

# News Messenger

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Saturday, November 11, 2023

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Virginia Tech University student Jillian Brodie and Blacksburg resident Ed Champion volunteer their time at Blacksburg polling location.



Candidate's campaign signs line streets at various polling locations throughout Montgomery County on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM

## Unofficial election results show tight race for Christiansburg Town Council's open seats

*Blacksburg Town Council results up in the air due to write-in candidates*

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY-A warm Tuesday, Nov. 7 greeted voters who came out to cast their ballots in Montgomery County.

Blacksburg Town Council and Christiansburg Town Council each have three seats open in the election.

Incumbent Jerry Ford running for re-election to Blacksburg Town Council started his day at Margaret Beeks Elementary School's polling location but was later found at the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church on Prices Fork Road.

Richard Mitchell, a campaign volunteer for Rick Johnson, stood alongside Ford as they greeted voters a distance from the polling location entrance.

"I was at Margaret Beeks first thing this morning and it was fairly slow," Mitchell said.

"I was at G-3, the G-District up at North Main,

See **Open seats**, page 4

## Election results run tight for some county elections

*Registered voter turnout was just under 43 percent*

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

Montgomery County had less than half of registered voters come out to vote in the General and Special Elections on Nov. 7, 2023, according to the Virginia State Board of Elections.

As of the election date, there were 61,413 registered voters with 26,384 casting ballots. As of the Nov. 8, the

website showed 96.67% of precincts had reported their results.

The Clerk of Court for Montgomery County was a race between Republican candidate Nicholas Cody Rush (12,233) and incumbent Democrat candidate Tiffany M. Couch (12,858). There were 63 write-in votes. At the time of this report, 29 out of 30 precincts had reported with Couch taking the lead.

"I am incredibly thankful for our amazing community," Couch said. "We have the best team in our Clerk's Office, thank you for recognizing how much I love my job and I look forward to serving you the next 8 years as your Clerk of Circuit Court."

Incumbent Commonwealth's Attorney Mary K. Pettitt will

See **Election**, page 4



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Blacksburg Town Council incumbent candidate Jerry Ford and Richard Mitchell, campaign supporter for Rick Johnson, who running for Blacksburg Town Council as a write-in candidate, greet voters at the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church polling location.



PHOTO BY SKYLER TAUBER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Three researchers and three participants interact with robotic hands at the 2019 Virginia Tech Science Festival.

## Virginia Tech Science Festival returns today, Saturday, Nov. 11

BLACKSBURG - Where might a child be able to play catch with a robot, extract DNA from a strawberry, assemble a DNA strand out of candy, explore the bottom of streams, and read a book with artificial intelligence, all in a single afternoon?

These activities are just a handful of more than 50 exhibits available during the Virginia Tech Science Festival on Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events will be held at the Moss Arts Center, Carol M. Newman Library, and Torgersen Hall and are free to the public.

In its 10th iteration, the Virginia Tech Science Festival attracts more than 4,000 visitors, each year, allowing participants to take part in demonstrations, hands-on activities, and one-on-one conversations with the researchers.

While many exhibitors from previous festivals will return, this year's lineup includes a number of community presenters, robotic clubs, two student groups from Montgomery County Public Schools, and science-oriented nonprofit organizations. Additionally, the day will conclude with the Nutshell Games, a contest in which Virginia Tech graduate students pitch their research in 90 seconds, starting at 4:30 p.m.

"I am excited that this has grown and extended to become part of the fabric of Virginia Tech," said Phyllis Newbill, associate director of educational networks the Center for Educational Networks and Impacts. "There are children who

See **Festival**, page 6

## Virginia General Assembly returns to democratic control of both houses

**Heather Bell**  
hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The Democratic party gained control of the Virginia House of Delegates following Tuesday's election, giving the party full control of both houses of the Virginia General Assembly.

Locally, the results saw victories for Republicans.

The City of Radford and parts of Montgomery County are represented by the 5th Senate district. Incumbent T. Travis Hackworth, a Republican, won the election with 68%, or 35,905 votes. Robert W. Beckman, a Democrat, received 31.86%, or 16,823 votes. There were 73 write-in votes, or 0.14%.

See **General Assembly**, page 6

## American Frontier Culture Foundation, NRV Home Builders Association provide grants

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

agenda item approved School Board members unanimously by the See **Grants**, page 4

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Grant funding provides MCPS students with opportunities to experience study topics with hands-on learning and outside of the classroom.

One such grant is the Frontier Culture for Christiansburg Elementary School fourth graders, which also supports the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) initiative.

According to the



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCPS

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# Blacksburg High School students die in apparent murder-suicide

BLACKSBURG – Two Blacksburg High School students have died after an apparent murder-suicide in a Blacksburg parking garage.

The Blacksburg Police Department responded to the parking garage, located at 723 University City Blvd., after a report of a suspicious vehicle.

