



# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

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Saturday, September 23, 2023

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## Candidate Forum Series continues with Montgomery County BOS candidates

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Planning for continued growth such as housing and infrastructure, education, and rising property costs were topics discussed by candidates during the forum hosted by the NAACP and the League of Women Voters, Montgomery County, Virginia.

Candidates for Montgomery County Board of Supervisors are Meredith

Hutton (R) and Derek Kitts (D) for District B, Anthony Graftsky (D) and Incumbent Darrell Sheppard (R) for District E, Incumbent Mary Biggs (D) for District F, and Incumbent April DeMotts (D) and David Shelor, Jr. (I) for District G. Current Supervisor Sheppard expressed his regrets that he was unable to attend the candidate forum.

Graftsky spoke on the importance of using a variety of resources to provide transportation, speaking specifically about the new housing expansion along

Prices Fork Road of close to 700 homes.

"We like to complain about traffic, but we're not doing anything to address other modalities of getting in and out of that neighborhood," Graftsky said. "There's no sidewalks, there's no bike lanes, there's no public transportation."

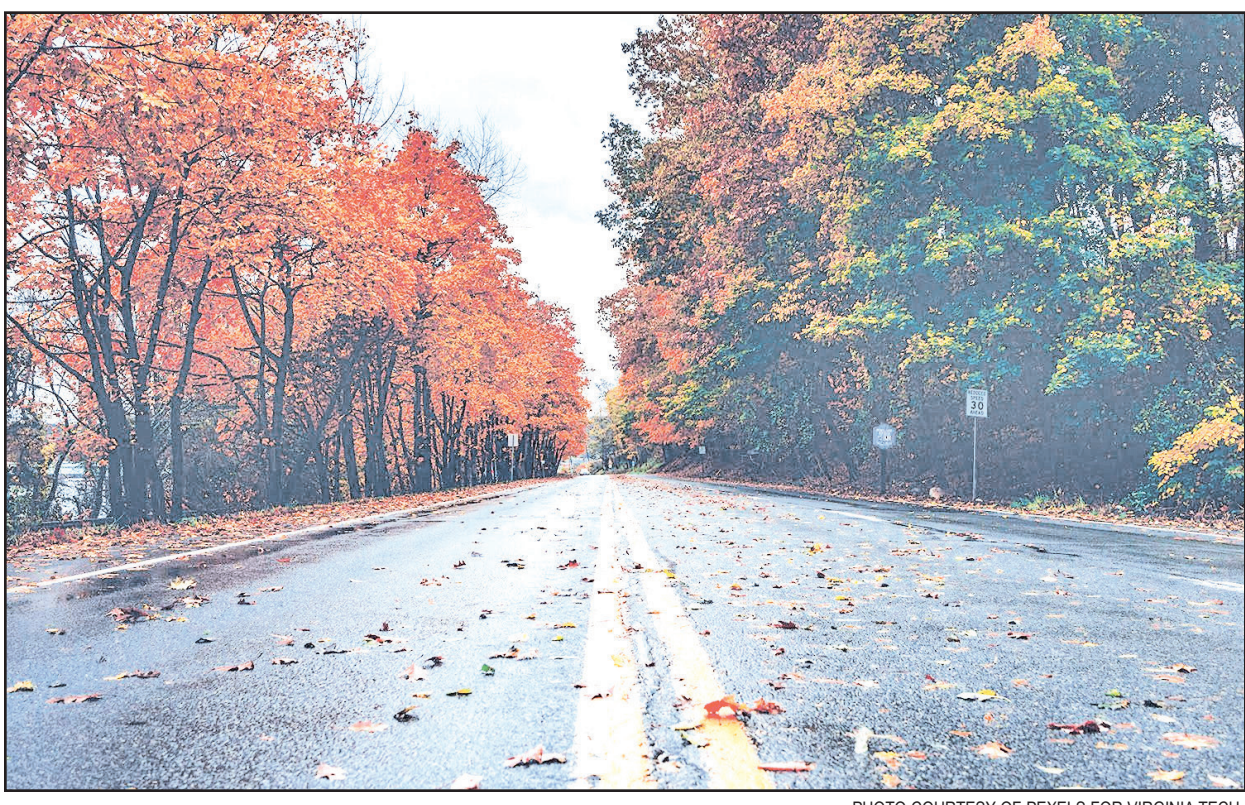
Biggs spoke in agreement with Graftsky concerning the growth of the area. She stated that schools, law enforcement, and emergency medical services are among the many things that must be considered with Montgomery County's growth.

"We have to plan for the county's future," Biggs said.

Shelor did not disagree with the statements of Graftsky and Biggs but felt that looking at fiscal responsibility is important.

"I think that means we need to look through and see where we're spending our money and make sure we're spending the money that you all have provided us in a very responsible manner," Shelor

See Forum, page 4



Prime season for enjoying fall foliage is just around the bend.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS FOR VIRGINIA TECH

## Tree expert on the best times to view fall colors

With autumn set to start Sept. 23, leaf peepers won't have long to wait for forest leaves to turn and produce spectacular color displays.

The vistas to be found in Southwest Virginia are just about guaranteed to be jaw-dropping regardless of the upcoming weather.

"We have such a great range of species which helps buffer us from weather effects," said John Seiler, a Virginia Tech forestry

professor and expert in tree physiology. "Red colors come from blackgum, scarlet oak, northern red oak, sassafras, red maple, sourwood, and white oak. Hickory, chestnut oak, red maple add yellow. So does yellow-poplar, which is dropping a bit early already. Sugar maple leaves turn yellow or red-orange. Black oak leaves bring golden brown."

See Fall, page 4

## Young Life, Wyld Life at Auburn creates faith-based community for students

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

Young Life and Wyld Life programs offer a faith-based community for middle and high-school students to meet new people, attend activities, and find caring adults that offer support when students just need someone to talk to.

The organization has been around for several decades in the United States but has grown in the New River Valley since the 1990s.

"It started in 1941 in Texas by a guy named Jim Rayburn, and then sort of has exploded since then," David Gray, Area Young Life Director said. "It started here in 1979 first, and then they hired their first staff person about 11 years later, in 1990. We have six staff, myself included."

According to Gray, Young Life organizations are established in over 100 countries. College volunteers make up most of the leaders for Young Life and Wyld Life, with 70 college students

leading Montgomery County and Giles County schools.

Charleez Tate is the Young Life Team Leader for Auburn High School and supports the students along with three other team members. The middle school group is called Wyld Life and is led by Team Leader Laura Titus, also with three other leaders. All leaders are current or previous local college students.

Some college student leaders participated in their own school Young Life groups and continue their service in college; however, Young Life is open to anyone at any time, regardless of school affiliation.

"I'm originally from Maryland, and I did Young Life in high school," Tate said. "So, currently at Auburn, we have students that are in local private schools...as well as homeschooled students."

"I did Wyld Life in middle school," said Titus. "My friends' parents were like the staff members on Young Life, so, they invited me, and I

continued to do Young Life throughout high school. I came to some Young Life college events, because we also have it here at Virginia Tech."

The faith-based organization is non-denominational but is connected to a variety of local churches in the area. Tate and Titus express their mission as leaders is to let the Auburn community know that they are there and want to be of service to the students. Recently, Young Life attended an Auburn volleyball game to support friends of Young Life members. Wyld Life leaders are excited to assist with an upcoming middle school dance as well. Young Life leaders will sometimes even organize rides for students so that every child has an opportunity to attend.

