



News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, August 26, 2023

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Moss Arts Center marks 10th anniversary with free celebration today

BLACKSBURG - The Moss Arts Center marks its 10th anniversary with a free community celebration on Saturday, Aug. 26. Featuring hands-on arts activities for all ages, community performances, music making, learning opportunities, giveaways, food trucks, and more, the rain-or-shine event culminates with a free outdoor concert by the Grammy-winning Lost Bayou Ramblers.

"Experience Art: 10th Anniversary Open House" features events throughout the Moss Arts Center, located at 190 Alumni Mall.

Activities and community performances, 3-5 p.m.

Activities, art, and music fill the afternoon. A dynamic lineup of local musicians and area student groups offers sounds for every taste — from blues and Dixieland to folk and classical.

A range of participatory activities and learning opportunities for all ages includes an interactive installation blending music and technology in the Cube, a music jam and drum circle led by local musicians, a community art project and special hands-on art area for kids, how-to sketching and dance workshops, story time events, and an instrument petting zoo.

The celebration continues with a Cajun dance party on the Moss Arts Center lawn at 5 p.m. featuring the Grammy Award-winning Lost Bayou Ramblers. Standing at the crosscurrents of Louisiana culture between Cajun and Creole, the group has evolved into a progressive band that excites, challenges, and redefines both genre expectations and cultural preconceptions.

The community celebration and Lost Bayou Ramblers concert will take place rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Moss Arts Center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACK SMITH

The Lost Bayou Ramblers will perform a free outdoor concert as part of the Moss Arts Center community celebration.

Street and Davis Performance Hall.

The Moss Arts Center is celebrating its 10th anniversary throughout the 2023-24 season. An innovative facility where performance arts, visual arts, and technology intersect, the center became Virginia Tech's first professional presenting arts program when it opened in the fall of 2013. Over the past 10 years,

the Moss has presented seasons filled with unforgettable performances by professional touring artists, inspiring exhibitions by acclaimed visual artists, and rich engagement experiences, all with an emphasis on diverse cultures and voices.

Susan Bland for Virginia Tech

New Christiansburg Police Chief Chris Ramsey takes oath of office

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

David Christopher Ramsey has taken the oath of office as Christiansburg's new Police Chief with an effective start date of Sept. 1, 2023.

The appointment of a new police chief came after the announcement of Chief Mark Sisson's retirement, which will become effective on Oct. 31.

"Major Ramsey brings a total of 28 years of law enforcement to his new role, 23 of those years with our own Christiansburg Police Department and in the last seven years as assistant to Chief Sisson," Mayor Michael Barber said. "He's a well-seasoned veteran and has one of the most impressive resumes

has ever seen."

Barber asked Tiffany Couch, Clerk of Montgomery County Court, to administer the oath of office to the soon-to-be Chief Ramsey during the Christiansburg Town Council's regular meeting. Ramsey's family was asked to join Ramsey as he raised his right hand in a pledge to support his community and the Commonwealth of Virginia to the best of his abilities in his new role. Fellow police officers were also present to witness and celebrate Ramsey's new role as Chief of Police.

"I would take an opportunity to thank the mayor and Council for having the confidence to appoint me to this position and thank my family for the support they've given me, not only through this process but throughout



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

New Christiansburg Police Chief Chris Ramsey

my career," Ramsey said. "I also want to thank the officers of the police department that have come out tonight to show their support, it means a lot. They are the ultimate and consummate professionals, and we are lucky to have them working for the town

See Chief, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

The space, located at 414 N. Main Street, and known to many as the former Cook's Cleaners building, will soon serve the community in a new way.

Town of Blacksburg seeks input on retail cooperative and incubator program

BLACKSBURG - The space, located at 414 N. Main Street, and known to many as the former Cook's Cleaners building, will soon serve the community in a new way.

The Town of Blacksburg purchased the long-vacant property in 2019. Currently, remediation and

See Retail, page 4

Continued housing concerns for single-family residents expressed to Blacksburg Town Council

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Charles Saunders of Blacksburg addressed Blacksburg Town Council during the citizen comments session of the Aug. 22 meeting concerning the zoning laws of properties in the town.

Specifically, Saunders is concerned that homes are purchased for the purpose of having a place available to stay during football games and then renting the property out at other times.

"As I researched deeper, I've found that these homes are actually zoned for single-family residential, and they are being partitioned in a way that gives the property owner a place to live while they visit, while the renter pays the mortgage," Saunders said. "When a property owner purchases a home and closes off part of the house, a floor plan that would leave you to believe that there are adequate fire exits now only has one way out."

Section 1271 of the Blacksburg Town Ordinance describes the general provisions that homeowners must meet to qualify for an accessory apartment permit. Some of the main points that Saunders brings to the attention of the Council is that some properties are being listed as accessory apartments although the residence does not meet with safety requirements for proper fire exits. Additionally, these specific rental properties

are only permitted in RR1, RR2 and R4 zoning districts, and are not "by right" as stated in Section 1270 of the Town Code; therefore, requiring homeowners to require a permit for an accessory apartment.

Deborah Olsen, of Blacksburg, expressed concern over the increasing taxes that Blacksburg residents are being asked to pay to maintain a modest home in the town.

"My question is this: in light of our expanded tax base, why were taxes raised to precipitously this year?" Olsen said. "I realize the assessments went up enormously, but that does not constitute an apriority rationale of tax increases from 20-50 percent."

One example of the expanded tax base Olsen referred to is the many multiple dwelling, high density apartment complexes that house Virginia Tech University students and other university-affiliated employees and their families. These properties contribute a large amount of tax dollars to the town, according to a panel on affordable housing given attended recently by Olsen. Olsen additionally made a recommendation to the Council for improved sharing of information with Blacksburg citizens on community development issues.

"I would strongly recommend a similar panel be convened on a broader public stage with a video option to help with communication about housing and development issues," she said.

The Town Council has unanimously approved the extension of the operating agreement with the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation for one year. The agreement extension was made in the hopes of allowing more time for discussions to take place to provide the best course of action for the museum moving forward.

Christine King thanked Blacksburg Council members for their support and in hearing concerns about the museum.

"Some of you spoke up and said that some things could be changed immediately, and an agreement was put forth and I just wanted to thank you for speaking up for us," King said.

King also requested that future director appointments of the museum should be an individual that is culturally and professionally non-biased and someone who will follow museum curating standards.

A copy of the Resolution to Renew the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation Operating Agreement may be found in the Blacksburg Town Council meeting agenda at www.blacksburg.gov.

Other consent agenda items approved by the Council during the meeting were The Housing and Urban Development Citizens Participation Plan, a resolution to approve two bank franchise tax refunds, and an authorization to accept a Special Warranty Deed for a 0.07-acre property near Harding Road.

