which states the purpose of inclusive and mutual work between Chief of Christiansburg Police Mark Sisson and Montgomery County's Sheriff Hank Partin and their departments. This cooperation of police departments will allow for a resource officer to be placed in each of the six Christiansburg schools.

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IMAGE COURTESY WAGGAMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Visitors learn about life on an 18th-century farm at the reconstructed Mary Draper Ingles cabin, located at the historic Ingles Farm in Radford.

Mary Draper Ingles Festival celebrates colonial heroine in weekend of events

RADFORD —Colonial interpreters, dancers, musicians and a wide range of performers and history experts will highlight this year's Mary Draper Ingles Festival July 28-30 in Radford and Pulaski County.

The festival shares the story of the capture, escape and return journey of one of Virginia's most famous colonial heroines and allows visitors to tour her family's farm, tavern and ferry her family operated for over a century.

More than 75 activities are planned during the weekend, including old-time crafts and skills, art exhibits and many children's activities, including a petting zoo as well as inflatables provided by Radford University Athletics. The historic Ingles Farm, which showcases a replica of Mary's cabin, will be open for tours and

talks by interpreters. Long Way Brewing, a craft beer company whose name is a take on the frontierswoman's journey, will also feature live music, food trucks, a children's play zone and a living history performance by West Virginia actress Karen Vuranch. Visitors also can make reservations to float the New River with the region's newest outfitter—Radford On The River.

Headlining Saturday's literary activities will be award-winning Southern writer Sharyn McCrumb, best known for her Appalachian "Ballad" novels, including the New York Times best seller, "She Walks These Hills," and Eve Waters, storyteller and musician who will discuss Irish culture as well as tell stories of

See Festival, page 4



Local businesses and individuals are recognized for volunteering their time and financial support to the Back2School Haircut event.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity hosts second annual Back2School Haircut event

The Alpha Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated is back for their second year in giving the children of the New River Valley a new look, and hopefully a bit more confidence on their first day back to school this fall.

The purpose of the program is to provide haircuts to the youth in the local elementary, middle, and high schools that are underserved in their local communities.

"This event is in its second year with the plan to do it annually. Christiansburg Institute

is one of the sponsors along with several local businesses participating," Dr. Treymane Waller said, who serves as the Fundraising Chair and a member for the fraternity's local chapter, Alpha Kappa Lambda.

Local barbers and stylists will be available for the two-day event to provide haircut and style services to both boys and girls who are preparing for their new school year. Like last year's event, food will also be provided with hotdogs, chips, and drinks. This year, O'Charleys will also support the event with chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, and other tasty

treats for the participants.

Waller said many businesses are donating prizes, such as the NRV Superbowl who has donated laser tag and free bowling gift certificates.

Other companies have donated to the barbers, who will be volunteering their time to help local children start their year off feeling confident and ready with a fresh new look.

"Last year, we had over 130 participants," Waller said. "Our goal for this year is also reaching out to colleges in the area, such as Radford University and

See Haircut, page 4

THE ALPHA KAPPA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

BACK2SCHOOL

FOR BOYS & GIRLS! HAIRCUTS FREE FOOD DRINKS

August 6th & 7th 2023

225 Depot St. Christiansburg, Virginia

9 AM to 5 PM

Stop-by for a FREE Haircut, Hot Dog, Chips & A Drink!

This event is for underserved populations in the Montgomery County area.

SPONSORS

CutNice (540) 633-6423 1137 E. Main Street, Radford, VA	Harvey's Barbershop (540) 449-7212 1999 South Main Suite 306, Blacksburg, VA
In Style Salon 302 West Main St Christiansburg, VA	First Baptist Church (540) 552-6393 309 Clay St., Blacksburg, VA
Upscale Barber-Salon (540) 808-7745 810 University City Blvd Suite-E, Blacksburg, VA	Dayna Chinnery (540) 739-3137 1410 North Main Street, Blacksburg, VA

Alpha Kappa Lambda's Tax ID will be provided upon request

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALPHA KAPPA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 15:

Rotary Club blood screening

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg and LewisGale Hospital Montgomery biannual blood screening; 6:30 -10 a.m. in the hospital's lobby. The fasting blood test screens over 25 different markers including cholesterol and red blood indices at a significantly reduced cost. New this year, the test will include Hemoglobin A1C. Cost is \$50. Results are sent to participants and their physician of choice. A portion of the proceeds is used to fund a service project in the community.