"Yes, we are a Christian

See Students, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLEEZ TATE

Young Life leaders include (left to right) Will Racek, Charleez Simcik Tate, Laura Titus, Cameron Brinson, Tyler Hoefft, Marie Snyder, Emily Goodpasture.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
*Pancake Breakfast*  
FUNDRAISER



Benefits Children of the New River Valley and Beyond

Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Church on Main,

550 North Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Cost: \$10.00

Children 6 - 12: \$5.00

Children 5 and under: Free

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF MONT. CO.

## Rotary members to host Pancake Fundraiser today

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Members of The Rotary Club of Montgomery County will host a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser today, Saturday, Sept. 23 8 - 11 a.m. at the Church on Main, 550 N. Main St., Blacksburg. The cost is \$10, \$5 for children ages 6-10 and children 5 and under are free. The fundraiser benefits the various programs of the club, including its Coats for Kids program.

As winter approaches many local school children do not have needed coats or other outerwear items to keep them warm during the colder temperatures. Children are unable to regulate their body temperatures as adults do. They can quickly develop hypothermia without protection from the cold.

Last year members of the Rotary Club of Montgomery County raised \$3,000

through its Coats for Kids program to donate to area schools to meet the outerwear needs of the students.

Members of the Rotary Club of Montgomery County have long supported the community through a variety of service projects. In addition to its Coats for Kids project, the club and its members have supported the Prices Fork Elementary School, Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry, Micah's Backpack, Montgomery County Christmas Store, Wonder Universe, the county's Broomin' and Bloomin' cleanup, the Montgomery Museum of Art and History as well as international projects. This year the club is joining with other area clubs to purchase schoolbooks for a school in Haiti.

- Rotary Club of Montgomery County



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Sept. 23:

### Radford Summer Concert

Last installment of 2023 concerts, featuring country artist Ryan Perry and opening act Sofie Lynn. Held on grounds of Glencoe Mansion, just off West Main St. (600 Unruh Dr.). Gates open at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free. Food trucks and adult beverages.

### Mornings with the Mayor

Join Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. to learn how the Town of Blacksburg operates. Tour the new police station, explore the Town's history and geography and learn how to get involved at any age! Program admission is free. Open to ages 8 – 12 years. Program admission is limited to 12 participants. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, call 540.443.1026 or email lspaulding@blacksburg.gov.

## Monday, Sept. 25:

### Special Education Advisory Committee

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link. We hope to see you there!

### 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.

### Family Movie Matinee: Coco

At the Radford Public Library; 6:30 p.m. Come see 'Coco' on the library's BIG projection screen! Rated PG; 105 minutes.

## Tuesday, Sept. 26:

### 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, Sept. 27:

### Grownup Mario Kart "Tournament"

At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7:30 p.m. Adults are invited to race in a friendly Mario-Kart tournament using the library's Nintendo Switch on the huge TV in the teen section.

### Radford Photo Club presents Cityscapes with Michele Borgarelli

At the Radford Public Library; 6 p.m. All skill levels are welcome to our discussion of photographing cities. This will be a two-part discussion that carries over into our next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 26.

## Friday, Sept. 29:

### Basic Computer Skills

At the Radford Public Library; 10:30 a.m. -noon. This eight-week adult education opportunity is for beginners looking to learn how to safely incorporate the internet into their daily lives. Lunch is provided after class. Please call the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley at (540) 382-7262 to register. Spaces are limited. Laptops are provided during the classes.

## Thursday, Oct. 19:

### Blood Drive

The New River Health District will be hosting a blood drive on in the Community Room at the Montgomery Co. Health Department from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. We have set a goal of having 20 donors for the day and need your assistance. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed now to ensure patients at hospitals across the country continue to receive critical medical care. Each donor for this drive will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card as a thank you for your donation. Register at www.redcrossblood.org.

## On-going:

### Hydrant Testing

The Town of Blacksburg will test fire hydrants in the Southwest Quadrant of Town between Sept. 12 – Oct. 5. Hydrant testing can cause temporary pressure

fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the testing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

### 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.

### Free GED classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Monday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Dec. 12. For more information or to sign up please call the Library at 540-268-1964.

### NRV Master Gardener Assoc. accepting grant applications for 2024

The NRV Master Gardener Assoc., a volunteer organization of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, is now accepting grant applications for 2024 gardening projects. Grants will be awarded based on merit to any educational, care-giving or community-based organization seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve quality of life for participants through a gardening-related project. Organizations in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and Montgomery (and towns within), and the City of Radford, are eligible. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by Oct. 15, 2023. Extra pages may be used for plan images and illustrations. For more information and to submit your project application, contact Carol Trutt: nrvmastergardenerassoc@gmail.com email is preferred or mail to Carol Trutt: 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

## Blacksburg United Methodist Church supports MCEAP

Blacksburg United Methodist Church recently presented a \$3,000 check to Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program. Pictured (left to right) MCEAP volunteer Linda Teagarden, BUMC SERVE Coordinator Dick Arnold, MCEAP Manager Margie Vitale, and MCEAP volunteer Ann Herbert. The MCEAP's mission is to assist Montgomery County residents in

maintaining their households and restoring their self-sufficiency, achieved by serving the immediate, emergency, and temporary needs of low-income, unemployed, elderly or handicapped individuals and families.

- Blacksburg UMC



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUMC

COME BE A PART OF SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

Onsite Manufacturing HIRING EVENT

Friday, September 29 | 12pm-7pm

moog.careers

Moog Inc, 1120 Rock Rd W, Radford, VA 24141

## Former Afghan soldiers, now living in Blacksburg, share their stories

BLACKSBURG — Under a dark night sky, the scene was vivid.

It was a night raid in Afghanistan. Wearing night vision goggles, Mahnaz Akbari, an Afghan soldier and commander of the Female Tactical Platoon, saw a teenage girl and called out to her. The girl wasn't allowed to go to school. It was clear that she rarely left her home.

"She understood by my voice that I am a female," Akbari said. "It was the first time that she saw a woman in a uniform, with a helmet and night vision goggles. She saw me, and she understood that if I can, she can do the same."

Still, because the girl lived in Afghanistan, she would not have those opportunities, Akbari said.

Akbari and several former members of the Afghan Female Tactical Platoon visited Virginia Tech on Sept. 13 to share their experiences and advocate for permanent legal status in the United States.

They spoke as part of a series

sponsored by the Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies at Virginia Tech.

These women, including seven who have settled in Blacksburg, are among the more than 40 platoon members who are scattered across the United States. They once accompanied U.S. special operations forces during raids in Afghanistan. They were tasked with talking with women and children about the location of Taliban targets.

In 2021, these same women were some of the thousands who fled the country for the United States when the Taliban seized Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

Now, with the help of numerous Blacksburg area community groups, these

See Soldiers, page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROANOKE TIMES

Former members of the Afghan Female Tactical Platoon who now live in Blacksburg. Soraiya Nazari (left) and Azizgul Ahmadi (second from left) spoke on Sept. 13 at Virginia Tech.