U.S. drug overdose deaths hit a new record in 2022

Drug deaths nationwide hit a new record in 2022. Nearly 110,000 people died of drug overdoses.

109,680 dead in one year.
That's 300 lives lost each day.
This has to stop.



Annual New River Valley
Candlelight Vigil for
International Overdose Awareness Day

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

401 Peer Center parking lot
401 W. Main Street, Radford
Brief remarks begin at 7:30 PM
Open to the public



Stop the stigma. Carry naloxone.

Learn more at nrvcs.org/endoverdosenrv

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, Saturday, August 26:

Carilion hosts Blacksburg electronics recycling event

At 901 Plantation Road, Blacksburg, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Do you have old computers, printers, tablets, phones, power cables or other unused electronics you need to get rid of? Drop them off at a drive-through recycling event where they can be properly disposed! Carilion is partnering with River Acceptance, a local electronics recycler, to recycle electronics safely and securely. All funds generated through the revenue of recycled materials will go towards the Carilion Clinic Foundation's campaign to transform cancer care in our region with a new cancer center.

Music on the Lawn

LP Kelly. Join the Christiansburg Library for the final show in the Music on the Lawn concert series at 6 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. This free concert is rain or shine. The sound of LP Kelly comes broadly from the early days of American roots music. From his base of operations in Blacksburg, VA, Kelly has worked tirelessly to encourage a renaissance in music that has a history and a place. It's original music that still sounds familiar. A couple of guitars, a banjo or two, a suitcase of harmonicas, and a whole lot of guts.

TriWizard Potter in the Park race

Calling all wizards of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin! At Bisset Park, 8:30 a.m. Benefits Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley.

Monday, August 28:

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.

Starlight Storytime

At the Radford Public Library; 6:30- 7 p.m. Stop by the library for an evening children's storytime. Wind down for the day with stories and friends at the library. Pajamas and stuffies encouraged!

Tuesday, August 29:

Ice Cream Social and Bingo

Beat the heat and join Blacksburg Parks and Recreation for a fun afternoon of ice cream followed by a game of Bingo, 1- 2:30 p.m., at the Blacksburg Community Center. Ice Cream and drinks provided; you bring a topping to share. If you want to play

bingo, bring \$1 in quarters for bingo prizes. Event is co-sponsored with Warm Hearth Village. The event cost \$3 for residents and \$6 for non-residents. To register, click the link listed above or call 540-443-1100.

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.

Wednesday, August 30:

Virtual Author Talk with Jeffrey Selingo

Virtual event at 2 p.m. Spend an hour with bestselling author Jeff Selingo, who immersed himself in the world of admissions for a year to answer the question on the minds of teenagers and their parents: how do colleges select their freshman class? The result is his most recent book, *Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions*, named one of the 100 Notable Books of 2020 by the New York Times. For the book, Jeff was embedded in three admissions offices — the University of Washington, Emory University, and Davidson College — and follows a group of high-school seniors through the process and players behind the scenes, including the marketers, the financial-aid consultants, and the rankers. In this conversation, Jeff will dispel the entrenched notions of how to compete and win at the admissions game, reveal why families have much to gain by broadening their notion of what qualifies as a "good" college, and explain how the pandemic impacts admissions. Register now! <https://library.org/radfordlibrary>.

Thursday, September 7:

American Legion meeting

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

Saturday, September 9:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its September Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, (under 3)-free,

carry-outs-\$12. This month we will be entertained by Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge. 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. This is the last fish fry in 2023. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Saturday, September 16:

Ladies Night Out Workshop

At First Missionary Baptist Church, 7318 Manns Dr., Fairlawn, Va., 5 p.m. Speaker will be Ruth Wolford New Mount Olive UMC—Radford. Sponsored by Deaconess Ministry—FMBC. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, September 21:

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 located at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. 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.

Veterinary Teaching Hospital blood bank seeks new donors

Amidst the beeping monitors and busy footsteps of the bustling Veterinary Teaching Hospital, an extraordinary lifeline exists — a blood bank, where like their human counterparts, dogs and cats regularly donate blood to support pets in the community.

"Animals sometimes require blood due to specific medical conditions or injuries, and without a readily available blood supply, their lives are at risk," said Raeann Foster, clinical instructor of emergency and critical care medicine and director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital blood bank.

This is where the blood donor program plays a crucial role. Just like with humans, dogs and cats also have different blood types, which is why it's important to have as many donors as possible. Pets owned by students, faculty, staff, and the community participate in the program, but more cats and dogs are needed.

Emergency Veterinary Technician Tiffany Luci sees the impact of the blood bank on a daily basis, which is why she enrolled both of her cats as donors. Her orange and white domestic short-hair,



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Emergency Veterinary Technician Tiffany Luci enrolled her cat Marigold, as well as another cat, as a blood donor.

See **Donors**, page 6

Marketplace

ourvalley.org

THE FINCASTLE HERALD
The Vinton Messenger
THE NEW CASTLE RECORD
SALEM TIMES-REGISTER
News Messenger
RADFORD News Journal

Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County	
<p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</p> <p>Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on AUGUST 28, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in</p>	<p>order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:</p> <p>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:</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications.</p>	<p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</p> <p>Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives</p>	<p>notice of a public hearing to be held on August 28, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:</p> <p>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. The property is located at the intersection of Batts Road (Private) and Coal Bank Hollow Road (St. Rt.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications</p>

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To place your ad, call 389-9355

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Keely Spens named to the St. Olaf College Dean's List

NORTHFIELD, Minn. - Keely Spens, Environmental Studies, the child of Allen and Erin Spens, of Blacksburg, has been named to the St. Olaf College dean's list for the Spring 2023 semester. The dean's list recognizes students with a semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4-point scale. St. Olaf challenges students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged

community nourished by Lutheran tradition.

Sarah North named to Dean's List at Anderson University

ANDERSON, S.C. - Sarah North of Blacksburg was named to the Dean's List at Anderson University for the spring semester, 2023. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester. The University congratulates its students for their exemplary academic achievement.

Anderson University is a comprehensive Christian university offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees on campus and online. Anderson University is among U.S. News and World Report's "Best Regional Universities South."

Kathryn West graduates from Midway University Magna Cum Laude

MIDWAY, Ky. - Kathryn West, of Riner, graduated Magna Cum Laude as part of the Class of 2023 at Midway University. At the May 13 Commencement

Ceremony, Midway University conferred degrees on 356 students who completed their coursework over the last academic year; 223 of those individuals participated in the commencement ceremony held in the Graves Amphitheater on campus. This graduating class included individuals from 28 states, Puerto Rico, and 7 countries.