“Upon arrival, officers discovered two deceased juveniles, as well as a weapon, inside the vehicle,” according to the BPD. “Both juveniles have

been identified as students enrolled at Blacksburg High School. Investigators notified the next-of-kin for both individuals.”

The Blacksburg Police Department has a policy not to release the names of juveniles. Family members have identified the murder victim as Serenity Hawley, a senior at BHS.

The Blacksburg Police Department and the Town of Blacksburg are working with Montgomery County Public Schools to ensure that any services MCPS

staff or students may need are available.

The BPD confined the deaths as an isolated incident with no ongoing threat to the community and said it is an active and ongoing investigation.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Blacksburg Police Department Crime Tip Line at 540-961-1819 or email at [bpdipline@blacksburg.gov](mailto:bpdipline@blacksburg.gov).

*Staff report*

# Montgomery County issues open-air burn ban

Montgomery County has issued an open-air burn ban, which will remain in effect until further notice.

“Effective immediately (Nov. 6, 2023), an open-air burn ban has been issued for Montgomery County due to extreme dry conditions, which elevate the risk of fire,” the county announced Monday.

Open-air burning includes, but is not limited to, campfires, burning of brush from gardens and lawns, and any type of burning in a barrel. In addition, residents should be aware that machinery, including lawn mowers and grain harvesting equipment, could cause a spark, or be a source of intense heat,

such as a vehicle exhaust system.

“Even the smallest fire can quickly spread due to the dry conditions,” the announcement reads. “Residents located in and around wooded areas should use extreme caution. Fire spreads rapidly and can consume a significant area in a very short time.”

If you have questions or concerns about the open-air burn ban, contact the Montgomery County Fire and EMS Department at 540-394-2146, or your local fire department.

*Staff report*

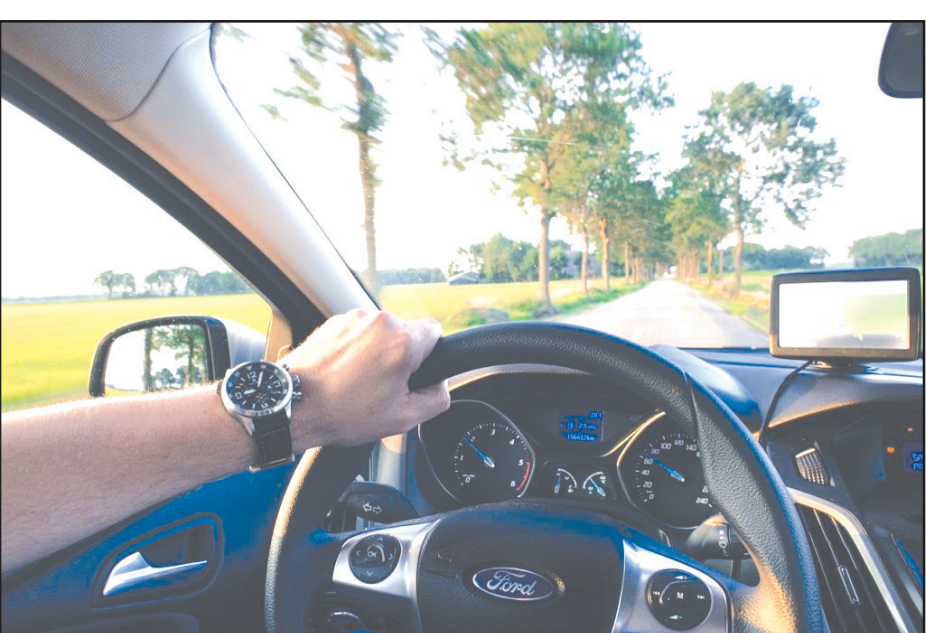


PHOTO COURTESY PIXABAY VIA VIRGINIA TECH

# Daylight saving can create driver fatigue and hazards on the road, says expert

As clocks “fall back” and daylight-saving time ends, many Americans will be driving longer at night which could translate to more driver fatigue and hazards on the road, says Virginia Tech Transportation Institute expert Matt Camden.

Camden says that any time change can exacerbate drowsiness and your body may need a few days to adjust accordingly. He offers the following advice for drivers to avoid fatigue.

1. Avoid driving during rush hour and from 2-4 a.m.

Crash risk increases during rush hours and from 2-4 a.m. Driving between

2-4 a.m. is particularly dangerous because a person’s circadian rhythm is at its lowest during this timeframe. And when a driver is already sleep-deprived, the desire to sleep during the circadian low is even greater.

2. Get a full night’s sleep.

Drivers should try to sleep at least seven to eight hours in order to avoid drowsiness. However, one night’s rest may not be enough for someone who has experienced several sleepless nights. In those cases, the driver will need several days of restful sleep to compensate for the sleep debt.

3. Pay attention to signs

of drowsy driving.