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

**Employment**

**Crew Leader @ Edko LLC**  
 in Roanoke, Craig, Botetourt, Bedford, Montgomery, Salem, Giles, Franklin & Alleghany counties & Roanoke, Bedford, Lynchburg & Franklin cities, VA. Explain wrk expectations to crew. Drive comp veh's to transp crew according to work plans & schedules. Supervise 4-5 laborer crew mbr's (only tech oversight; no hire/fire responsblts). Comm w/ customers & forestry professionals re: work plans, procedures & schedules. Must work in mountainous terrain. No min exp or edu reqd. Driver license reqd. Pre-emplmt criminal bg check & post-emplmt drug testing upon emplyr's rsbl susp of drug use. Emplr transp provided to/from worksites. Send resumes to Adam Anderson, 2314 Patterson Ave SW, Roanoke, VA, 24016. EOE.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTION INFORMATION November 7, 2023 General Election**

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 17, 2023

In-Person Early Voting at the MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
 1546 North Franklin Street, Christiansburg, VA. September 22 – November 3, 2023 from 8:30am – 5pm

In addition, we will be open from 9am to 5pm Saturday, October 28, 2023 and Saturday, November 4, 2023

Note: The last day qualified voters can apply for an absentee ballot by mail: Friday, October 27, 2023 by 5:00 PM

A Ballot Drop Box will be available inside the Montgomery County Office of Elections from September 22, 2023 – November 6, 2023, during normal business hours.

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

An acceptable ID will be required when you vote. A voter may show either voter registration confirmation documents, valid Virginia Driver's License, valid United States Passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth; any valid employer identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

Contact the Montgomery County Office of Elections if you have any questions at 382-5741 or the Department of Elections at elections.virginia.gov. Connie Viar Director of Elections/General Registrar

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**BWW# VA-347735-2 TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1370 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.**

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 24, 2018, in the original principal amount of \$131,313.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2018007744 . The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court on October 23, 2023, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: LOT 3, 0.386 ACRE, PURSUANT TO A PLAT OF SURVEY DATED APRIL 8, 1982, PREPARED BY E. STALEY CLEMENTS, JR., CLS, DESIGNATED PLAN NO. L-5366, WHICH PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 468, AT PAGE 106. SUBJECT TO A 12' RIGHT OF WAY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF A 0.512 ACRE PARCEL AS SET OUT IN DEED BOOK 398, AT PAGE 811 AND DEED BOOK 454, AT PAGE 734. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale.

The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-347735-2.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 5070 GOLD RUSH RD, PILOT, VA 24138.**

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 12, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$324,000.00 recorded in the

**Legals - Montgomery County**

Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 07001815 . The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court on October 23, 2023, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIGINIA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A 1" IRON PIPE FIFTEEN (15) FEET SOUTH OF A THREE (3) FOOT MAPLE TREE WHICH IS 502.5 FEET SOUTH OF STATE ROUTE 726 AND AT CORNER OF MRS. A. P. NAFF'S PROPERTY; THENCE S 04 DEG. 18' 18" E 585.50 FEET TO A 1" PIPE; THENCE IN A EASTERLY DIRECTION 122.83 FEET TO A 1/2" PIPE , THENCE CONTINUING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION 210.66 FEET TO A 1" PIPE; THENCE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION 84.87 FEET TO A 9" HICKORY; THENCE CONTINUING IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION 79.58 FEET TO A 14" WILD CHERRY; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY 151.00 FEET TO A PIPE; THENCE CONTINUING IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION 200.00 FEET TO A 1" PIPE; THENCE CONTINUING IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION 34.17 FEET TO THE EAST CORNER OF A CONCRETE CATTLE GUARD; THENCE WEST 46.2 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH A RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM THE HEREIN CONVEYED PROPERTY TO STATE ROAD 726 FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO ERECT OR PLACE UPON THE PROPERTY ALL UTILITIES NECESSARY FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF SAID PROPERTY TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MAINTAIN, REPAIR, REPLACE AND IMPROVE ANY AFORESAID FACILITIES. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-208631-2.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1524 WALTON RD, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.**

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$107,950.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2007004900 .

The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court on October 23, 2023, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A ROD IN THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF VIRGINIA STATE SECONDARY ROUTE NUMBER 663, CORNER TO NOW OR FORMERLY ROY D. BURTON; THENCE FROM SAID BEGINNING POINT WITH THE LINE OF ROY D. BURTON, THE FOLLOWING LINES: N 81 DEG. 28' E 241.14 FEET TO A POST; THENCE N 17 DEG. 00' E 29.06 FEET TO A POST; THENCE N 44 DEG. 15' E 20.87 FEET TO A DEAD LOCUST; THENCE N 54 DEG. 07' E 54.23 FEET TO A POST; THENCE N 50 DEG. 11' E 119.67 FEET TO A LYNN TREE ON BANK OF BRANCH; THENCE N 41 DEG. 35' E 25 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE LEAVING THE LINE OF ROY D. BURTON, A NEW LINE, IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION 100 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE S 54 DEG. 07' W 250.0 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION 241.14 FEET TO A STAKE IN THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF VIRGINIA STATE SECONDARY ROUTE NUMBER 663; N 24 DEG. 29' W 36.85 FEET TO A ROD; THENCE STILL WITH THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF VIRGINIA STATE SECONDARY ROUTE NUMBER 663, N 30' W 73.15 FEET TO A ROD IN THE LINE OF ROY D. BURTON, THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH THAT DEED OF EASEMENT DATED 11/25/2003 AND RECORDED 12/8/2003 AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 2003020733. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to

**Legals - Montgomery County**

be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-360092-1.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Entitled Administration of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, Section 2-17 Cost Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Transport, by creating a category for billing based on the use emergency medical services by county residents and non-county residents. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 F. Craig Meadows County Administrator

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on a proposed ordinance entitled "Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Division 5, Section 2-107 of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia Entitled Tax Exemption and Deferrals for Elderly and Handicapped by Increasing the Net Combined Financial Worth and the Income Limits to be Eligible for Relief". A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 F. Craig Meadows County Administrator

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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 September 25, 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: A request by RDH LLC for a

**Legals - Montgomery County**

Special Use Permit (SUP) on property to allow a ShortTerm Tourist Rental within a newly constructed one-bedroom dwelling. The property is located at 2157 Harding Road, Blacksburg (St. Rt. 785), and is located approximately .28 miles west of Lusters Gate Road (St. Rt. 723). The property is further identified as Tax Map 042-A 50A (Parcel ID: 035257), 1.349 acres, zoned Residential (R-2) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**Legals - Montgomery County**

located at 425 Briggs Road (St. Rt. 1045) near the intersection of Briggs Road and Jacob Drive, Shawsville; off of Kirk Hollow Road (St. Rt. 690). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 083 A 4 22 (Parcel ID: 031288), 1.29 acres, zoned Residential (R-3) 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 Medium Density Residential in the Shawsville Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTION INFORMATION November 7, 2023 General Election**

Registration Deadline: Monday, October 16, 2023

In-Person Early Voting at the MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
 1546 North Franklin Street, Christiansburg, VA. September 22 – November 3, 2023 from 8:30am – 5pm

In addition, we will be open from 9am to 5pm Saturday, October 28, 2023 and Saturday, November 4, 2023

Note: The last day qualified voters can apply for an absentee ballot by mail: Friday, October 27, 2023 by 5:00 PM

A Ballot Drop Box will be available inside the Montgomery County Office of Elections from September 22, 2023 – November 6, 2023, during normal business hours.

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

An acceptable ID will be required when you vote. A voter may show either voter registration confirmation documents, valid Virginia Driver's License, valid United States Passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth; any valid employer identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

Contact the Montgomery County Office of Elections if you have any questions at 382-5741 or the Department of Elections at elections.virginia.gov. Connie Viar Director of Elections/General Registrar

**To place your ad, call 389-9355**

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**To place your ad, call 389-9355**

# Students from page 1

organization, but at the end of the day, we just care about kids," Gray said.

The director shared that college leaders in the area can sometimes spend 20 hours a week with local students.