Champlain College announces Dean's List

See Achievements, page 6

Retail

from page 1

rehabilitation work is being completed to renovate the 5,000 square foot space into a community retail cooperative and incubator. Building renovations are expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

The building, situated at the intersection between Virginia Tech's campus and the entrance to downtown is in a prime

location to become a central hub for a vibrant retail sector, improving both quality of life and diversity of experiences. The development of a retail cooperative and incubator program will spur growth in the small business retail sector and provide opportunities for civic engagement and activity. Launching a retail

business in a downtown storefront is a capital and knowledge intensive endeavor. Providing physical retail space at a low cost, and an array of business support resources and services, could help 'level the playing field' for those interested in starting or growing a retail business.

Retail cooperatives provide space and flexible leases for a number of businesses under one roof, while incubator programs accelerate the development of successful retail businesses by providing low-cost space, exposure to

mentors and consultants, technical support services, supportive marketing and events, and access to capital during the early years of the business. Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. (DBI), an association of merchants, property owners, and downtown advocates will be physically located in the building and responsible for managing the retail incubator program. DBI will also organize local events to increase traffic to retail businesses, work with local economic development partners to meet the

technical assistance needs of incubator participants, and help participant's access capital through their relationships with local financial institutions. The Town will provide participants and DBI with subsidized and reduced rent, favorable lease terms, building insurance, and common space.

To help inform the design of the physical space and the incubator program, the Town is seeking feedback from local prospective and existing small business owners regarding their

start-up and/or business development needs. This input will help the project steering team ensure the physical space and program are designed to meet the specific needs of the business community. Citizens can also ask questions about the project and share ideas for the types of businesses they would like to see in the space. Share your feedback by visiting <https://letstalkblacksburg.org/retail>

Submitted by the Town of Blacksburg

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.

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Chief

from page 1

of Christiansburg."

Sisson was present and made comments following the oath of office commending the council on their handling of the job search for the new Chief of Police and reflecting on the 27 years in total that Ramsey has worked for the Christiansburg police department and as his assistant. Considering his retirement, Sisson also expressed his feelings for the community and Christiansburg police officers that he has served with over the years.

"I love this community. I love these men and women that are here tonight and everybody that serves in our organization and I'm proud to have stood by them and serve every day," Sisson said.

A public hearing for the conditional use permit requested by NRV Marketplace, LLC, the property owner, and Balzer and Associates, the applicant, to allow a revision of the Comprehensive Sign Plan which was approved on Sept. 24, 2019. This request is in concern of 2505-2785 Market Street, NE in Christiansburg.

Steven Semones of Balzer and Associates addressed the Council on the request.

"What we're asking for tonight is, as you all know it's been in the news for the last couple of months, Academy Sports is under contract and currently working on tenant upfits and building upfits for

this section of the property...where Tractor Supply had been prior to everything in Marketplace kind of shutting down," Semones said.

The request is not related to the prior approval that had involved higher signage than typically permitted by the Town Code. The new request would be for signage that would be on the front of the Academy Sports building itself of just over 322 square feet. Semones stated in his presentation to the Council that a similar approval was permitted to Walmart in 2017.

Semones also addressed the Council on the conditional use permit request to allow 21 townhomes at the western end of Montgomery Street, NE between the south side of Church Street, NE and the north side of Lucas Street, NE. Four different components have been amended, according to Semones, in response to concerned citizens responding to the proposed development.

"A no outlet sign would be placed just west of the intersection of Montgomery Street and Norwood Street, so anybody turning down Norwood Street would not think there's a cut-through there," Semones said. "We would install a private road no-thru traffic sign at the end of Montgomery Street. We would install a speed bump or a speed table on our side of the property within or private drive to

negate some of those folks coming through and on the project side as you're leaving the parking lot...we would have an emergency vehicles only signage to again, you know, discourage any of the residents within our property from using Montgomery Street."

Christiansburg Town Council voted 5-1, with Henry Showalter voting against the permit to allow the 21 townhomes; therefore, the motion carries to approve the conditional use permit.

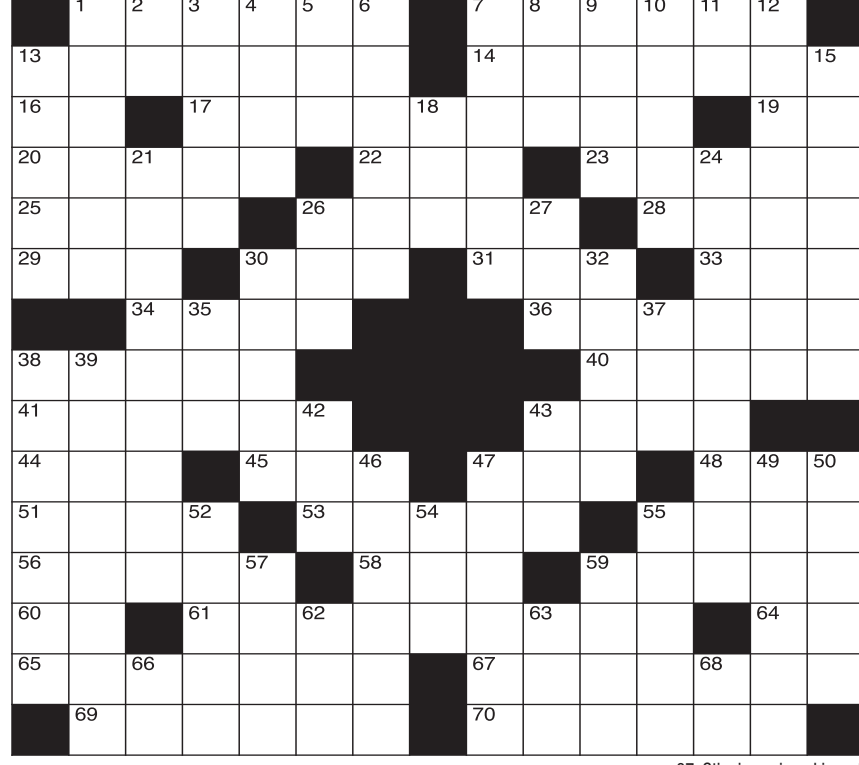
Council members Henry Showalter and Johana Hicks requested an update on the hiring of the three school resource officers (SROs) that were promised by the County.

Randy Wingfield, Town Manager, had spoke to Sheriff Hank Partin prior to the Council meeting and stated that conditional offers had been made to two candidates for the SRO positions and that the bonus sign-on had been increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Tim Wilson commented that given the amount of time, once approval for the SRO positions and funding had been released, the sheriff has been "working and this is, you know, taking him as a man on his good faith that he told me last night, that he is working diligently to get them."