Signs of drowsy driving include slow eyelid closures, yawning, gentle swaying of the head, seat fidgeting, difficulty staying in your lane, difficulty maintaining speed, and delayed reactions.

4. Be aware of other factors impacting drowsy driving.

Situations that increase drowsiness are driving alone, monotonous road conditions, such as long straightaways with limited changes in the environment), long drives, and extended periods of heavy traffic.

*Shannon Andrea for Virginia Tech*



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

Attendees pose along the trick or treat trail on the Warm Hearth Village campus.

# Warm Hearth Village hosts second annual trick or treat trail

BLACKSBURG – As a way to give back to the community that so generously gives to them, Warm Hearth Village’s (WHV) life enrichment department held its second annual Trick or Treat Trail at the village.

The spooky trail meandered through the campus with games, treats and interesting characters at every turn. This year a hayride was added and the entry fee was a donation of paper towels or tissues for Michah’s Pantry, an on campus store serving seniors in need.

Mardy Baker, Life Enrichment Director coordinated the event

with help from staff from throughout the campus. VCOM, Food Lion North Franklin Street Christiansburg, Humana, and Virginia Tech students also pitched in to sponsor and volunteer. The event grew this year to about 600 attendees and WHV hopes to expand it further in the coming years.

“We plan a year in advance to give a joyous experience for children aged 1-100,” said Baker. “Bringing our community together to experience laughter and joy is a passion for everyone involved. We love to challenge

ourselves with a new ideas and this year we raised the bar with a live action Zoltar machine and an educational oddities table, where children learned about bones, hosted by VCOM. We always want to add in an element of surprise and whimsy to everything we do to keep it fresh, without being gory. And of course, lots of candy, crafts and games along the pathway. We sincerely hope that this event becomes a tradition for our community for years to come.”

*Submitted by Warm Hearth Village*



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NRVRC

# RIDE Solutions NRV hosting NRV Commuter Challenge

RIDE Solutions NRV is hosting a commuter challenge during November.

All companies and commuters are invited to join this free, incentive-based transportation challenge. Participation is easy, free, and requires no long-term commitment. Participants simply download the free ConnectingVA app, register, and log at least one bike, walk, transit, or carpool/vanpool trip for a chance to win fun prizes. The NRV Commuter Challenge will also recognize local businesses with the most trips logged by employees.

Hosted by RIDE Solutions, the transportation demand management agency of the New River Valley Regional Commission, the NRV Commuter Challenge encourages people to consider their transportation choices and make

the pledge to try at least one new transportation mode. Participants are encouraged to walk, bike, take the bus, or carpool/vanpool instead of driving alone for at least one trip to or from work during the month-long challenge period. Our goal is to reach 1,000 participating commute trips in the New River Valley.

For details about the NRV Commuter Challenge, contact Christy Straight at [cstraight@nrvc.org](mailto:cstraight@nrvc.org).

To learn more about how RIDE Solutions can help commuters find transportation alternatives to driving alone, visit: <https://ridesolutions.org/>.

*Submitted by the New River Valley Regional Commission*

# Dragon Research Collaborative premieres Fossil Tales children’s exhibit

The Dragon Research Collaborative (DRC) at Roanoke College has received a \$20,000 grant from the Virginia Humanities to assist in the creation of a child-focused exhibit connecting the natural history of Appalachia to the stories of other areas and

cultures. The museum exhibition, Fossil Tales, opened to the public on Oct. 28 at Wonder Universe in Christiansburg.

The DRC includes a culmination of 10 years of interdisciplinary research led by Lisa Stoneman, associate

professor of education, and DorothyBelle Poli, professor of biology. The DRC’s aim is to use a scientific approach with dragons as a research focus across diverse disciplines of plant biology, history, literature, computer sciences, business, environmental science and more.

The exhibit will permanently house an exploration of the DRC’s plant fossil-folklore hypothesis of a link between Lepidodendron plants and the lore of dragons. This display will include pieces of work collected or donated since the program’s inception in 2013.

Wonder Universe is located at Uptown Christiansburg (New River Valley Mall), 782 New River Rd., Christiansburg.

*Submitted by Roanoke College*

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Now through Wednesday, Nov. 22:

### South Main Street Lane Closure

The right-hand southbound lane of Blacksburg's South Main Street from Landsdowne Street to King Street will be closed 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. until Wed. Nov. 22. Traffic will shift to the left-hand lane during this closure. The closure is due to demolition of curbing along South Main and King Street and the preparation for a new turning lane.

## Monday, Nov. 13:

### 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](http://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.

### RCPS Special Ed Advisory Committee meeting

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Belle Heth Elementary School Library, 151 George 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!

## Tuesday, Nov. 14:

### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB

Channel 2.

### Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

## Thursday, Nov. 16:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Johnathan McPeak will give a talk on the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Sunday, Nov. 19 and Monday, Nov. 20

### Montgomery County Christmas Toy Drives at VT

VT Athletics and the Montgomery County Christmas Store announce the Annual Toy Drive to benefit the toy department at the store. Every year, fans have the opportunity to bring unwrapped toys to the games. Volunteers will be at entrances with huge, decorated boxes to take toys. Dates include: Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. at the VT/Clemson volleyball game; Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. at the VT/Wofford men's basketball game; and Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. at the VT/UNC Greensboro women's basketball game.

## On-going:

### Blacksburg Police Department survey available

The Blacksburg Police Department (BPD) is asking the community to complete a short (approximately three-minute) survey ranking individual satisfaction with the department. All responses are recorded anonymously and honest feedback is appreciated. These responses will help the BPD continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg community. Access the survey

at [surveymonkey.com/r/Q8SHQH8](https://surveymonkey.com/r/Q8SHQH8)

### Call to Artists: Signal Cabinet and Utility Box Public Art Project

Town of Blacksburg Public Arts Committee is seeking design submissions from artists who are local, regional, or familiar with the Blacksburg area. Designs will be installed on utility boxes or traffic signal cabinets at selected intersections around town as public art, beginning in summer 2024. Submissions are accepted via email and must be submitted by Friday, December 15, 2023, to be considered by the selection committee. Before submitting a design for consideration, interested artists are highly encouraged to visit <https://letstalkblacksburg.org/publicart/utilitybox> to learn more about the project details and submission information. Questions: contact Kenna Jewell, [kjewell@blacksburg.gov](mailto:kjewell@blacksburg.gov), 540.443.1092.

### Eligibility applications for Christmas Store 2023

Online applications are being accepted and reviewed now through Dec. 6, 2023 to shop at the Montgomery County Christmas Store in December. Go to the Christmas Store website at [www.mcchristmasstore.org](http://www.mcchristmasstore.org) and click on Apply to Shop. First, you will see the documents you need to have ready to upload before beginning the application process. Then scroll down some more to see the criteria you must meet to see if you are eligible to apply to shop at the Store in December. If you qualify to shop at the store Dec. 5-9, you will receive the link to select your shopping appointment.

### Call for participants: 2023 Blacksburg Annual Holiday Parade

Citizens are invited to participate in Blacksburg's annual Holiday Parade, organized by Blacksburg Parks and Recreation. This year's theme is "Miracle on Main Street". Parade entries may be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, scout groups, bands, sports teams and more. The parade will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 2. For more information on how to get involved, contact David Goodman, Community Programs Supervisor at [degoodman@blacksburg.gov](mailto:degoodman@blacksburg.gov) or 540.443.1106.

### 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.

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#### Legals - Montgomery County

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**401 Depot Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073**

Tax Map Nos. 526-A-159 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

In execution of a credit line deed of trust dated February 12, 2009 (the "Deed of Trust"), recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, as Instrument No. 09001337, the undersigned substitute Trustees, any or all of whom may act, will offer for sale at 401 Depot Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, which property is more particularly described as follows: All that certain tract or parcel of land, with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being on the westerly side of Depot Street, Town of Christiansburg, Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, described as follows: All that tract containing 0.329 acres, as shown on the map entitled, "Plat of Survey, 0.329 Acre Parcel," prepared by C. S. Correll, L.S., dated 23 April 1998, Plan # 1032, which map is of record in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 1012, Page 475 and to which map reference is made for a more particular description of the property herein conveyed. This sale is subject to all liens, easements, restrictions, conditions, and reservations of record affecting the title to the

#### Legals - Montgomery County

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**401 Depot Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073**

Tax Map Nos. 526-A-159 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

property hereinabove described, to the extent any of them have priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust. TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Registration: Bids will only be accepted from registered bidders. Your drivers license and a cashier's check or cash in the amount of 10% of the bidders high bid will be required to register. 2. Deposit: The successful bidders will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately following the fall of the hammer, and the cashier's check or cash, as described above, will be delivered to the Substitute Trustee. The deposit will be applied to the purchase price at closing. The deposit is non-refundable unless Seller is unable to convey marketable title. Closings are to take place within 30 days of sale. Time is of the essence. 3. Deed: The property will be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed. 4. Announcement: Announcements made on the day of sale, take precedence over all prior communications, both verbal and written, concerning the sale or the property. 5. Buyer's Premium: There will be a 5% Buyer's Premium in effect on the day of sale. The Buyer's Premium is added to the high bid amount, to determine the contract sale price. 6. As-Is, Where-Is The property is being sold AS-IS, WHERE-IS. Potential Buyers must perform such independent investigations with respect to the property as they deem necessary to verify information provided by the Auction Company or the Seller. 7. Advertisements: All information provided by Auction Company or the Seller is deemed reliable but is not warranted. The information contained in the advertisement brochure and any

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#### Legals - Montgomery County

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**401 Depot Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073**