Pre-register for the blood screening at <https://www.rotary7570.org/blood> or call 540-951-8988. Walk-in registration is available the day of the blood screening.

Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – noon. Goats and rabbits and mini-pigs, oh my! Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo will be setting up outside in the children's garden with all their cute animal friends, and we can't wait to see what special animals join us!

Summer Time Bingo

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Come out for an afternoon of summer-time fun. For all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tuesday, July 18:

Stream Exploration with New River Land Trust

Meet at the Radford Public Library; 6 p.m. The New River Land Trust is coming for a stream exploration! Learn about the interconnectness of nature while getting your feet wet (literally.) Rain or shine, we're heading out to the stream in Wildwood Park! We will start at the library and head over as a group. Caregivers, please plan on joining your children.

Wednesday, July 19:

Mingle at the Market

Join the Blacksburg Farmer's Market for Mingle at the Market, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Market Square Park. This event will feature live music, locally brewed beverages, local food and more.

Thursday, July 20:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

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

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. All of the talks start at 7:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine unless there are thunderstorms. July 20: Salamanders (Frank Taylor, Nature at Your Door)

Monday, July 24:

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, July 25:

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.

On-going:

Registration open for Race for ACCE

The Race for ACCE is set for Saturday, August 5, at 9 a.m. at the Blacksburg High Cross Country Track. It will begin with a Children's Fun Run, followed by regular 5K Run/Walk. Participants can run, walk or just hang out. Door prizes and sponsorships are needed by July 15. Contact Martha Ann Stallings at mstallin@vt.edu. To have a t-shirt for the race day, please register by July 15.

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? It's time to venture out from the cupboard under the stairs, get your wizard robes ready, and join us for this annual family-fun event on Saturday, August 26th at 8:30 a.m. Register at www.lvnrv.org. Also, if you know a local business or individual who would like to be a sponsor, please send them our way! From door prizes to sponsorships, we rely on our supporters to make this a truly impactful and entertaining event.

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, July 27th at 3 PM
Commercial Property for Sale in Christiansburg VA!
Radford Rd (Route 11), Christiansburg, VA 24073

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Check out these 3 remarkable commercial investment opportunities in the heart of Christiansburg, Virginia! We present these 3 parcels that are zoned B3, and are located along Route 11. With frontage on both Radford Rd (Route 11) and Silver Lake Rd, these properties have excellent accessibility and offer an ideal canvas for small business development. The B3 Zoning provides investors with countless development avenues. Whether you aspire to open a convenience store, establish a thriving bank branch, launch a vibrant retail store, or establish a dynamic office space, the possibilities are endless. These parcels are connected to the town water and sewer systems. Properties have an undeveloped road along the backside. Do not miss your opportunity to own and develop this commercial property in the heart of Christiansburg VA.

Property is offered in 3 Tracts described below. Download Bidder Pack for Online Bidder's Agreement, Maps, Sample Contracts, and Property Information at VAAuctionPro.com

Offering #1: +/- .93 Acres
This parcel is wooded and has 126' of road frontage on Radford Rd and 126' of road frontage on the undeveloped street.

Offering #2: +/- 1.10 Acres
This parcel is wooded and has 165' of road frontage on Radford Rd and 134' of road frontage on the undeveloped street. This parcel also has 2 buildings on the property.

Offering #3: +/- 1.00 Acres
This parcel is wooded and has 175' of road frontage on Radford Rd, 336' of road frontage on Silver Lake Rd, and 99' of road frontage on the undeveloped street.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$20,000 per tract required on day of sale. Close on or before September 11th, 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. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple tracts, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on both offerings. 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. 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

102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
VAAuctionPro.com
Lic# 2907004059



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

www.montcova.com

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Wednesday, July 19th at 4 PM
Townhouse for Sale at Auction in Christiansburg VA
1043 Elk Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Check out this charming townhome in Christiansburg VA. This immaculate townhome features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths on 2 levels. The main level boasts a spacious living room with gas logs, which create a cozy ambiance during the cooler months. The kitchen is equipped with a range, microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher, and disposal, making meal preparation and cleanup a breeze. Main level also features ceiling fans and recessed lighting. The kitchen and baths have durable linoleum flooring. Home also has front load washer and dryer that convey. Storage should never be an issue with the easily accessible attic! Home is equipped with central air conditioning allowing for year-round comfort.

In addition to the interior amenities, the townhome provides a 9x12 patio providing a private outdoor space for relaxation and entertaining guests. There is an attached 1 car garage, which also gives you ample space for storage.