"SROs are the hardest people to recruit," Wilson added.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Recurring TV show
 - Throws out
 - Iberian Peninsula microstate
 - Gossip
 - Atomic #20
 - Ivy League institution
 - Of I
 - "He Is ___!": Scripture excerpt
 - Musical genre
 - Heavy cavalry sword
 - Ancient Olympic Site
 - Satisfies
 - Popular flower
 - Shared services center
 - Drain
 - A way to attack
 - Urban Transit Authority
 - Spiritual leader
 - Postponed
 - N. American plant with

- edible purple-black berries
- Gazes unpleasantly
- Gets up
- Capital of Ukraine
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Golf score
- Superhigh frequency
- Swiss river
- Felons
- Succulent plants
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Deliberately setting fire to
- Infamous singer Zadora
- Anwar ___, Egyptian statesman
- Influenza sports mag
- Aromatic Mediterranean plant
- Sixth note of a major scale
- Unit of explosive power
- Large watertight chamber
- Popular street
- A way of watering

- CLUES DOWN**
- Mollusks
 - ___ denotes past
 - Anchor ropes
 - Large Middle Eastern country
 - To make a mistake
 - Ancient governor
 - Extents
 - Chinese surname
 - NYC subway "residents"
 - Essential oil used as perfume
 - A way to treat injuries (abbr.)
 - Session
 - Units of land areas
 - Goes over once more
 - Where wrestlers work
 - Italian islanders
 - Avenue
 - ___ Adams, U.S. President
 - Rest with legs bent
 - Type of flour
 - The Golden State (abbr.)
 - More (Spanish)

- Stinging, winged insect
- The use of irony to mock
- Arsenals
- Pouch
- 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- Violent seizure of property
- Restrict
- Something comparable to another
- Punishment device made from stems
- Soul and calypso songs
- Formerly OSS
- Athabaskan language
- ___ bene: observe carefully
- Six (Spanish)
- Read-only memory
- Chinese philosophical principle
- American conglomerate
- Tin

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OBITUARIES

Brown, Mary Margaret Saul Wood

Thelma Juanita Robinson Caldwell, 94, passed away in her sleep on Aug. 10, 2023 after a long battle with cancer.

Thelma was born in Blacksburg on Nov. 13, 1928 to Samuel (Sam) and Bessie (Granny) Robinson. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Harlan, and their special friend, Muffin; brothers and sisters Douglas (Doug), Lutitia (Tish), Georgia (Georgy), David, Joyce Ann, Kathleen, and Korine; and two great grandchildren Spenser, and Austin.

Thelma is survived by her brother, Billy (Jacksonville, Fla.); sons Donnie, Larry and his longtime partner Julie, and Jerry; daughters Harlene Ottolini and husband Larry, Peggy Maes and longtime partner Bennett, and Connie. She is also survived by her grandchildren John, Tina, Christine, Amy, Mark, Daniel, Angela, Melissa, and Lauren; great grandchildren Avery, Nick, Luke, Justin, Kiele, Bryce, Kayla, Andrew, and Peyton; and great

grandchildren Jaelynn, Maddox, Silas, and Jackson; and many extended family and wonderful friends.

Thelma enjoyed working, cooking, canning, visiting with family and friends, as well as making new friends. She made friends everywhere she would go, whether in the community, local markets, or places she worked; to her there were no strangers just opportunities to meet new friends. Everyone she met fell in love with her and she will truly be missed by many.

The family would like to acknowledge Blue Ridge Cancer Center, especially Dr. Sheela and Venessa Coates, where our mom was afforded kind and compassionate healthcare. Mom was a face and not a number. Special thanks also to Carilion Clinic Home Care and Good Samaritan Hospice who attended to mom and the family in her last month.

A memorial service to celebrate Thelma's life and legacy will be held in the near future.

Harris, Geneva Baker

Geneva Baker Harris, 89, of brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Robert Radford, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023. She retired from the Hercules Powder Plant accounting department.

Geneva was preceded in death by her parents, Jesse and Louise Baker; her husband, Kenneth Allen Harris; and sister, Juanita Baker Sutphin.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Judy H. and Jay Shorter, and Trish Harris and Scott Kelsoe, all of Radford; grandchildren, Kenneth Robert Keister and Lori, Matthew Irvin Keister, Chris Scott Shorter and Alysha, and Devin Jay Shorter; great grandchildren, Kenneth Grant Keister, Jacqueline Taylor Keister, Knox Davis Shorter, and Nash Graham Shorter;



L. and Patsy Baker; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. with Rev. Don Shelor officiating.

Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

Memorial contributions may be made to either Central Church of Radford, PO Box 611, Radford, VA 24143 or to Good Samaritan Hospice.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: 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.eckva.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 Eucharist 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

Montgomery County
WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Cities of Refuge

Read Joshua 18:1 through 20:9

Once the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, it had to be divided amongst the tribes. Joshua asked for a survey to be done, and with that information he carefully assigned each tribe their portion.

Chapter 20 addresses an interesting issue that reflects God's passion for justice. The "eye for an eye" principle was in vogue in those days, and God wanted justice for those who killed someone accidentally.

"Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection

from the avenger of blood." (Joshua 20:2-3).

What a great picture of Jesus and His compassion for us. Our sins can be accidental or unintentional, but sadly we sometimes disobey on purpose. Yet in either case, Jesus invites us to come to Him, confessing our sin. He promises to forgive us and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). He provides us the ultimate refuge from our mistakes.

Prayer for Today: Lord, when my thoughts, words, or actions are not pleasing to You, I will run to You because I know You are my "city of refuge."

Quicklook: Joshua 20:1-9

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

leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

St Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 East Main Street, Christiansburg VA, 24073. Worship and communion at 10:00 a.m., each Sunday, followed by hospitality coffee and Adult Sunday Adult Seminar. Our service is also streamed. Contact for more info: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com. http://www.stthomaschristiansburg.dioswva.org.

LUTHERAN

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello.

Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electic 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 11:00a.m. 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: christwesleyanchurch.org

Application period for 2023 Virginia Beehive Distribution Program begins August 28

Must be a Virginia resident, aged 18 and older to be eligible to receive beehive units

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will accept applications for the 2023 Beehive Distribution Program from Aug. 28 through Sept. 12, 2023.

The program provides free equipment for assembling new beehives to Virginia residents. Qualified applicants are selected at random from qualifying applications received during the

application period. "In Virginia, honeybees are essential pollinators for the fruits and vegetables consumed by people and wildlife," said Keith Tignor, State Apiarist. "The Beehive Distribution Program helps counteract dramatic honeybee losses in the state over the past several decades by assisting individuals in establishing new hives."

Individuals who are

Virginia residents, and 18 years of age or older at the time an application is submitted, are eligible to receive beehive units. Entities such as businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies are not eligible to receive beehive units. Multiple individuals with the same mailing and/or physical address (household) may apply to the program; however, distribution of beehive units will be

limited to no more than three beehive units per household in the same fiscal year, July 1 to June 30.