"Because they just care about them and know what they're going through is really hard and they need caring adults around them," said Gray. "And our hope is just to be one of those caring adults."

All leaders and staff members must be 18 years old to apply for a position, are interviewed, undergo background checks, and receive training for the safety of the children.

One big event that is coming up for the groups in Young Life is the Rockbridge Young Life camping event. Leaders attend with the students they have worked with through the school programs and chaperone while at the

facility. Approximately 40 staff members also aid in running the camp.

Parents or students interested in finding out more about Young Life or Wyld Life can connect with leaders and staff members through their Facebook page. At Auburn, Young Life meets with high school students currently on Mondays at 7 p.m. and with middle school students on Fridays at 5 p.m. Facebook is the best way to communicate with leaders like Tate and Titus, about meetings and upcoming events.

Young Life NRV fundraises throughout the year to bring in financial support for students to attend local activities. Donations are accepted and can be made through their Facebook page. Additional information can also be found on their website at nrv.younglife.org.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE YOUNG LIFE

Founded in 1941, Young Life is now established in 100 countries.

# Fall from page 1

Seiler shares his expertise about the best times for viewing and how they will and won't be affected by weather.

Q: When should people plan their trips to see the most spectacular fall colors?

"The best viewing period is generally always around the end of October. This year, I would suggest from Oct.

28 to Nov. 5. I always try to include two weekends for people to plan their fall foliage driving tours."

Q: Could any weather factors affect that schedule?

"A lot also depends on the weather we get in September and early October. Good moisture and cooler temperatures are the ticket. As it has been getting a bit dry

lately, I've been thinking it may move the season up some and shorten it, causing some trees to drop their leaves earlier. However, there is still time for more rain."

Q: What triggers leaves to turn color, anyway?

"The main driver is shortening daylengths. Seedlings which stay warm in a greenhouse but are exposed to short fall days

still change color. Day length does get modified by drought, which can cause trees to turn early, and lack of cool nights, which will cause them to turn a bit later in the year."

Q: Does climate change have any effect on that schedule?

"Global warming in general will have only a very slight impact on

fall color change. There is some research showing leaf changes occurring earlier but lasting longer. However, the overall effect is not significant enough for the weekend leaf peeper to notice a difference."

Seiler specializes in environmental stress effects on woody plant physiology, including water and pollutant

stresses. He is the Honorable and Mrs. Shelton H. Short Professor of Forestry at Virginia Tech and was named an Alumni Distinguished Professor. Seiler teaches in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

Mike Allen for Virginia Tech

# Forum from page 1

DeMotts spoke on the lack of agreement previously with the Board of Supervisors over school vouchers and the much-discussed tax rates in the County. The Supervisors ultimately chose to enact a 70-cent tax rate, when a middle ground compromise between 70 and 73 cents was not met.

"The biggest funding loser was, of course, our public schools," DeMotts said. "We can do better, and Montgomery County citizens deserve it."

Kitts spoke of the inevitable growth that is continuing in Montgomery County and specifically in Blacksburg, echoing DeMotts thoughts on a revenue neutral budget in the face of the county's continued growth. This impacts tourism, parks and recreation, housing, and public schools.

"Every penny represents 1.2 million dollars off the budget. The 1.2 million would have funded the SRO program, four million was stripped from the schools," Kitts said. "Why? Because I don't know, we took three cents off of it and went to a revenue neutral instead of making sure that we prepared for a rainy day."

Rising property values in the area have been a growing concern for current residents as well as those individuals and families moving to the area for work and starting businesses. Additionally, public schools saw a decrease in funding support from the state than they had anticipated receiving. However, Hutton disagreed that the schools were "stripped" of funds, as stated

by Kitts. "They asked for 6.4 million, we gave them 2.4 million dollars. So, we increased their funding from last year while providing our citizens, who are facing inflation and astronomical cost of their homes, a lower property tax rate," Hutton said. "We also increased three SROs to the Christiansburg strand schools."

On the issue of diverting public school funding for school vouchers and tax credits that would support private and homeschooling, Biggs, DeMotts, Shelor, Kitts, and Graftsky agreed that school vouchers and tax credits for private and homeschooling options should not be permitted.

Biggs emphatically said she has been a huge proponent in Richmond to prevent more funding being diverted from public schools.

DeMotts agreed with Biggs and additionally stated, "I am aware of the frightening and racist history of private school voucher programs and how they disproportionately impact our most vulnerable students."

As a public-school teacher and also a former homeschool teacher to her children, Hutton stated that parents have the right to choose. Hutton addressed examples of bullied children that may not feel comfortable attending a public school and may need an alternative educational environment.

"I've seen the benefits of public school. I've seen the benefits of homeschooling. I've seen the benefits of private school. I've also seen the challenges," Hutton said. "The parents and the teachers of all these students, care about their

education and they all provide quality education."

Kitts agreed with Hutton that each student needs a plan for education.

"The way we funded public schools right now, we can't meet their needs," Kitts said. "Right now, we are below average on paying our teachers. So, now is not the time to defund public education. I am against school vouchers and I'm for increasing the funding of education."

"Public school, public dollars, not a supporter of vouchers," Graftsky said.

Questions posed to the candidates concerning the need of affordable housing brought forward ideas of the use of grant money, collaboration with local contractors, and government involvement. DeMotts stated that representatives from the New River Home Trust presented to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors recently. The New River Home Trust is part of the Community Housing Partners that supports opportunities for homes for the region's middle-income families. Work being done through this organization involves Montgomery County and the town of Blacksburg.

Candidates Graftsky and Kitts repeated the need of improved transportation options. Additional collaborations between the town of Christiansburg, as stated by Biggs, and the Virginia Tech community, suggested by Graftsky, were also recommended.

The schedule for future candidate forums can be found on the League of Women Voters, Montgomery County, Va. page at my.lvw.org/virginia/montgomery-county-va.

# News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355  
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

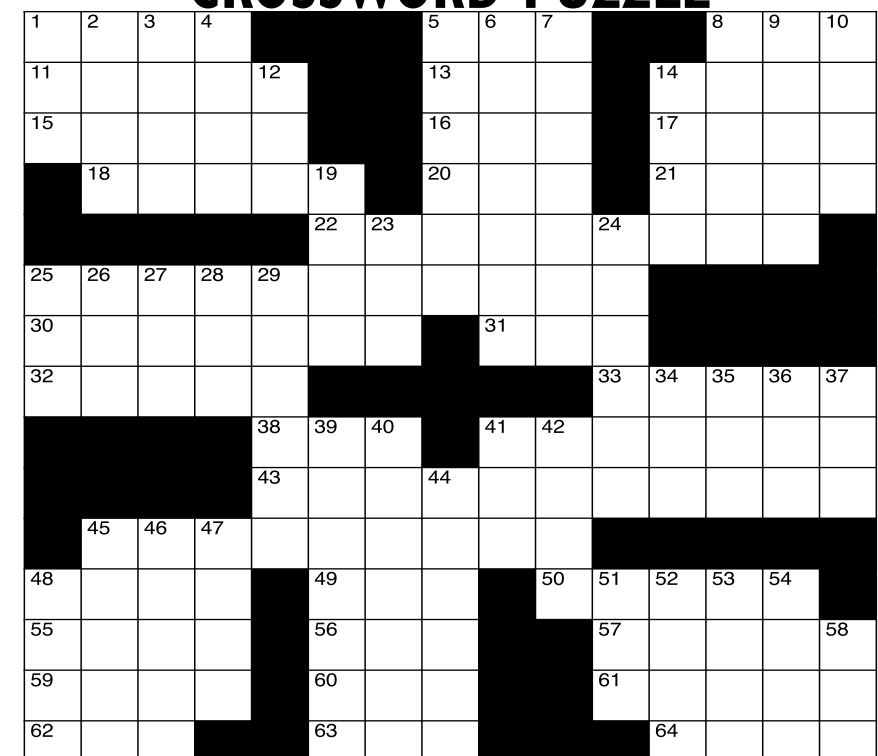
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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**CLUES ACROSS**  
 1. Group of languages  
 5. No seats available  
 8. Helps little firms  
 11. Having a strong sharp smell or taste  
 13. Established by the Treaty of Rome  
 14. Whale ship captain  
 15. Thick  
 16. When you hope to get there  
 17. First capital of Japan  
 18. Cyprinids  
 20. Dry white wine drink  
 21. Witnesses  
 22. Alcohol drinks  
 25. Synthetic resin  
 30. Latin for "very early"  
 31. Bill Clinton plays it  
 32. One-time province of British-India  
 33. Folic and amino are two