The home is well-appointed and offers comfortable living in a convenient location. It's within a few miles of all the restaurants, shopping centers, and family attractions that Christiansburg VA has to offer. Also located less than 10 miles from Virginia Tech. Don't miss out on your opportunity to make this townhouse your own!

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final high bid to arrive at the contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 is required by 5 pm on July 20th, 2023. Close on or before September 4th, 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. If confirmed Buyer will be expected to sign a Real Estate Purchase Agreement. 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 Don Barker at 540-392-4918 or email barkerdon@rocketmail.com

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Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

Blacksburg students honored at annual SkillsUSA Workforce Development event

A team from Blacksburg High School was among the career and technical students in Virginia who were recognized for excellence at the 2023 SkillsUSA Championships, held in Atlanta, on June 21-22.

More than 6,000 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.79 million square feet, equivalent to 31 football fields or 41 acres.

Skill Point Certificates were awarded to all national contestants who met a threshold contest score. The Skill Point Certificate represents workplace readiness in the occupational specialty

and students can add the certificate to their employment portfolio as an indicator of proficiency.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills in 110 hands-on competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. Industry leaders from 650 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at over \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material. More

than 1,200 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year. All SkillsUSA Championships competitors were honored in June at the SkillsUSA Awards Session at State Farm Arena.

Team H (consisting of Ramsey Wondersek, Thomas Jackson), from Blacksburg High School (Blacksburg), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Commercial sUAS Drone.

“More than 6,000 students from every state in the nation participated in the 2023 SkillsUSA Championships,” said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. “This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest. Our students,

instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels. This program expands learning and career opportunities for our members.”

The SkillsUSA Championships event is held annually for students in middle school, high school or college/postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. The national, nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry is a verified talent pipeline for America’s skilled workforce that is working to help solve the skills gap.

- News Messenger staff report

Festival

from page 1

the Shawnee nation, one of the indigenous tribes that periodically inhabited southwest Virginia.

Born in 1732 to Irish immigrants in Philadelphia, Ingles became part of the great westward migration of Europeans who pressed on through Virginia in search of a better future, eventually settling in the New River Valley. In July 1755 a group of Shawnees staged an attack on the settlement abducting Mary, her two children and sister-in-law. What followed was a month-long march

over hundreds of miles through the Ohio and Kentucky regions until Mary escaped.

The story of Mary’s undeniable determination has been the subject of numerous books, including “Follow the River,” a “New York Times” bestseller, and several outdoor dramas and movies.

Friday evening kicks off with art shows at Glencoe Mansion and the Radford University Museum on Tyler. Long Way Brewing will begin its celebration with the reintroduction of a craft beer named in honor of Mary.

Saturday’s activities will run most of the day at Glencoe, Long Way and the Ingles Farm.

On Sunday, the festival continues at Wilderness Road Regional Museum in Dublin and features interpreters, live music and tours of the historic Ingles Tavern located on the banks of the New River in Pulaski County.

For an event schedule, go to www.glencoemansion.org or phone (540) 731-5031. Restaurant and lodging lists available at www.visitradford.com. The festival is funded in part by grants from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Submitted by Glencoe Museum

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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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Haircut

from page 1

Virginia Tech. The WARE lab from Virginia Tech University will be bringing vehicles and will be there for one day,” Waller said.

According to the VT Engineering’s website at www.eng.vt.edu, the WARE Lab is a designated space for undergraduate engineers to work together, within multiple disciplines, in the building and design of projects. Some of the previous and current projects in the WARE Lab are a concrete canoe, a hybrid electric vehicle, an autonomous sailboat, and an electric racing motorcycle, just to

name a few.

“Our goal is to put a smile on their face” Waller said, “and to build an Alpha Academy; teach some soft skills that parents can select to maybe come back to in the future.”

In addition to haircuts, Waller hopes to see the event expand into other areas of need that children may have. When he asked the parents and their children what other things they might like to see added to the program, they responded that some new shoes would be nice to have.

“My grandmother

helped to raise me, and she said, ‘it is always good to have clean shoes and a haircut’ and she was right, it did have an impact on how I felt,” Waller said.

Community members that wish to help with the growth of this annual event or providing support to underserved students in the area, please reach out to Dr. Treymane Waller, or other fraternity members, through their email at alpha.akl@gmail.com or their Facebook page.

Alpha Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. has

been serving the Roanoke and New River Valley regions for over 95 years. Their work has focused on seeing a brighter future for children through supporting education, good citizenship, and personal empowerment for our leaders of tomorrow.