Recipients of beehive units must assemble the equipment and occupy it with a colony of honeybees within one year of receiving the

equipment. VDACS does not provide honeybees or equipment for managing the hives, such as personal safety equipment or honey processing equipment.

To learn more about the Beehive Distribution Program or to submit an application beginning Aug. 28, 2023, please visit

the Beehive Distribution Program website.

For more information, contact the VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services at 804.786.3515 or vabees@vdacs.virginia.gov.

- VDACS

Input needed for NRV Transportation Survey

The New River Valley Regional Commission is working on a Strategic Plan for the NRV Commuter Assistance Program and is looking for the public's input.

This will be a five-year plan to help people get where they need to go in the NRV. The Regional Commission is now gathering feedback from commuters and businesses. If you live and/or work in the NRV, please fill out this survey: https://www.engagenrv.org/cap-strategic-plan/survey_tools/transportation-survey-general-public

The New River Valley Regional

Commission is an organization comprised of 13 local governments and three higher education institutions for the purpose of encouraging collaboration to address regionally significant issues and opportunities. Also known as PDC 4, our organization encompasses the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, and the City of Radford.

Submitted by the New River Valley Regional Commission

Achievements

from page 4

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Abigail Caldwell, of Radford, has been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Spring 2023 semester. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Caldwell is currently pursuing the Game Art and Animation major. Making the Dean's List is a tremendous achievement in any year. Many of the high achievers balance their classes with serious jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate you on this great accomplishment and honor. Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland.

Robert Koontz named to Dean's List at St. Mary's College

ST. MARY'S CITY, Md. - Robert Koontz, of Christiansburg, was awarded Dean's List honors for academic achievement during the spring 2023 semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland, the National Public Honors College. Dean's List honors are awarded to full-time students at St. Mary's College who earn a semester grade-point average of 3.5 or better on 12 or more graded credits. St. Mary's College, the National Public Honors College, is ranked as the top public liberal arts college in the U.S. by Money magazine. Approximately 1,600 students attend the college, nestled on the St. Mary's River in Southern Maryland.

Allen Briggs of Blacksburg graduates from RIT

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - Allen Briggs, of Blacksburg, graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in game design and development (BS). Some 4,800 degrees were conferred in the 2022-2023 academic year at all of RIT's campuses. RIT's academic convocation celebration was held in May and featured remarks by Thomas Zurbuchen, astrophysicist and the

longest continually serving associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate in NASA's history.

Juan Celi named to Dean's List at University of Maryland

ADELPHI, Md. - Juan Celi of Christiansburg was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

Smith named to Dean's List at Lawrence University

APPLETON, Wis. - Congratulations to David Smith of Radford for making the 2022-23 Dean's List at Lawrence University. The Dean's List is an annual honor roll of students demonstrating exemplary academic performance. Lawrence University is a liberal arts college located along the banks of the Fox River in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Mallory Yancey earns a spot on the Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University

CONWAY, S.C. - More than 2,400 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2023 semester, including Mallory Yancey, from Christiansburg. Students who make the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher (3.25 for freshmen) for the semester. Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, S.C., just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi inducts new members

BATON ROUGE, La. (07/12/2023) - The following people recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most

selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines: Indunil Dharmasiri and Aidan Flinton, of Blacksburg, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. They are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897.

Owen Embree named to Spring 2023 Dean's List

IRVING, Texas - Owen Embree of Blacksburg, VA, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Dallas for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. Embree is a Senior Mathematics major.

Truliant names scholarship winner

Sydney Farley of Fairlawn, Va., who will attend New River Community College, was given a \$1,500 scholarship by Truliant and CUABS Powered by TrueBuy, an auto buying service. All winners are first-time college students and high school seniors who will be enrolled in a credited college, community college or university this fall, and are a member of the credit union. The program is managed by the Truliant Foundation. "We were wowed by the quality of the submissions and outstanding accomplishments that this year's applicants have achieved," said Atticus Simpson, executive director of the Truliant Foundation. "Truliant is honored to play a role in supporting the next step of their education. We wish our scholarship winners the best in their future endeavors."

James Madison University welcomes new transfer students

HARRISONBURG - James Madison University is excited to welcome new transfer students to campus this month. The incoming transfers represent an accomplished, diverse group of individuals who hail from 17 states, the District of Columbia and two countries. The new

transfer students include: Jessica Craig of Radford, whose selected major is General Psychology, and Kailey Reed of Radford, whose selected major is Marketing.

James Madison University welcomes class of 2027

HARRISONBURG - James Madison University is excited to welcome the class of 2027 to campus this month. The incoming freshman class represents an accomplished, diverse group of individuals who hail from 35 states, the District of Columbia and 12 countries around the world. The incoming class includes:

From Radford: Joana Barbosa, who plans to major in Business Management; Ashleigh Bethea, who plans to major in Health Sciences; Caroline Jones, who plans to major in Marketing; Erin Wilson, who plans to major in Theatre; and Evan Woinski, who plans to major in Engineering - BS.

From Blacksburg: Quinn Worley, who plans to major in Media Arts and Design; Mia Young, who plans to major in Earth Science; Ryan Ankrum, who plans to major in Computer Science; Evan Foley, who plans to major in Elementary Education; Sarah Gilmer, who plans to major in Exploratory; Marija Grove, who plans to major in Mathematics; Emma Littlefield, who plans to major in Elementary Education; Harrison Lynch, who plans to major in Accounting; and Maeve Rensberger, who plans to major in Nursing.

From Christiansburg: Logan Boone, who plans to major in Kinesiology; Owen Jones, who plans to major in Business Management; Emma Lucero, who plans to major in Marketing; and Madelyn Moles of Christiansburg, who plans to major in Nursing.

From Riner: Kirsten Fleet, who plans to major in Kinesiology; and Madison Ketterer, who plans to major in Dietetics.

Donors

from page 3

Marigold, is an ideal donor. "She's a very well-behaved cat and doesn't get stressed out by the hospital environment," Luci said. "Being in emergency, I see the need for cat blood and that's why we donate."

The program functions much like its human counterpart, using regular blood work, preventive measures, and vaccines to ensure the health of the donors. A single donation can help save multiple lives, as the blood is separated

into packed red blood cells and plasma. Frozen plasma can last for years, supporting research and treating diseases such as parvovirus in puppies.

Dog and cat donors must meet certain age and weight requirements and pass health screenings. The temperament of the donor animals also plays a significant role in the success of the program. Foster and her team are diligent about behavior screening to ensure that the donors are comfortable and content during the process.

"The well-being and quality of life of the donors are just as vital as saving lives with their contributions," said Foster. Sheree and Darrell Coulter, owners of a seven-year-old boxer-pitbull mix and canine blood donor named Topper, spoke passionately about the

impact of the program.