**CLUES DOWN**  
 1. He's honored every June  
 2. Breezed through  
 3. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid  
 4. Flat, thin round object  
 5. One looking for knowledge  
 6. Calls it a career  
 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument  
 8. Allied H.Q.  
 9. Reveals  
 10. Greek sophist  
 12. Speedy ballplayer Gordon  
 14. Body that defines computing protocols  
 19. Common Japanese surname  
 23. Eucharist box  
 24. Oil company  
 25. Parts per billion (abbr.)  
 26. A metal-bearing material  
 27. The common gibbon

**CLUES DOWN**  
 28. Affirmative  
 29. Writer  
 34. Taxi  
 35. Pioneering journalist  
 36. Used to hold back  
 37. Senior officer  
 39. OK to go out with  
 40. First in order  
 41. Defunct phone company  
 42. Southern Ghana inhabitant  
 44. Peninsula in SW Asia  
 45. Political plot  
 46. "Great" Mogul emperor  
 47. Young horse  
 48. Where wrestlers compete  
 51. Swiss river  
 52. Wings  
 53. Baseball legend Ty  
 54. Skipper butterflies  
 58. Immoral act



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# OBITUARIES

## Alvarez, Dale Durham

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our beloved Dale Durham Alvarez.

She passed away peacefully on the early morning of Sept. 14, 2023. Dale (Mama D), a woman of elegance, youthfulness, beauty, and unwavering compassion and strength, lived every day maximizing and cherishing the beauty of life. In her 81 years of life, Dale always had the biggest heart, and she welcomed and loved anyone who walked into her life. We will miss the remarkable woman that was Dale Alvarez beyond measure.

If you would please join us for



a celebration of Dale's life, there will be a service on Oct. 7 at 1 p.m. at NorthStar Church in Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers, we ask for donations to the NorthStar Church Caring Fund, and to always cheer for Dale's Georgia Bulldogs.

In addition to the obituary, we have posted a tribute on Dale's Facebook page.

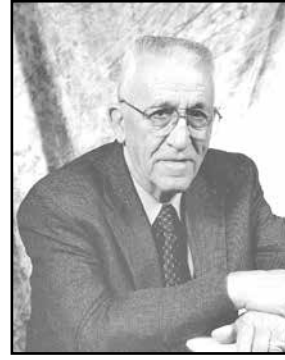
Link: [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid041jvyE4aN1DVmiuNZCc8URGwNjfpTJiAgrx9FjvbmcoKWRvBsmTLcESVWR92YQ2Dl&id=1107578201&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid041jvyE4aN1DVmiuNZCc8URGwNjfpTJiAgrx9FjvbmcoKWRvBsmTLcESVWR92YQ2Dl&id=1107578201&mibextid=Nif5oz)

## Musselman, Herbert Curtis

Herbert Curtis Musselman, 94, of Christiansburg, passed away on Monday, September 18, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Emery and Alice Musselman.

Survivors include his loving wife of 77 years, Roselee Akers Musselman; brothers, Emery and Danny Musselman; and numerous other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends



from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. on Friday, September 22, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Wesley Conner and Roger Smith officiating. Interment with full military honors will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

www.montcova.com

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## Sincere Remorse

Read Hosea 8:1 through 14:9

"Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the Lord is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins: They will return to Egypt" (Hosea 8:13).

Hosea declared the futility of Israel offering insincere sacrifices. The Lord was not pleased with rituals performed without remorse for wrongdoing. Instead of receiving forgiveness from heartfelt confession, the nation suffered punishment for their accumulated sins.

Hebrews 9:22 teaches that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgive-

ness." The blood from animal sacrifice pointed to the time when Christ's blood would secure forgiveness for all who receive Him. His death paid the penalty for sin once and for all.

Israel had treated the Lord as one of many gods, sacrificing only to gain favor. Doing good things to gain God's favor will not cover our sin. Nothing can substitute for the blood Christ shed. God sees each heart. He knows if there is true remorse that brings about change.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord Jesus, my forgiveness is only possible through You. I owe You everything.

Quicklook: Hosea 8:11-13

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 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](http://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](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](mailto:office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com), Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

### ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org), [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Eckankar-Spiritual-Experiences](http://www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Eckankar-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 leave their house. Find us on Facebook and [www.graceradford.org](http://www.graceradford.org).

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at [www.lmlc.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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@stmhc.us](mailto:hope@stmhc.us) or visit our Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://christwesleyanchurch.org)

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)





Iain Abbott with members of the NRHBA



Lilly Underwood with members of the NRHBA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NRHBA

# NRVHBA awards annual Rick Whitney Memorial Scholarship

CHRISTIANSBURG — The New River Valley Home Builders Association (NRVHBA) recently announce the recipients of the annual Rick Whitney Memorial Scholarship.

The mission of the NRVHBA Scholarship Committee is to support the future growth of the construction industry by providing aid to deserving students planning to enroll in construction-related studies at Virginia's colleges, trade schools and within working internships.

The NRVHBA requests applications from graduating high school students in Montgomery, Giles, Pulaski, Floyd, Wythe, and Carroll Counties, as well as the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg and the City of Radford.

This year, the NRVHBA is proud to announce two recipients of this annual scholarship: Lilly Underwood and Iain Abbott. Though many outstanding applications were received, both Underwood and Abbott had the educational, extracurricular, and work experience that pushed them to the top of the group.

Underwood is a graduate of Eastern Montgomery High School with an impressive list of volunteer, extracurricular and work experience, including community volunteering and leadership positions within her Student Government Association and multiple sports teams. An interest in building things, learning how structures are made, and her wood shop, math, and science courses led her to apply to attend Virginia Tech this fall, majoring in Engineering with a focus on Civil Engineering. After graduation, she looks forward to being an innovative and influential civil engineer.

Abbott is a graduate of Christiansburg High School. He became interested in the construction industry through his internship with Balzer and Associates where he learned about architecture, engineering, and surveying. As an Eagle Scout, he had the opportunity to design and build a picnic pavilion for the Town of Christiansburg. He looks forward to earning a degree in either building construction management or civil engineering with a goal of managing or owning his own

company one day.

The NRVHBA looks forward to having them as future building industry members of the community and wishes them luck in their educational and career endeavors.