There is no registration necessary for this event. Interested participants should come to 225 Depot Street, Christiansburg at the St. Paul’s Lodge, which is located on the right across from the Rosa Peters Park. The event will be held on August 6 and 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Council

from page 1

“There is value in that part, where our students will be protected in every school that they go to,” Council Member Henry Showalter said.

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, the Street Committee addressed two requests for road closures. One concerns Water Street with a request for a two-week closure and the other is Church Street at North Franklin for a period of about two months.

“It’s just closing the entrances to those trees or where those connect to North Franklin for Water Street and North Franklin

for Church Street,” said Council Member Tanya Hockett. “The reason is because Atmos Energy is repairing or replacing some gas line in that area and in order to do that they need to stage their equipment.”

Hockett said the closures are for staging rather large equipment, and once that equipment is staged, the roads can be reopened.

Town Manager Randy Wingfield said the closure for Church Street would be this coming week with the Water Street closure coming later.

Council voted in approval

of the two street closures with the understanding that citizens will be notified of detours in place.

Christiansburg Town Council also certified the appointment of the Fire Department Officers for 2023 per election results. A complete list of the officers can be found on the town council’s agenda at www.christiansburg.org.

Street closures on East Main Street, from Franklin to Pepper Street, were announced by council for August 19, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the annual Heritage Day Festival event. The hours of the festival will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Owns
 - Beef intestine
 - Expression of contempt
 - Expression of horror
 - Famed architecture couple
 - Escape
 - “The Raven” author
 - Chiefs’ tight end
 - Removes
 - Pesto dish
 - One who roots against
 - Type of writer
 - Old woman
 - Early multimedia
 - This (Spanish)
 - Part of a play
 - Elephant’s name
 - Home of the Flyers
 - Builder’s trough
 - Tell
 - Google certification
 - Electric current
 - Belonging to them
 - Nostrils
 - Arranges
 - Commercial
 - Skywalker’s mentor
 - Single-reed instrument
 - Voodoo
 - World of Warcraft character
 - Paddling
 - Most agreeable
 - Chafed
 - A way to analyze
 - Remove
 - Metal-bearing mineral
 - Remains as is
 - Large predatory seabirds
 - The Science Guy
- CLUES DOWN**
- Central Chinese province
 - The marketplace in ancient Greece
 - Covered the sword
 - Cleanser
 - Body parts
 - Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - Mega-electronvolt
 - One from Asia
 - A superior grade of black tea
 - Thin
 - Circles of light around the head
 - General’s assistant (abbr.)
 - Tiny
 - Evildoing
 - Connery, 007
 - British sword
 - Type of cyst
 - Musical composition
 - Advises
 - Herring-like fish
 - Chocolate powder
 - Somalian district
 - Indicates direction
 - Refurbishes
 - Exclamation of surprise
 - Football field
 - Hilly region in India near China
 - Come to an end
 - Most mad
 - Sheets of glass
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - Stares lecherously
 - Consisting of a single element or component
 - Monetary unit of Zambia
 - Bones (Latin)
 - Frames-per-second
 - Tell on
 - Gall
 - Cologne

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

CHS grad, VT pitcher drafted by N.Y. Mets

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Former Christiansburg High School ace Brady Kirtner heard his name called late Tuesday in the Major League Baseball draft, when he got a call from the New York Mets.

Kirtner earned three varsity letters playing for coach Dale Nelson at Christiansburg. As a junior in 2019, posted an 8-1 record with a 1.56 ERA and 91 strikeouts in 58 innings and added a 1.08 WHIP and opponents batted just .152 against him. He attended the WWBA Perfect Game showcase in Jupiter, Florida in fall 2019.

Kirtner, who was a redshirt sophomore this past season at Tech, made 18 relief appearances ... Recorded a 7.31 ERA across 16 innings. He earned his first Virginia Tech win against Marshall (April 5) after striking out one batter and not allowing any hits and only allowed two hits across 2.2 innings and struck out a career-high four batters against James Madison (April 27).

Leading the Virginia Tech baseball team's 2023 MLB Draft class at Lumen Field in Seattle on Sunday night, sophomore right-hand pitcher Drue Hackenberg was proudly taken during the second round at No. 59 overall by the Atlanta Braves, becoming the program's ninth highest all-time draft pick (eighth highest by name).

Entering as the No. 200 prospect (according to mlb.com), Hackenberg witnessed the second largest improvement in draft position among the opening 70 selections, bettering his forecast by approximately five rounds.