"It's amazing," said Sheree Coulter. "It helps full-grown dogs who need surgery, and it helps the puppies too when they can't nurse."

"People know about human blood donors through the American Red Cross," Darrell Coulter said, "but they don't often think about what happens to the animals."

Topper has made several donations and his owners spoke about how much he enjoys getting to see the staff at the teaching hospital every few months. On average, each pet makes four to six donations per year.

Heidi Phillips, a lab technician at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, supports the blood bank in multiple ways. Her lab stores the donated blood, and her two Weimaraners, Eva and Hazel, contribute

to the supply.

"I used to donate blood myself," said Phillips, "and I thought that it's so neat that the dogs can give back to their kind. I used to have Jack Russell terriers who were too small to donate, but as soon as my larger dogs became qualified, we signed up."

"Dogs don't have to be purebreds or show or hunting dogs like mine to donate. Almost all breeds and mixes are welcome and could make awesome donors, if they all meet the criteria."

The demand for blood can fluctuate which is why it is critical for the program to have a robust list of participants. "We had a spell where we were using a lot of blood," Phillips said, "and it hurt me to tell them we didn't have any available."

During times of critical need, the hospital calls on

owners in the program to come to the hospital for emergency blood draws, which can happen at any hour of the day, but owners like Phillips repeatedly step up and provide support.

Enrolled pets receive additional benefits, including annual exams, vaccinations, and preventatives while active in the donor program.

"It's nice, because, you know, for my two girls, it's close to \$300 to have all that testing done," Phillips said. "And with them being show dogs and out in the field, those preventatives are something that I keep them on all the time. But it's not the main reason we donate."

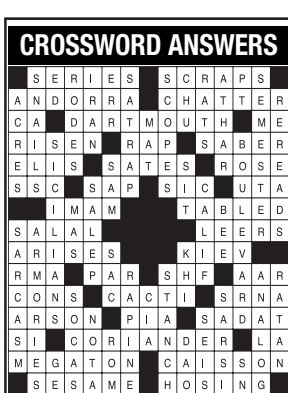
Like Phillips, owners opt to register their pets in the program because of their compassion and willingness to contribute toward saving the lives of others.

The blood bank is currently recruiting cats and dogs to enroll in the blood donor program. Interested owners should fill out an application at vth.vetmed.vt.edu/bloodbank to begin the screening process.

Requirements for dogs: 1-8 years old male or female, 55-plus pounds (lean body weight), quiet temperament, and no history of blood transfusion.

Requirements for cats: 1-8 years old male or female that have not had kittens, 11-plus pounds (lean body weight), quiet temperament, no history of blood transfusion, indoor only; and housemate cats must also be indoor only and fully vaccinated.

Andrew Mann for Virginia Tech



MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Youngster outdistancing competitors twice her age

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Olivia Hawes of Blacksburg holds world records for running and when she crossed the finish line last week for a 6.15K in Virginia Beach, she topped 200 total miles in her young career. She has run more than 20 5Ks in nine different states and has a goal to run one in all 50 states. The unbelievable fact is that Hawes is only two years old.

She has the fastest mile and most 5ks for a 1-and 2-years old along with being the youngest and second youngest competitor in the VA Commonwealth Games' 33-year history.

This career is just starting and got started at a very early day.

Her parents, Jason and Angel, said she came out of the womb running. "When she was a few months old, I would take her to pool and she would run her legs as they touched the water," Jason said.

"She did everything pretty quickly. I feel like she did a pushup at two hours old," he said with a laugh.

Olivia was crawling at five months, walking at eight months and was running at 10.

Of course, some of that competitive nature might come from her father as he was a swimmer in the U.S. Navy.

Sometimes, Olivia catches race organizers by surprise as there are no age categories for someone this young. Her parents say they have seen the number of young runners increase during their daughter's participating, calling it inspiring and encouraging.

She runs to support TheAWS1JamesBuriakFoundation and ran in last week's Virginia Beach Loosefoot

616 memorial run. The race honors the Loosefoot 616 the Navy helicopter crash that killed five sailors including a rescue swimmer from Salem, James Buriak.

Olivia's father was a Navy Rescue swimmer from Roanoke, and the Buriak name is an important mission for the Hawes family so his name is never forgotten.

Her time this past week at the 616 Memorial Run was 36:30.

Her father said she simply loves to run. Typically, he runs with her and surprisingly, Olivia has never stopped and asked him to carry her during races. Instead, he has had found himself trying to keep up with her.

"She has never stopped in the middle of race. She thrives to the cheers during many of the events and as she approaches the finish lines," Jason said.

Her mother pointed out earlier this week Olivia loves her medals as they hang from the family's playroom. The most important goal seems be trying to run a race in 50 states. Again, she holds medals from nine different states.

"She is a competitor at heart and the goal, I really think, is that she is bound for the Olympics," Angel said.

Olivia is also active as a young gymnast at Virginia Tech Techniques in Christiansburg and has her own small gym setup in her family's living room.

Olivia's running has inspired her cousins to run and get involved in sports. Her 9-year-old cuz has gotten good at long distances and hasn't lost in her age group in 10 races in the 5K and 10K.

To follow Olivia's journey, checkout her Facebook page at Olympic Olivia. She also has a Instagram page.



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

Two-year-old Oliva Hawes shows off her many medals she has won in the past year.

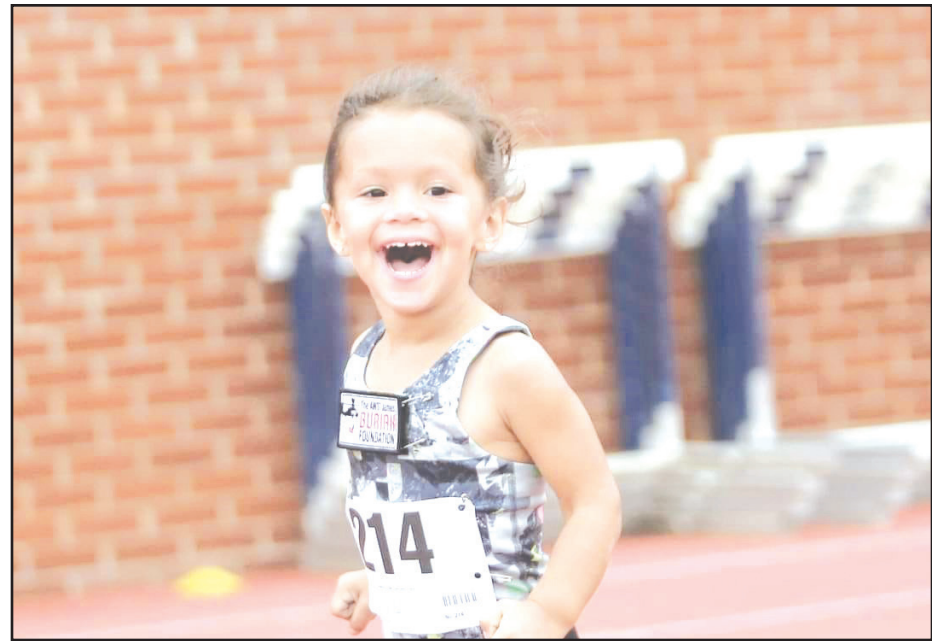


PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON HAWES

Hawes is all smiles as she completed her most recent 6.15K last week in Virginia Beach.