Tax Map Nos. 526-A-159 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

public hearing to be held on November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: VA request by DW, LLC (Agent: Ernest Woods) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow an additional 10,000 cubic yards of rubble landfill for the disposal of inert debris on 2.12 acres of a 46.99-acre parcel. The property currently contains a by-right rubble landfill totaling 15,000 cubic yards of inert debris, the maximum volume of fill permitted by-right in the Zoning Ordinance. The property is located off Brammer Lane and Houchins Road (State Route 758). The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-5 1 (Parcel ID: 033688), 46.99 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural 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>

#### Legals - Montgomery County

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204; 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by Mayapplings, LLC (Agent: Hayley Reynolds) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Child Care Center within an existing structure. The use is defined as "day care center" in the Zoning Ordinance, which is allowed in the A-1 Zoning District only by an approved Special Use Permit. The property is located at 2895 Old Fort Road (State Route 1279), at the intersection of Thomas Lane (State Route 737) and Old Fort Road. The property is further identified as Tax Map 052-7 B1 (Parcel ID: 003254), 2.640 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Price's Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Low-Density Residential in the Price's Fork Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments

#### Legals - Montgomery County

### 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 November 15, 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 Harvey Morris & Susan R. Cochran for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Contractor's Storage Yard within the A-1, Agricultural Zoning District. The property is located at the end of Rustic Trail (Private Rd) which intersects with Peppers Ferry Road (St. Rt. 114). The property is further identified as Tax Map 076-1 8 (Parcel ID: 018773), 37.220 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications,

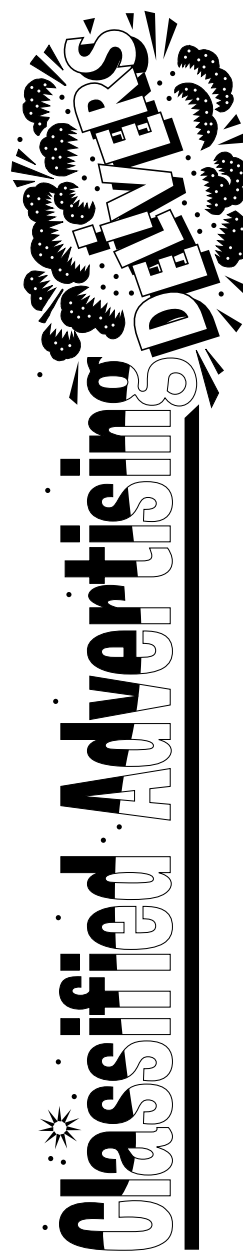
#### Legals - Montgomery County

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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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# Grants from page 1

at their Tuesday, Nov. 7 meeting, "This grant will cover travel and admission costs to allow approximately 118 fourth graders to visit the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Va. The American Frontier Culture Foundation raises funds each year to provide assistance for school field trips to the Frontier Culture Museum. All of these programs incorporate the Virginia Standards of Learning."

The \$4,500 grant will cover not only travel but admission costs for students, teachers, and chaperones.

Also approved under the Consent Agenda by the board, The New River Valley Home

Builders Association Microgrant Program awarded funding as well to support programs within the construction and home building industries. The award will provide funds for projects and materials to designated schools in the amounts of: Blacksburg Middle School, \$1,000; Blacksburg High School, \$1,000; and Eastern Montgomery High School, \$2,000.

The MCPS Board were united in their approval of a grant application that would provide a total of \$23,576.40 to fund the purchase of 30 Meta Quest 3 virtual reality (VR) headsets and carrying cases, Meta Quest for business headset

management software license for one year, and VR apps.

The grant will benefit STEM programs in Math and Engineering.

Superintendent Dr. Bernard Bragen presented one item during his report to the board. The MCPS Board had requested Bragen seek out a study on the expected growth in the county's education enrollment, to provide needed data in preparing for population expansion in the future. MCPS Board members had hoped to see numbers on forecasted growth of the school system in targeted five-a-ndten-year increments. The report did include these future milestones for the county,

but Bragen felt the report fell short of important details needed to provide a true picture of coming growth.

"They did a nice job in doing projections for birth rates and what our growth would be for schools over five and ten years, and we obviously know where our kids are going from first grade through, you know, twelfth grade, so we could kind of project that on our own. We know what our attrition rate is, and so on, and so forth," Bragen said. "But what was absent from this demographic study was the growth, the growth of the community, the number of building permits that

have been issued over the last couple of years and the anticipated number for this year and following years, as well as the projected and the growth experienced for Virginia Tech, which has a big impact on our community."

Bragen shared his disappointment in the demographic enrollment report results with the Board and that he plans to seek out a new study which will be made available later.

A public hearing was also held for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSR) funds, which must be held every six months according to School

Board Chair Mark Cherbaka. There was no public comment in response to this agenda item.