At No. 59 overall, Hackenberg's selection was paired with a pick value of approximately \$1.37 million, to which Atlanta has the ninth lowest bonus pool (\$8.34 million) among the league's 30 clubs in this year's draft. The Braves scooped up the 2022 All-American hurler with their second of three picks (all pitchers) during the first and second rounds, sandwiching him between Florida's Hurston Waldrep (No. 24 overall) and Campbell's Cade Kuehler (No. 70).

Considering head coach John Szefer's six seasons at Virginia Tech, Hackenberg became the Hokies' fourth player since 2020 to earn selection inside the top 75 picks of the draft, joining outfielder Gavin Cross (No. 9 overall, 2022), pitcher Ian Seymour (No. 57 overall, 2020) and shortstop Tanner Schobel (No. 68 overall, 2022). He is also the fifth player from Tech's 2022 NCAA Blacksburg Super Regional team to be chosen during the draft's opening five rounds.

Hackenberg took the ACC by storm during the 2022 season, toeing

a 10-2 record and a 3.30 ERA while making 17 appearances (16 starts). Behind his All-American honors, he was a consensus Freshman All-American, placed onto the All-ACC First Team and received ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Division I Atlantic All-Region Team praise.

Despite pitching to more contact as a sophomore, Hackenberg managed to post the highest single-season strikeout count (99) by a Virginia Tech pitcher since 2010 (Justin Wright). Spanning his two seasons in Blacksburg, the right-hander recorded 186 career strikeouts across 178 innings pitched, laying claim to 15 victories, 14 quality starts and one complete game win.

Like each of his three older brothers, Hackenberg is the fourth son to parents Erick and Nicole who has been drafted professionally in his respective sport. His oldest brother, Christian, was selected during the second round of the 2016 NFL Draft by the New York Jets (No. 51 overall), Brandon was selected during the first round of the 2021 MLS Draft by Orlando City SC (No. 22 overall) and Adam was selected during the 18th round of the 2021 MLB Draft by the Chicago White Sox.

Several other Hokies are also headed to the next level.

Observing their names come off the board during Monday's second day of the 2023 MLB Draft, Virginia Tech junior outfielder Jack Hurley and junior pitcher Christian Worley earned selection during the third and ninth rounds, respectively, affirming another robust draft class by the baseball program.

Considered one of the draft's best steals, Hurley – the No. 36 prospect according to mlb.com – was chosen at No. 80 overall by the Arizona Diamondbacks, who selected a player from the Hokies for the first time during their franchise history. The 2022 All-American ranks as the third highest outfielder to have been drafted from Virginia Tech all-time, trailing his former teammate, Gavin Cross (No. 9 overall, 2022), as well as Milwaukee call-up Kevin Barker (No. 73 overall, 1996). Worley was selected at No. 275 overall by the St. Louis Cardinals, who during recent years have gone to the Blacksburg well to draft Tech pitchers in 2018 (Connor Coward) and 2021 (Chris Gerard). The Hokies' right-hand reliever was the fifth pitcher to have been taken this year from Tech's 2022 NCAA Blacksburg Super Regional team in a row between the sixth and ninth rounds.

Together with right-hand pitcher Drue Hackenberg – who was chosen at No. 59 overall during Sunday's second

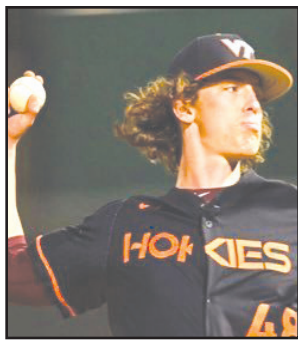


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS
Former Christiansburg High School ace Brady Kirtner has been chosen in the Major League Baseball draft.

round – Virginia Tech has now produced three or more draft picks annually since 2019 with the exception of the shortened 2020 MLB Draft. The Hokies' streak of generating multiple draft picks has also been extended to 17 consecutive seasons dating back to 2008.

Under the leadership of head coach John Szefer, Tech has observed 11 of its 19 prospects earn selection within the draft's opening 10 rounds, including eight picks who have placed inside the top five rounds. Considering Hackenberg and Hurley, the Hokies have now celebrated five top-100 selections under Szefer, accounting for more than a third of the program's all-time honor roll (by name).