Rick Whitney came to the New River Valley area in 1997 and was employed as Vice President of Construction for SAS Construction, LLC. Rick was instrumental in developing and constructing Knollwood Townhomes, the Glen, and The Meadows at Northside Park, Cedarfield Subdivision and Cedarfield Apartments. He became an avid member of the New River Valley Home Builders Association in 1997, Builder Director in 1997, Vice President in 1998 and President of the Association in 1999. As a father, Rick recognized the importance of education to young people. To encourage others to pursue their dreams, this scholarship was established to honor his many accomplishments.

*Submitted by the New River Valley Home Builders Association*

## An unexpected way to upcycle: Plastic waste transforms into soap

BLACKSBURG - A team led by Virginia Tech researchers has developed a new method for upcycling plastics into high-value chemicals known as surfactants, which are used to create soap, detergent, and more.

Plastics and soaps tend to have little in common when it comes to texture, appearance, and, most importantly, how they are used. But there is a surprising connection between the two on a molecular level: The chemical structure of polyethylene — one of the most commonly used plastics in the world today — is strikingly similar to that of a fatty acid, which is used as a chemical precursor to soap. Both materials are made of long carbon chains, but fatty acids have an extra group of atoms at the end of the chain.

Guoliang “Greg” Liu, associate professor of chemistry in the Virginia Tech College of Science, had long felt this similarity implied that it should be possible to convert polyethylene into fatty acids — and with a few additional steps to the process — to produce soap. The challenge was how to break a long polyethylene chain into many short — but not too short — chains and how to do it efficiently. Liu believed there was the potential for a new upcycling method that could take low-value plastic waste and turn it into a high-value, useful commodity.

Having considered the question for some time, Liu was struck by inspiration while enjoying a winter evening by a fireplace. He watched the smoke rise

from the fire and thought about how the smoke was made up of tiny particles produced during the wood's combustion. Although plastics should never be burned in a fireplace for safety and environment reasons, Liu began to wonder what would happen if polyethylene could be burned in a safe laboratory setting. Would the incomplete combustion of polyethylene produce “smoke” just like burning wood does? If someone were to capture that smoke, what would it be made of?

“Firewood is mostly made of polymers such as cellulose. The combustion of firewood breaks these polymers into short chains, and then into small gaseous molecules before full oxidation to carbon dioxide,” said Liu, holder of the Blackwood Junior Faculty Fellowship of Life Sciences in the Department of Chemistry. “If we similarly break down the synthetic polyethylene molecules but stop the process before they break all the way down to small gaseous molecules, then we should obtain short-chain, polyethylene-like molecules.”

With the help of Zhen Xu and Eric Munyaneza, two Ph.D. chemistry students in Liu's lab, Liu built a small, oven-like reactor where they could heat polyethylene in a process called temperature-gradient thermolysis. At the bottom, the oven is at a high enough temperature to break the polymer chains, and at the top, the oven is cooled to a low enough temperature to stop any further breakdown. After the thermolysis, they gathered the residue —

similar to cleaning soot from a chimney — and found that Liu's hunch had been right: It was composed of “short-chain polyethylene,” or more precisely, waxes.

This was the first step in developing a method for upcycling plastics into soap, Liu said. Upon adding a few more steps, including saponification, the team made the world's first soap out of plastics. To continue the process, the team enlisted the help of experts in computational modeling, economic analysis, and more.

Some of these experts were introduced to the team through connections with the Macromolecules Innovation Institute at Virginia Tech. Together,

the group documented and refined the upcycling process until it was ready to be shared with the scientific community. The work was published today in the popular journal Science.

“Our research demonstrates a new route for plastic upcycling without using novel catalysts or complex procedures. In this work, we have shown the potential of a tandem strategy for plastic recycling,” said Xu, lead author on the paper. “This will enlighten people to develop more creative designs of upcycling procedures in the future.”

See Soap, page 7

## Obituaries

from page 5

### Nester, Patricia Ann Morehead

Patricia Ann Morehead Nester, 75, Taylor; 13 great-grandchildren; and of Parrott, passed away at her home on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, Junior Oliver and Lois Johnston Morehead; her loving husband, William Louis Nester; her daughter and son-in-law, Anita and Del Giles; two siblings; and her beloved grandson, Hayden Quesenberry.



Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Edward Wayne and Vicki Nester; daughter, Alice Faye and Johathan Ash; grandchildren, Misty Dawn Mabe, Marissa Faye Fabrizi, Bryce Edward and Faith Nester, Parker Ethan Nester, Alex Quesenberry, and Victoria and Alex

numerous other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. Interment will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in

Dublin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Twin Community Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Parrott, Virginia, 24132.

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

## Soldiers

from page 2

former soldiers are creating a new life.

They include Azizgul Ahmadi and Soraiya Nazari, who both will speak during the event. The women are learning English and raising their children and younger siblings.

Since early 2022, several have been taking

English classes through the Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute, which is part of Outreach and International Affairs. Learning English is key to finding jobs and working toward a college education. In fact, two already have mastered English and are taking college courses. The Secular Society, a

Blacksburg organization, funded scholarships for their English instruction.

“It's too simple to say they resettled here,” said Scott Bailey, president of the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership, a nonprofit and significant supporter of the platoon members. “They are going to school, and all of them have spoken in front of congressmen and senators to plead for better support for Afghan veterans. They are a part of our society and are making a difference.”

Bailey is a professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech.

“When you think about women in Afghanistan going against the culture and doing something so completely dangerous and taboo and the bravery and courage behind that, they were doing some really crazy, very physical things, like repelling out of helicopters,” said Rebekah Edmondson, a U.S. Army veteran who was deployed

in Afghanistan. “These women have something so invaluable to offer to the community as they start to find their voice and literally learn the language and feel comfortable speaking publicly. It's a new chapter.”

Akbari joined the Afghan National Army in 2011 and now works for the PenFed Foundation, a nonprofit that assists veterans.

“We have been through a lot of trauma,” she said. “We lost our country, family, and everything that we had.”

Many of the women have family members still living in Afghanistan. And fearing retribution from the Taliban, the platoon

members cannot return to the country.

They came to the United States under a temporary parole program that was renewed in June for another two years. But they are rallying for passage of the Afghan Adjustment Act, a bill that offers a path for permanent U.S. legal status for Afghans who evacuated the country when Kabul fell to the Taliban.

The resettlement services available to them in Blacksburg, from English classes to transportation and moving help, are part of a larger purpose. Edmondson, who lives in South Carolina and worked closely with the female tactical platoon in Afghanistan, is one of many advocates for them as they build new lives in America.

“We are trying to help them get over this hump so that they can be the leaders here that they were in Afghanistan,” Edmondson said.

*Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech*

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## New cross-country coach at CHS

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Christiansburg High School has named a new girls' cross-country coach.

On Monday, Athletic Director Tim Cromer announced the appointment of Evan Sparks to the post.

Sparks, who is a history teacher at the school, admitted he wanted to get more involved with the school and this seemed like a great opportunity.

"The head boys cross country coach reached out over the summer and let

me know about the opening, and I was immediately interested," he said.

The new coach hopes to help the team achieve its full potential.

"This team has a lot of young talent and the potential to be one of the best groups in Virginia."

Sparks is originally from Floyd and did not run cross country or track while in school there. He played other sports and only got into running independently when in college.

This will be his first time coaching the sport.

## Getting to know Ben Thomas

*Head Track and Field Coach, Virginia Tech '92*



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

**Former Blacksburg High School track coach Ben Thomas is back in the area as the head track coach at Virginia Tech.**

Describe your excitement when you first heard of the opportunity to coach at Virginia Tech?