The MCPS board voted unanimously in support of revenue and expenditures in support of grants and federal funding as part of the FY2023-24 Supplemental Appropriation. The total amount, as listed on the MCPS meeting agenda, is \$1,774,309, and was allocated to the FY2023-24 Operating Budget.

Bragen said, "Mostly, 1.2 [million] of that is our ESSRs funds, and how we allocate it and how we're spending it. Once the Board approves it, then we send it to the Board of Supervisors."

# Open seats from page 1

## News Messenger

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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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and they [volunteers] were floating between all three precincts, and they said our G-3 was probably the busiest. It was steady," Ford said.

Unofficial election results were made available by the State Board of Elections for Virginia and are updated as numbers come in. In the Blacksburg Town Council race, there were three available seats and two candidates on the ballot. Incumbent Jerry Ford, Jr. garnered 29.76% or 3,802 votes, incumbent Michael D. Sutphin gained 34.69% or 4,432 votes, and the write-in had 35.56% or 4,543 votes. Both Johnson and Liam Watson were running write-in campaigns.

Three seats were open for Christiansburg Town Council. The candidates on the ballot, with the

number of votes received at the time of this publication, the top three vote-getters are incumbent Johana Hicks (3,202), Kim Bowman (3,188), and incumbent Samuel Bishop III (2,820). Other candidates and their vote totals are: Steve Huppert (2,327), Jeff Akers (2,724), Mike Scarry (1,706), and Wendy Glass (2,797), with write-in votes totaling 130 votes.

Numerous volunteers assist in helping voters to navigate smoothly in and out of polling locations throughout the day in each district.

Numbers are unofficial as provisional and post-election votes have yet to be reported at the time of this publication.

## Election from page 1

continue for another term with 97.22% of the votes and 590 votes going to write-ins. Sheriff C.H. "Hank" Partin also will take the win in the race for the sheriff's position with 95.20% of the votes; 1,002 votes went to a write-in.

Tara Cochran Vance (R) and Brenda E. Winkle (D) raced for the Commissioner of Revenue position with Winkle unofficially taking the office with 12,801 votes, or 52.43% of the votes, versus Vance's 11,509 votes and 47.14% of the votes. The write-in votes totaled 104.

Republican Mary Weaver takes the office of Treasurer with 97.73% of the votes, and 20,660 votes. A total of 479, or 2.27% of votes, went to the write-in.

Four different district seats were open on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. In District B, 47.27% or 2,058 votes went to Meredith M. Hutton and Derek Kitts was in the lead with 52.46% or 2,284 votes. There were 12 write-in votes.

In District E, incumbent Darrell O. Sheppard (R) received 52.10% or 1,242 votes, and Anthony M. Graftsky (D) had 47.23% or 1,126

of the votes, with 16 write-in votes.

Incumbent Mary W. Biggs (D) will see another term in Montgomery County Board of Supervisors' District F with 97.39% or 2,052 votes. There were 55 write-in votes or 2.61% of the total.

District G of the Board of Supervisors will see Incumbent April Noelle DeMotts (D) as returning to her seat with 72.09% or 1,612 votes and David E. Shelor, Jr. (I) garnering 27.59% or 617 of the votes. Write-In votes totaled seven.

Mark L. Mear competed against incumbent Penny J. Franklin for the District B seat on the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) Board. A very close race, with five out of six precincts reporting at the time of this article, showed Mear at 49.04% and 2,150 votes and Franklin having 50.57% or 2,217 votes. A total of 17 votes went to write-ins.

A difference of only 19 votes also revealed a close race for the MCPS Board member seat in District E where S. Derek Rountree with 50.06% or 1,216 votes, is being closely followed by Lindsay J. Rich with 49.28% and 1,197 votes.

Write-in votes for this seat totaled 16.

Laural S. Purcell will be the District F MCPS board member taking the seat with 96.08% and 1,935 votes. Write-in votes totaled 79.

District G of the school board member race would reveal Edward J.K. Gitre pulling ahead of Jason Edward Massie. Gitre gained 69% or 1,531 of the votes while Massie received 30.37% or 674 votes. There were 14 votes cast for the write-in.

An additional ballot selection for Soil and Water Conservation Director in the Skyline District of Montgomery County was Richard F. "Rick" Wall with 93.27% and 19,940 of the votes. Write-in votes took 6.73% and 1,439 of the total votes cast.

Jillian Brodie, Virginia Tech University student, and Blacksburg resident Ed Champion were among the many volunteers, who generously donated their time in passing out sample ballots and other pertinent information.

These are unofficial results as provisional and post-election ballots have not yet been reported at the time of this publication.