A two-time All-ACC First Team and two-time ABCA/Rawlings Atlantic All-Region outfielder, Hurley batted .321, slugged .603 and recorded a 1.014 OPS during his 154 career collegiate appearances while mashing 48 doubles, three triples and 37 home runs. As a sophomore in 2022, he ranked fifth among ACC hitters in batting average (.375), having opened the season with a 26-game hitting streak – the longest by a Tech player during the program's ACC era.

Coming off a tour with the 2022 USA Baseball Collegiate National Team, Hurley returned to the Hokies in 2023 to swing 17 home runs and lead the ACC in conference-only slugging percentage (.743). Through his three seasons in Blacksburg, he scored 145 runs and totaled 129 RBIs, sporting a .411 career on-base percentage.

Worley showed rising potential during his Virginia Tech career, despite being limited by opportunity and injury to 36 and two-thirds career innings across three seasons. During the 2022 campaign, he made eight of his 14 appearances after April 27, beginning the aforementioned stretch with 14 and one-third consecutive scoreless innings.

This spring, Worley had been 2-0 with a 2.70 ERA and 15 strikeouts (two walks) during his first five appearances that spanned 10 innings of relief. However, he missed the remainder of the 2023 season due to injury following his March 17 outing at Miami.

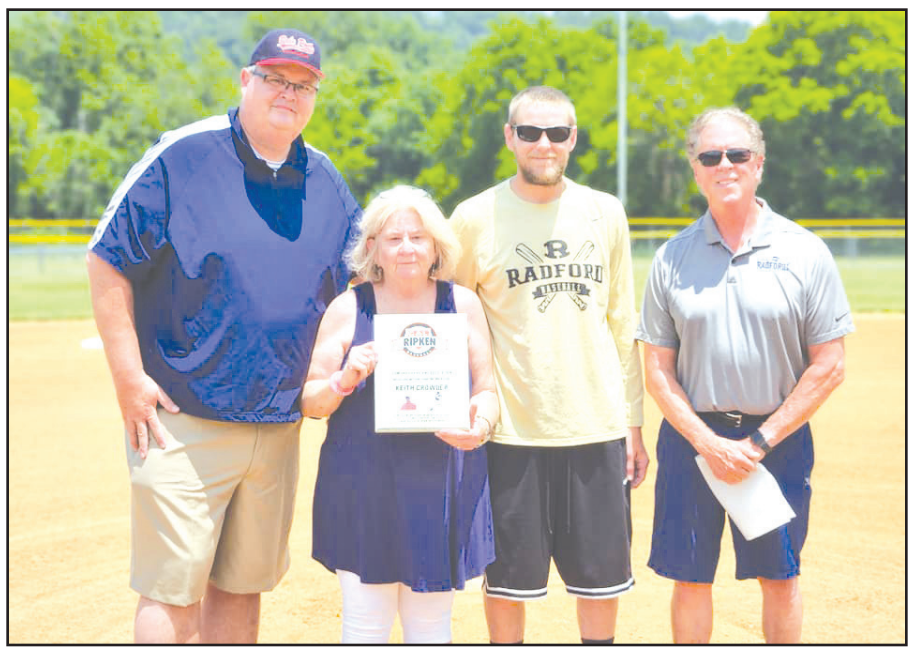


PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

Crowder honored at District 10 tourney

Keith Crowder was a longtime employee of the Radford Recreation Department, who passed away in December. He was remembered during opening ceremonies of last week's District 10 Cal Ripken baseball tournament in Radford. Pictured are: (from left) District 10 Commissioner Chris Frazier, Crowder's wife, Judy, his son, Curtis and Radford Recreation Director Greg Holbrook. Curtis threw out the ceremonial pitch to start the tournament.

Great Oaks hosts latest Junior Golf Tour in Floyd

Great Oaks Country Club in Floyd hosted the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour on Monday in the 25th season of the popular junior tour. Under beautiful sunny skies and perfect course conditions, 68 young players tested their skills on the challenging course.

Here is a recap of the results:
17-18 Age Group Par 72 6437 Yards

Local Floyd County High School product McKenzie Weddle won in a play-off over Walker Gillespie of Pearisburg. The Radford University signee made six birdies enroute to her score of one over par 73. She made par on the first playoff hole to capture the victory. Gillespie's scorecard showed four birdies including three on par 5s. Blake Hogan of Forest finished third with a score of 75 followed by Ryne Bond of Floyd at 77.

15-16 Age Group Par 72 6173 Yards

Peyton Mason of Willis shot 73 and won the age group. Mason made 13 pars along with two birdies to post the score of one over par. Rocky Frye of Bramwell, WV shot 75 and finished second. Isaiah Cantrell also of Floyd shot 76 and finished third.