My earliest memory of wanting to coach was watching/learning from my coaches, Todd Scully and Russ Whitenack, at Virginia Tech and thinking "this would be the greatest job in the world!" To be able to help student-athletes achieve their dreams and go beyond. When the head coach opportunity at Virginia Tech came open, I felt like it was meant to be. To ultimately have the support of my mentor, Dave Cianelli, and the incredible administration here was incredibly humbling, and a longtime dream come true.

How did it feel to step back on campus knowing that you will be leading the program next year?

Inspiring. It is amazing to see how far the track and field program has come since we started in 2001, and the athletic program in general. All credit really goes to Coach Cianelli, athletic directors Jim Weaver and Whit Babcock, and their staffs over the years.

What is your favorite memory from coaching at Virginia Tech?

Every ACC championship was special in its own way. Finally winning the national title in the distance medley relay event in 2018 after having had eight NCAA runner-up finishes was very special. Really, the best memories are of the times spent with the student-athletes, through all the challenges and the triumphs.

Who are some of your mentors and what have you taken from them as a coach?

Dave Cianelli, Virginia Tech director of track and field/cross country: "Keep your head about you and don't be in such a hurry with your athletes or your assistant

coaches. Do the hard work and do things the right way and you'll win your share. I want us to win really badly, but I don't care who gets the credit."

Rod Camden, EC Glass High School cross country coach: "So much of success is just showing up and going about the hard work the same, through both the wins and the losses."

Frank Murray, EC Glass High School track coach: "I believe in you, and you should too."

Robert Johnson, University of Oregon: "Get out of your comfort zone, that's where you get better."

What do you love about coaching?

Having a front row seat to watching our student-athletes grow as human beings. I also love getting to see them enjoy their successes with their teammates and their families.

What do you love about Blacksburg?

The people, the places, the vibe, and oat fudge bars from Bollo's.

Stealing a line from the book/movie Field of Dreams:

Terrance, looking out in wonder: "Is this heaven Ray?"

Ray: "No Terrance, it's Blacksburg."

When you are not coaching, what do you like to do?

Watch my kids play and perform, riding my bike, and going on a date with my wife; dinner and then a movie at the Lyric Theatre.

Virginia Tech Athletics

## Hokie Half marathon, 5K bring out the runners



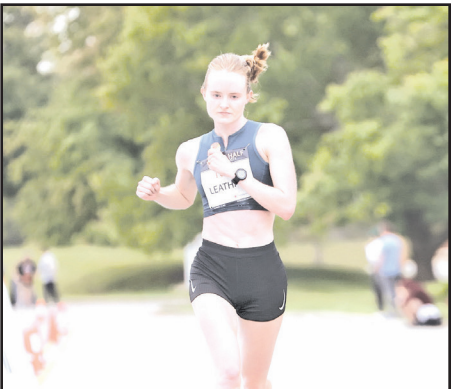
**Jesse and Sydney Settle are all smiles at the start of the 11th Hokie Half Marathon this past Sunday morning.**



**The Hokie 5k field leaves the start line on the VT Corporate Research Center campus on Sunday morning. Luke Holman (1332) was the 5k winner with a time of 18:08.53, with Aubrey Johnson the first woman finisher (19:38).**



**Adam Chase was the overall winner in the Sunday, Sept. 17 Hokie Half Marathon with a time of 1:12:31.05.**



**Cheyenne Leatham was the women's winner in the Hokie Half on Sunday, covering 13.1 miles in a time of 1:22:12.18.**

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Soap from page 6

Although polyethylene was the plastic that inspired this project, the upcycling method can also work on another type of plastic known as polypropylene. These two materials make up much of the plastic consumers encounter every day, from product packaging to food containers to fabrics. One of the exciting features of Liu's new upcycling method is that it can be used on both these plastics at once, meaning that it's not necessary to separate the two from each other. This is a major advantage over some recycling methods used today, which require careful sorting of plastics to avoid contamination. That sorting process can be quite difficult, because of how similar the two plastics are to each other.

Another benefit of the upcycling technique is that it has very simple requirements: plastic and heat. Although the later steps in the process require some additional ingredients to convert the wax molecules into fatty acids and soap, the initial transformation of the plastic is a straightforward reaction. This contributes to the method's cost-effectiveness as well as its comparatively small environmental impact.

For upcycling to be effective on a large scale, the final product must be valuable enough to cover the costs of the process and make it more economically attractive than alternative recycling options.

Although soaps may not initially seem like a particularly expensive commodity, they can

actually be worth double or triple the price of plastics when compared by weight. Currently, the average price of soap and detergent amounts to about \$3,550 per metric ton, and that of polyethylene is about \$1,150 per metric ton. Furthermore, the demand for soaps and related products is comparable to the demand for plastics.

This research lays the groundwork for a new way to reduce waste by channeling used plastics into the production of other useful materials, Liu said. Over time, he hopes recycling facilities around the world will begin to implement this technique. If so, then consumers can

expect to one day have the opportunity to buy revolutionary sustainable soap products that also lead to reduced plastic waste in landfills.

For this reason, turning plastics into soaps can be demonstrated to be economically viable, added Liu, who is also an affiliated faculty member of the nanoscience program, part of the College of Science's Academy of Integrated Science as well as the Department of Materials Science and Engineering in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering.

"It should be realized that plastic pollution is a global challenge rather than a problem of a few mainstream

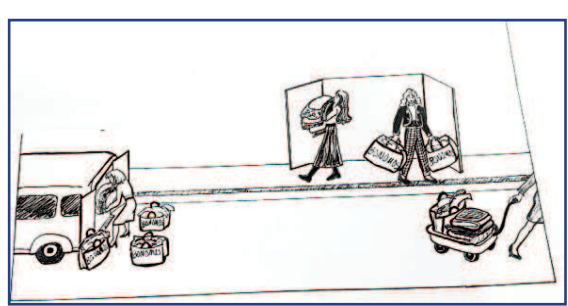
countries. Compared to a sophisticated process and complex catalyst or reagent, a simple process may be more accessible to many other countries worldwide,"

Xu said. "I hope this can be a good start for the war fighting plastic pollution."

Researchers from the Department of Chemical Engineering also were

part of this project and the resulting research paper.

Steven Mackay for Virginia Tech



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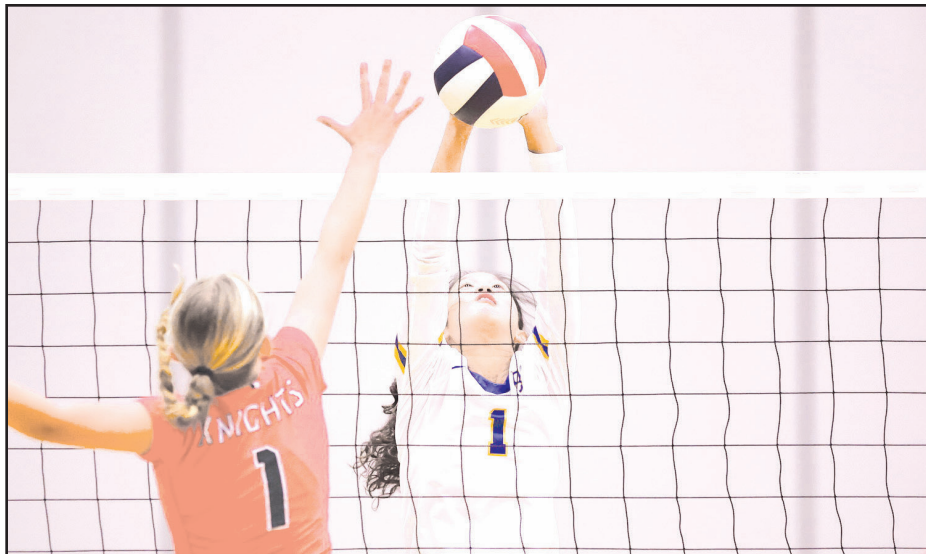
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# Cave Spring downs Blacksburg in volleyball



Blacksburg setter Emma Castle flicks the ball over for a winning point against Cave Spring during a Tuesday night match. In a volleyball match with many momentum swings and long points, Cave Spring took a 5-game thriller over previously undefeated Blacksburg.