High Point to host Big South tourney

The Big South Conference Council of Chief Executive Officers has voted to award the 2024 Hercules Tires Big South Men's & Women's Basketball Championships to High Point University, it was announced today.

A formal press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 2 p.m. inside the Nido and Mariana Qubein Center.

High Point will host the combined tournament for the first time, which will be Wednesday-Sunday, March 6-10, at the 4,500-seat Nido and Mariana Qubein Center on the High Point campus. It will be the just the sixth time that all rounds of the Big South Basketball Championships will be held in the state of North Carolina. The previous times were in 1999 and 2000 in Asheville, 2016 in Buies Creek and Asheville, and 2021 and 2022 in Charlotte.

Opened in September 2021, the Qubein Center is one of the nation's finest and elegant basketball arenas in the country. Basketball attendance at the Qubein Center has ranked in the top three nationally the past two seasons for facilities up to 5,000 seat capacity and is home to the second-largest videoboard in the state of North Carolina. Other venue amenities feature a Quince Imaging court projection system, Daktronic ribbon boards, courtside suite and club level suites/loge seating, and full chairback seating throughout the arena.

"We are absolutely elated to partner with High Point University in hosting the 2024 Hercules Tires Men's and Women's Basketball Championships," said Big South Commissioner Sherika A. Montgomery. "I am confident our student-athletes, coaches, fans, administrators, and community partners will have a tremendous March Madness experience. We

look forward to working with Dr. Nido Qubein, Dan Hauser and the High Point community in the coming months to create a supreme event and memorable experience for our student-athletes."

"High Point University is proud and privileged to host the Hercules Tires Big South Men's and Women's Basketball Championships, and we will do everything possible to make it an extraordinary weekend," added High Point President Dr. Nido Qubein. "We are investing generously in both financial and human capital to ensure a successful tournament environment. Hosting the Big South Championships is an enormous win for our city and the entire Piedmont Triad Region, with thousands visiting and staying multiple days in local hotels, shopping and dining."

HPU previously hosted the Big South Women's Basketball Championship from 2009-12 at the Millis Center -- still the longest consecutive host of the women's event in league history. High Point also hosted various Big South men's and women's

conference tournament games as part of the conference's home site/earned seed format utilized at times from 2003-21.

"High Point University is thrilled to earn the opportunity to host the 2024 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships," stated HPU Vice President and Athletic Director Dan Hauser. "We look forward to welcoming Big South student-athletes, coaches, and fans to the HPU campus and the High Point community. The Qubein Center will be rocking this March with exciting basketball action and we're ready to showcase an extraordinary event for the Big South Conference!"

Free parking for all fans attending the 2024 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championship will be provided by High Point. More information on the 2024 Championships, including formats, schedules, finalized game times and ticket information, will be announced at a later date.

Big South Conference

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Wells named Hokies starting signal caller

On a live stream interview via Triumph NIL on Wednesday, Aug. 23, Virginia Tech football head coach Brent Pry announced who will start under center against Old Dominion in the season opener – Grant Wells.

Wells, who started all 11 games last season, returns after putting

up 2,171 passing yards and nine touchdowns, and will have plenty of playmakers to spread the ball to, including three wideouts that were named to the Reese's Senior Bowl watch list.

The complete depth chart for Tech will come out early next week following Pry's press

conference.'

The Hokies will face the Monarchs on Saturday, Sept. 2 in Lane Stadium at 8 p.m. ET. Single-game tickets are on sale, starting at \$50.

Virginia Tech Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Senior Grant Wells is Virginia Tech's QB1 to start the 2023 season against ODU.

VT announces fan experiences for volleyball, soccer

As the fall sports season approaches, the Virginia Tech athletics department announced Tuesday new and returning fan experience elements to expect when attending men's soccer, women's soccer and volleyball events this season.

THOMPSON FIELD ACCESS (Women's and Men's Soccer)

Gates at Thompson Field will open 60 minutes before kickoff on gamedays. Thompson Field is located at 867 Washington St SW.

CASSELL COLISEUM ACCESS (Volleyball)

Doors at Cassell Coliseum will open 60 minutes before first serve on match days. Cassell Coliseum is located at 675 Washington Street SW. Entry will be on the west side of Cassell.

TICKETS

Admission to Virginia Tech regular season men's soccer, women's soccer and volleyball games is free with no tickets required for entry into the venues.

CLEAR BAG POLICY

Virginia Tech's clear bag policy remains in place for women's soccer, men's soccer, and volleyball home events. This policy helps provide a safer environment for spectators and expedites fan entry into the venue.

Approved bags are limited to: Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC, and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"

One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc bag or similar)

For more information and to view a list of prohibited items, please visit HokieSports.com/ClearBag.

CASHLESS CONCESSION STANDS

All concessions sales are cashless at all venues, requiring a debit or credit card for purchase. This minimizes wait times and eliminates the exchanging and handling of currency. Fans who do not have access to a debit or credit card should consider buying a prepaid card at Kroger in advance of the game. Apple/Google Pay?

In addition, concessions will include menu options at fan-friendly prices, similar to years previous. Alcohol is not served at men's soccer, women's soccer, or volleyball.

PARKING

Fans are encouraged to park in Lot 1 (Coliseum West Lot) near Lane Stadium and Thompson Field, or Lot 2 (Stadium Lot) near Lane Stadium. However, fans parking in these public lots Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. will need to pay to park using the university's ParkMobile platform. Click here

to learn about ParkMobile.

For more information on campus parking, click here. For parking-related questions, please email parking@vt.edu or call (540) 231-3200.

THEME GAMES, IN-VENUE PROMOTIONS & GIVEAWAYS

Fans can expect a number of themed games and giveaways this season across the fall Olympic sports. See below for highlights and respective promotions pages for more details.

Men's Soccer
Sunday, Sep. 3 vs. Davidson at 6 p.m. - Calling all Kids' Club members! It's your day at Thompson, so join us for an exclusive giveaway and experience. More details will be sent at a later date.

Friday, Sep. 8 vs. North Carolina at 7 p.m. - International Hokies Night! Come out to Thompson Field to celebrate our international athletes and international students! The first 250 students receive a Men's Soccer International Hokies t-shirt!