13-14 Age Group Par 72 4998 Yards

Only two strokes separated the top

four players in the age group as Mike Bateman of Salem shot 80 and took home the winning prize. Bateman made two birdies allowing him to edge Mikey Gonzalez of Radford and Evan Singleton of Pulaski by a single shot. Tyler Stover of Beckley, WV finished fourth with a score of 82.

10-12 Age Group Par 36 2326 Yards

Only 2 four strokes separated the top five players in the age group. Marco Beato of Blacksburg made a birdie on the par 3 eighth hole to gain a one shot victory over Gavyn Horn, also of Blacksburg. JJ Robertson of Blacksburg and Liam Smith of Elliston tied for third with scores of 41. Adrian Wallace of Floyd was fifth with a score of 43.

9 and Under Age Group Par 36 1752 Yards

Coulton Caudill of Wytheville shot 43 to win the age group. Michael Brown of Blacksburg and Silas Edmonds of Wytheville shared the second place spot with scores of 47. Tillman Evans of Radford posted a score of 49 and finished fourth.

The Tour wraps up next week with the two-day Tour Championship at Pipestem Resort State Park on Tuesday-Wednesday July 18-19.

Blue Ridge Golf



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS

Gandee lands hole-in-one

Auburn Hills Golf Club pro Jeff Gandee scored his first hole-in-one on his home course this past week on Hole #7.

News Messenger staff report

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E&H takes next step for athletics

Hundreds of Emory & Henry College students and thousands of middle and high school students will soon be playing sports including lacrosse, track and field and soccer at the new MultiSport Complex at exit 26 just off the I-81 Emory & Henry Education Corridor.

Emory & Henry spans facilities from Marion to Bristol in Virginia serving more than 1,400 students. It is estimated that the new complex will be ready for use by fall 2024.

The \$15 million facility will feature year-round game action, adding a boon to economic development in the region including Abingdon lodging and restaurants specifically.

"This is a collaborative vision to build a high-caliber sports facility at Emory & Henry College. The MultiSport Complex is not only for our DII student-athletes but to support the youth in Southwest Virginia and those coming into Abingdon

at the Meadows Sports Complex," said John W. Wells, president of Emory & Henry. "We envision opportunities to support one another and to host large tournaments and events throughout the seasons. This will also be an engine for economic impact and growth by increasing the number of visitors to our region who will enjoy lodging, dining, transportation, and recreation in Washington County."

Leading off the project with a lead gift of \$4 million is locally-owned Food City. Food City continues to support initiatives that help market and grow the region with an eye on family engagement and healthy lifestyles. The gift is part of the Collective Connections Campaign underway at the College to support student success and experiences.

"Food City is proud to partner with our friends at Emory & Henry to help make this project possible," said Steven



PHOTO COURTESY OF E&H ATHLETICS

Burwil Construction has been retained to build the complex that will feature a Mondo track and turf playing field, stadium seats, concessions, game day locker rooms, restrooms and ample parking.

C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer. "We've been very fortunate to hire a number of Emory & Henry graduates and former athletes, many of whom worked or interned at our Corporate Support Center, Distribution Center and stores while attending college. We're honored to work with Dr. Wells and see his outstanding stewardship of the University, as well as the many other great individuals at Emory & Henry. We're excited to welcome families from all over the globe to Emory & Henry's campus to compete at this state-of-the-art multi-sports complex. Not only will this project benefit the students of

Emory & Henry and the surrounding areas, but it will also be a huge economic engine for Washington County."

K-VA-T Food Stores (Food City's parent company), headquartered in Abingdon, Virginia, operates 150 retail outlets throughout southeast Kentucky, southwest Virginia, east Tennessee, north Georgia, and Alabama.