Blacksburg's Bella Garza makes a block and scores for the Bruins against Cave Spring.



Blacksburg outside hitter Katey Mathena goes up for a spike against Cave Spring.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

# VT's Pedulla selected a Top 100 player

Virginia Tech junior guard Sean Pedulla has been selected a top 100 player by The Almanac as featured in the 2023-24 season preview Wednesday morning.

He checked in at No. 95. The Edmond, Okla., native nearly tripled his scoring production from his freshman season to sophomore campaign.

Pedulla, who predominantly plays point guard, was Tech's second leading scorer in 2022-23 at 15 points per game. He is a three level scorer who will be greatly aided by the Hokies' increased depth in the backcourt this season.

Mike Young, who has a reputation for the development of elite guards, will have

more flexibility in moving Pedulla off the ball with a healthy Rodney Rice and freshman Brandon Rechsteiner. With the likes of those three, in addition to 2022 ACC Tournament MVP Hunter Cartoer and MJ Collins, the Hokies have one of the more formidable backcourts in the ACC.

Pedulla was a double-figure scorer in 31

games last season, reaching double-figure scoring in each of his first 18 games of the season, becoming the first Hokie to do that since Erick Green scored double figures in all 32 games of the 2012-13 season.

Virginia Tech Athletics

2023-24 **SOUTH** SCHEDULE

<b>HIGH POINT</b> <small>JANUARY 3 - SPARTANBURG, S.C.</small>	<b>USC UPSTATE</b> <small>FEBRUARY 3 - SPARTANBURG, S.C.</small>
<b>LONGWOOD</b> <small>JANUARY 10 - FARMVILLE, VA</small>	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> <small>FEBRUARY 10 - CLINTON, S.C.</small>
<b>WINTHROP</b> <small>JANUARY 13 - ROCK HILL, S.C.</small>	<b>WINTHROP</b> <small>FEBRUARY 14 - ROCK HILL, S.C.</small>
<b>GARDNER-WEBB</b> <small>JANUARY 17 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>	<b>HIGH POINT</b> <small>FEBRUARY 17 - HIGH POINT, N.C.</small>
<b>USC UPSTATE</b> <small>JANUARY 20 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>	<b>GARDNER-WEBB</b> <small>FEBRUARY 21 - BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.</small>
<b>UNC ASHEVILLE</b> <small>JANUARY 24 - ASHEVILLE, N.C.</small>	<b>LONGWOOD</b> <small>FEBRUARY 24 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>
<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> <small>JANUARY 27 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>	<b>CHARLESTON SOUTHERN</b> <small>FEBRUARY 28 - CHARLESTON, S.C.</small>
<b>CHARLESTON SOUTHERN</b> <small>JANUARY 31 - ANDERSON, S.C.</small>	<b>UNC ASHEVILLE</b> <small>MARCH 2 - ASHEVILLE, N.C.</small>

2023-24 **SOUTH** SCHEDULE

<b>HIGH POINT</b> <small>JANUARY 3 - HIGH POINT, N.C.</small>	<b>USC UPSTATE</b> <small>FEBRUARY 3 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>
<b>LONGWOOD</b> <small>JANUARY 10 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> <small>FEBRUARY 10 - CLINTON, S.C.</small>
<b>WINTHROP</b> <small>JANUARY 13 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>	<b>WINTHROP</b> <small>FEBRUARY 14 - ROCK HILL, S.C.</small>
<b>GARDNER-WEBB</b> <small>JANUARY 17 - BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.</small>	<b>HIGH POINT</b> <small>FEBRUARY 17 - HIGH POINT, VA</small>
<b>USC UPSTATE</b> <small>JANUARY 20 - SPARTANBURG, S.C.</small>	<b>GARDNER-WEBB</b> <small>FEBRUARY 21 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>
<b>UNC ASHEVILLE</b> <small>JANUARY 24 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>	<b>LONGWOOD</b> <small>FEBRUARY 24 - FARMVILLE, VA</small>
<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> <small>JANUARY 27 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>	<b>CHARLESTON SOUTHERN</b> <small>FEBRUARY 28 - HAZLEWOOD, VA</small>
<b>CHARLESTON SOUTHERN</b> <small>JANUARY 31 - CHARLESTON, S.C.</small>	<b>UNC ASHEVILLE</b> <small>MARCH 2 - ASHEVILLE, N.C.</small>

PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

## ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Wednesday, October 18th @ 3 PM

**Wooded Land for Sale at Auction in Blacksburg VA**  
4262 & 4180 Pandapas Pond Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060

**Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com**

**OFFERING #1**

**OFFERING #2**

Discover an exceptional real estate opportunity! We present 2 distinct tracts of land available for purchase through online auction. The properties are located along Route 460 between Blacksburg and Pembroke VA. Whether you are seeking a commercial venture or recreational escape, these properties have it all!

**OFFERING #1 – +/- 35 acres**  
This offering boasts a generous 35 acres of all wooded land. Property provides a canvas for your vision and great visibility from Route 460. This spacious tract offers versatility for various land uses, from commercial development to recreational activities. Its proximity to the bustling community of Blacksburg makes it an enticing choice for businesses looking to be near Virginia Tech.

**OFFERING #2 – +/- 52.5 acres**  
This offering boasts a remarkable 52.5 acre parcel of mostly wooded land. There is a small cleared section that fronts on Pandapas Pond Rd. Property has great visibility from Route 460. The wooded acreage provides privacy and tranquil environment. It adjoins the Jefferson National Forest. The property features a well, which provides suitability for various purposes, including potential commercial development or a secluded recreational retreat. There is a cellular tower on this offering. Refer to survey in Bidder Packet for exact location on easement to cell tower.

**CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com.**  
You can also contact Realtor Booie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email boodied@yahoo.com

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

**Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.**

## ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, September 28th at 4 PM

**Brick Ranch Home for Sale in Pilot VA**  
1604 Laurel Creek Rd NE, Pilot, VA 24138

**Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com**

This brick country home located in Pilot VA is a spacious and well-equipped property. With 2,362 sq. ft. this home features 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Enjoy the beautiful sunroom located off the master suite. This property offers comfortable living quarters but also significant potential for personal and professional pursuits. The full basement is also a plus!

It features a paved driveway providing ample parking. Situated on 6.07 acres of land, the property provides plenty of outdoor space for various activities and entertainment. The large metal garage, spanning approximately 3,000 sq. ft., is equipped with 14ft. doors. It can accommodate vehicles, and equipment, or even serve as a workspace for a small business. It's also suitable for storing large vehicles such as RVs or boats.

The home is in the Pilot VA area of Floyd County. Within a short commute of Floyd, Riner, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Roanoke and Salem VA.

**PREVIEW – Friday, September 15th at 4 PM**

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before November 13th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 28th, 2023. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

**CONTACT - Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com.**  
You can also contact Realtor Doug Weddle at 540-239-0757 or email DougWeddleRealtor@gmail.com.

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