Tuesday, Oct. 10 vs. William & Mary at 6 p.m. - Join the Hokies on World Mental Health Day as we strive to bring more awareness to the importance of mental health and to mental health issues.

Friday, Oct. 13 vs. Notre Dame at 6 p.m. - BELIEVE

Night! Come out to Thompson to support your Hokies and see why 'Fútbol is Life!' First 250 fans receive a Virginia Tech Soccer "BELIEVE" rally towel.

Friday, Oct. 20 vs. Virginia at 6 p.m. - Join us as the Hokies take on in-state rival UVA and battle in the Commonwealth Clash! The first 500 fans will receive a Commonwealth Clash shaker and the first 250 fans will receive a maroon VT koozie!

Tuesday, Oct. 24 vs. Radford at 6 p.m. - Join us to celebrate our seniors on a special night at Thompson Field!

Women's Soccer
Thursday, Aug. 24 vs. James Madison at 7 p.m. - Welcome Home, Hokies! Spend an evening at Thompson Field for the Hokies' home opener.

Thursday, Aug. 31 vs. Old Dominion at 5 p.m. - It's a Beach Bash at Thompson! Join the Hokies for a doubleheader of women's and men's soccer and enjoy all beach-related activities and contests throughout the night.

Sunday, Sep. 10 vs. Northwestern at 1 p.m. - Party at the Pitch: Make your way to Thompson Field for a family-friendly party that includes contests, activities, giveaways, and more.

Friday, Sep. 29 vs. Wake Forest at 7 p.m. - It's Hawkins High Takeover Night, so brush

up on your knowledge of the upside-down and join the Hokies for the series-themed evening of Flashback Friday fun!

Volleyball
Friday, Sep. 15 vs Queens at 6 p.m. - Mental Health Awareness Match: Come out and help us break the stigma! Early arriving fans will receive a volleyball stress ball keychain!

Friday, Sep. 22 vs Florida State at 6 p.m.: Hawaiian Night! Wear your best Hawaiian shirt and come out early for some fun Hawaiian themed activities and giveaways!

Friday, Oct. 20 vs Notre Dame at 6 p.m. & Sunday, Oct. 22 vs Louisville at 1 p.m.: Dig Pink Weekend! Support our student-athletes as they Dig Pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness! Arrive early on Sunday for our pink koozie giveaway!

Sunday, Nov. 19 vs Wake Forest at 1 p.m. - Princesses and Princes Day! Dress up as your favorite princess or prince for our costume contest! Early arriving fans will get a custom cup! It will also be our Senior Day!

Saturday, Nov. 25 vs UVA at 1 p.m. - Commonwealth Clash, support your Virginia Tech Volleyball team in their final home match of the season!

Virginia Tech Athletics

Member guest tourney winners

2023 MEMBER-MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Paul Torgersen & Mike Creamer

2023 MEMBER-MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Heidi York & Kathy Harrell

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG COUNTRY CLUB

Blacksburg Country Club recently held its Member-Guest Tourney.

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Stronger tape engineered through the art of cutting

Adhesive tape fulfills many purposes, from quickly fixing household appliances to ensuring a reliable seal on a mailed package. When using tape with a strong bond, removing it may only be possible by scraping and prying at the tape's corners, hoping desperately that surface pieces don't tear away with the tape.

But what if you could make adhesives both strong and easily removable? This seemingly paradoxical combination of properties could dramatically change applications in robotic grasping, wearables for health monitoring, and manufacturing for assembly and recycling.

Developing such adhesives may not be that far off through the latest research conducted by the team of Michael Bartlett, assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech, and published in Nature Materials on June 22.

The physics of stickiness

Adhesive tapes were first developed in the 1920s to meet a need for automobile painters who wanted better options for painting two colors on car bodies. Since the first masking tape was put into use, many other variations have been created. Factories have rolled out invisible tape for wrapping presents, electrical tape for covering wires, and duct tape for more uses than it was ever intended to fill.

Normally, when tapes are peeled off, they separate in a straight line along the length of the strip until the tape is completely removed. Strong adhesives are made more difficult to peel, while reusable adhesives promote the strength-limiting separation.

Bartlett's team theorized that if the separation path were controlled, then perhaps adhesives could be made both strong and removable. They tapped into the methods of a 2,000-year-old Japanese art form to determine how to do it.

Making the cut

The art form of kirigami, through folding and cutting, can transform a flat sheet of paper into a shape or even a three-dimensional object. Children often use a basic form of this method when creating paper snowflakes.

But the research team was making more than snowflakes. Because of kirigami's artful origins, the method provided a framework for establishing slices or cuts

across an adhesive. Bartlett's team used these principles to engineer a series of U-shaped cuts.

"We realized that by using cuts, we could control how an adhesive separates," said Bartlett. "An engineered cut can force the adhesive separation path to go backwards at specific locations, which we call reverse crack propagation, making the adhesive very strong. But by peeling in the opposite direction, it always goes forward, making it easy to remove. This is quite unusual behavior, but it is very useful to make strong yet releasable adhesives."

Bartlett's team, which also included Associate Professor Rong Long from the University of Colorado Boulder and Assistant Professor Eric Markvicka from the University of Nebraska Lincoln, found that applying these cuts made the bond of the tape stronger by a factor of 60 while still allowing for easy removal by peeling in the opposite direction. The team also found that the type of tape didn't matter. Kirigami increased the bonds of every type of tape tested, from packaging tapes to medical tapes. In all cases, strong adhesive bonds become even stronger and normally weaker adhesives increased in strength, too.

"What really matters is the shape and size of the cut," said former graduate researcher Dohgyu Hwang. "We do not have to rely on the specific adhesive material, but as long as the cuts are made at a characteristic size, which is defined by the physics of the adhesive, we found that this enhanced adhesion in every system we tried."

The other interesting outcome of this approach is that it can be highly customized.

Better tape for diverse applications

In a dramatic test for applications, the team applied the same type of tape to two cardboard boxes, sealing them as one might for shipping. One of the tapes had the application of kirigami cuts and the other did not. Researchers then dropped a brick onto the lid of each box. For the unaltered tape, the bond was broken after two drops, collapsing the lid of the box and allowing the brick to enter. However, the altered tape resisted the drops, and on the third attempt, the brick even bounced off the lid.

In another test, the team boosted the sticky strength of objects other than tapes. After applying kirigami cuts to a glove used by football players to catch the ball, Lee placed his gloved hand flatly on a sheet of plastic. Both an altered and unaltered glove were abrasive enough for the researcher to hold the plastic at a 90-degree angle, but the unaltered glove lost its bond after a few seconds. The altered glove continued holding the plastic fast, until the researcher eventually laid it down.

Suzanne Miller for Virginia Tech