CROSSWORD

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57		58						59			
60								61			

- CLUES ACROSS**

  - 1. Regions
  - 6. Abu \_\_, UAE capital
  - 11. Forever
  - 13. Lower position
  - 14. Masterpiece series
  - 18. Atomic #18
  - 19. Cuckoos
  - 20. Goat with conical horns
  - 21. European money
  - 22. Flaw the surface
  - 23. Restaurant bill
  - 24. Indicated horsepower (abbr.)
  - 25. Go in advance
  - 28. Ancient Egyptian King
  - 29. Insert mark
  - 31. Palm fruits
  - 33. Peels a fruit's skin
  - 34. Many not ands
  - 35. Cathode-ray oscil-

**CLUES DOWN**

  - 1. Unkeyed
  - 2. Recable
  - 3. Sea eagles
  - 4. Small social insect
  - 5. \_\_ Paulo, city
  - 6. 2 man fight
  - 7. Honey (abbr.)
  - 8. Anno Domini
  - 9. Malibu and Waikiki
  - 10. To burst in
  - 11. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
  - 12. Liquefied natural gas
  - 15. Douroucoulis
  - 16. Spoiled child
  - 17. Founder of Babism
  - 21. Ireland
  - 26. Love intensely
  - 27. One who confronts boldly
  - 28. Atomic #52
  - 29. Feels concern or interest
  - 30. Got up from

- 32. Sound of disappointment
  - 33. Out of 100 (abbr.)
  - 36. Actress Kerr
  - 37. Irish Gaelic
  - 38. 10 Commandments mountain
  - 39. Morning
  - 40. Straight downhill ski run
  - 41. Angel's crown
  - 43. Canonized individuals
  - 44. Old school tablets
  - 46. Dip lightly into water
  - 48. Traumatic anxiety disorder
  - 50. Mineral spring resorts
  - 51. Desoxyribonucleic acid
  - 52. Greek cheese
  - 54. Express pleasure
  - 55. Don't know when yet
  - 56. 13th Hebrew letter
  - 58. Chinese tennis star Li

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# OBITUARIES

## Sutphin, Alice Turner

Alice Turner Sutphin, 93, of Janelle and Joseph Belt, Kayleigh, Cole Radford, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

She was a member of Belmont Christian Church. Alice was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Myrtle Turner; her husband, Rev. Bobby Sutphin; son, David Sutphin; brother, Russell Turner; and sister, Lois Blevins.



Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Ben and Melody Sutphin and Stephen and Peggy Sutphin; daughter and son-in-law, Crystal and Oakley Johnston; sister-in-law, Jane Alvarez; grandchildren, Allison Gilbert (Ryan), Laura Riner (Paul), Mary Dayton (Peter), Samantha Belt (Joey), Robbie Johnston (Kayla), Harmony Hixon (Jordan), and David Sutphin; great grandchildren, Leonie and Ray Riner, Audrey Dayton, Jaelynn,

Christian Church in Christiansburg. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2013, at 2 p.m. with Rev. Beaver Terry, Robbie Johnston, and Brandon Craig officiating. Interment will follow in Belmont Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Belmont Christian Church, Great Campaign.

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

## Montgomery, James Riley

James Riley "Jim" Montgomery, 93, field of Institutional Research and retired attorney, Major General, and Virginia Tech administrator, passed away peacefully in his Blacksburg home on Oct. 24, 2023.



Jim was born to Elizabeth and Charles Montgomery in Knoxville, Tenn. He attended Knoxville High School and was active in sports and the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Continuing his participation in Scouting after high school, Jim served as National Conference Chief of the Order of the Arrow in 1950.

He graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1952 and entered the Army as a Second Lieutenant. On leaving active duty, Jim continued his military career in the Army Reserves while also pursuing his education. He earned his MA from the University of Tennessee and his PhD from Columbia University. Jim started his career in university administration at a time of great demand for higher education, and he pioneered the

Planning. He served as the Director of Institutional Research at the University of Tennessee and later at Virginia Tech. Jim was named a Distinguished Member of the Association of Institutional Research and helped to organize the Southern Association of Institutional Research (SAIR). The SAIR established an award named in Jim's honor, and he was the first recipient of the James R. Montgomery Service Award. He authored five books and published over 50 papers in history and educational research.

In addition to his academic career, Jim remained in the Army Reserves for 36 years and retired as a Major General. His assignments included the command of the 310th Theater Army Area Command with a NATO Cold War mission for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service

See Obituaries, page 6

www.montcova.com

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### 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, 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 Sonaf Frank, 1-336-583-4822. Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

### ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences \* Group\* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative

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.