The new complex, to be named the Food City Sports Complex at Emory & Henry, will be managed by Synergy Sports Global. According to Jason Boudrie, founder and CEO with Synergy, working with Emory & Henry College to develop a sports complex is an exciting

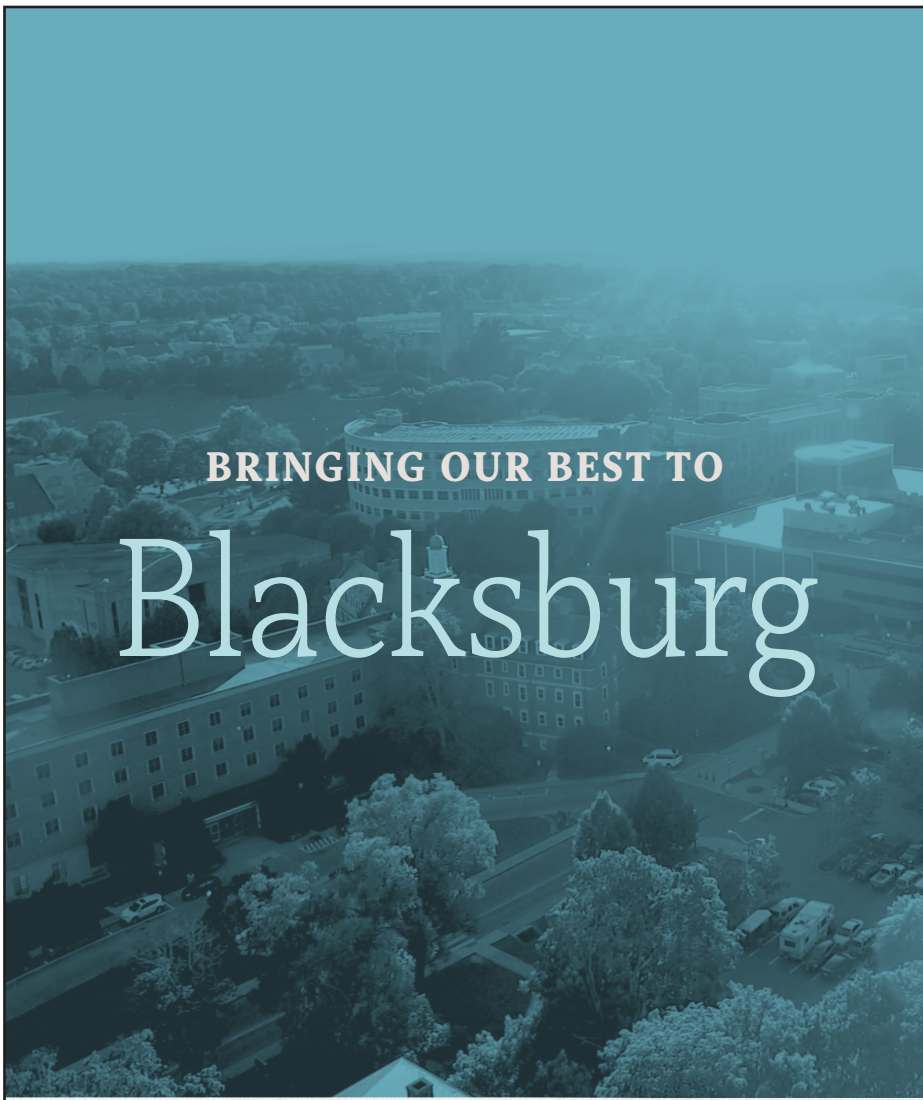
opportunity for several reasons.

"Developing a sports complex in alignment with the move to NCAA Division II demonstrates the college's commitment to providing their student-athletes with top-notch facilities and resources. Being part of this growth and expansion journey is exhilarating, as it allows us to contribute to the development of a high-caliber athletic program," said Boudrie. "The opportunity to play a role in shaping the spaces where athletes will compete, train, and excel is truly exciting and rewarding. A well-designed sports complex can give them a competitive edge by providing a facility that

aligns with the standards and expectations of their new division."

"This is an amazing opportunity for our athletics department, student-athletes and Emory & Henry College," said Anne Crutchfield, Vice President for Athletics. "The complex will attract future students and youth teams to our campus and the region. We hope their families explore the area to take advantage of the recreational amenities we offer in Southwest Virginia and enjoy coming out to support E&H events and other events on our campus."

Leah Prater, E&H



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This property consists of 2 separate lots that will be sold together. One lot is the site of the existing house on .34 - Acre at 603 Kelsey Lane, and the other is a BUILDABLE corner lot of .26-Acre at 601 Kelsey Lane. If a new buyer desires to build on the corner lot after purchase, a survey would be required per Zoning Administrator at Blacksburg Planning and Building. Refer to the map section in the Bidder Pack for Lot details. The property is zoned R-4. Don't miss your opportunity to acquire this rare property!

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final high bid to arrive at the contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 is required by 5 pm on July 28th, 2023. Close on or before September 12th, 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. If confirmed Buyer will be expected to sign a Real Estate Purchase Agreement. 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.

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