**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 the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmclc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

### MULTI-CULTURAL

### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**Christian Growth Center**, 1850 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

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



# DMV launches online, 'Start Anywhere' pre-application for original ID card

New service enables Virginians to start application at home, complete process at DMV

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has launched an online pre-application for Virginians seeking an identification card now available on DMV's newly redesigned website, [dmv.virginia.gov](http://dmv.virginia.gov). This application is part of DMV's "start anywhere" services, which allow customers to begin certain applications from the comfort of their own home or on the go. The services currently available to start online are: original driver's licenses or renewals

or replacements, name change, and now original IDs. Customers can also choose to upgrade their credential to a REAL ID during any of the start anywhere driver or ID services. With the "start anywhere" service, customers conveniently log in to their DMV account and begin their application from home. The application is electronically submitted to DMV and a customer service representative will access the pre-filled application at the time of service. This convenient

process also walks customers through exactly what documents they need to bring with them so that their visit is successful. "Our goal is simply maximizing customer experience. Having the ability to start your application online before your trip to visit us will save you time so you can get back to your day," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "If you'd like to apply for an ID or driver's license, I recommend starting online so you know exactly

what documents to bring with you when you visit us in person." Customers can find the pre-application for IDs on DMV's website under "Online Services." You must visit a DMV customer service center to complete the process. You can make an appointment, reserve your spot for same-day service or simply stop by during office hours.

Submitted by the DMV

# Food City Friends & Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive underway



FILE PHOTO

"Hunger is a serious problem throughout our region, especially during the holidays and colder winter months. Food City is proud to host a number of hunger relief programs throughout the year, including our Friends & Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive. The drive will benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters throughout our area at a critical time," said Steven C. Smith, Food City's president and chief executive officer. Now through Dec. 31, specially marked bags containing non-perishable food items, as well as bags containing pet food products will be available for purchase for only \$15 (plus tax) at all area Food City locations. Customers wishing to purchase the bags may deposit

them in the collection bins located at the front of the store. 100% of the products collected will benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters throughout the region. "Millions of Americans and animals need food assistance each year," said Kevin Stafford, vice president of marketing for Food City. The Food City Friends & Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive is another way we can help those in need right here in our own area. "Food City's ongoing hunger relief initiatives have been a tremendous success and we are hoping to set a new record with this year's drive to help our neighbors and furry friends in need," said Smith.

Submitted by Food City

# Virginia ranked among top states in national scorecard on hospital patient safety

RICHMOND – Virginia's run as one of the top states in the nation for hospital safety scores continues. The Commonwealth is second overall among states in the Fall 2023 Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grade state rankings that are based on the share of hospitals in each state that earn "A" grades. "Providing high-quality, compassionate care focused on patient dignity and safety is central to the mission of hospitals across Virginia," said Ballard Health Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Eric Deaton, the Chair of the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) Board of Directors. "The latest Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grade scores showing

strong performance on patient safety illustrates the priority Virginia hospitals place on caring for patients." Last year, Virginia was second overall in the Fall 2022 rankings and second overall in the Spring 2022 rankings. The Commonwealth has regularly been a high-achieving state in the bi-annual Leapfrog rankings: Virginia was first overall in the Fall 2021 rankings, fourth in Spring 2021, sixth in Fall 2020, third in Fall 2019, second in Spring 2019, third in Fall 2018, and fifth in Spring 2018. "Our hospital members have been consistently focused on elevating patient safety and working together across organizations to share best practices and lessons learned to support

each other on this continuous improvement journey," added VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton. "It is gratifying to see that hard work recognized in the Fall 2023 Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grade rankings." The Hospital Safety Grade program assigns letter grades to nearly 3,000 general acute care hospitals across the nation based on safety data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Leapfrog Group, and other sources. In the latest rankings, 35 of 69 Virginia general acute care hospitals received an "A" grade, placing the Commonwealth second

Submitted by the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VHHA

**COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY**  
 Helen V. St. Clair, Treasurer  
 755 Roanoke Street, Suite 1B  
 Christiansburg, VA 24073-3169  
 540-382-5723 • [montva.com/treasurer](http://montva.com/treasurer)

**2023-B REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE**  
**2023 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX NOTICE**  
**2024 MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEE NOTICE**  
**DUE DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023**

2023-B Real Estate Tax (second installment), 2023 Personal Property Tax and 2024 Motor Vehicle License Fee statements have been mailed. If you have not received your statement, please call (540) 382-5723. A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning January 1, 2024.

The Treasurer has no authority to change tax or motor vehicle license fee assessments. If you have questions concerning assessments, please call the Commissioner of the Revenue:

- for Real Estate (540) 382-5717
- for Personal Property (540) 382-5710
- for MVL Fee (540) 382-5710

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24-hour Treasurer's Office Drop Box is located at the Chinquapin Trail entrance of the County Government Center. Payments are considered on-time if they are deposited by midnight of the due date.

Do not put cash in the drop box.

A \$50 fee will be charged on all returned checks.

PAYMENT MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DUE DATE: DEC. 5, 2023

## Obituaries

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Medal. After retirement from Virginia Tech, Jim obtained a JD from Dickinson School of Law, Penn State. He returned to Blacksburg, founded Montgomery Law, and worked for 27 years as an attorney. His volunteer activities included service on the Boards of the Virginia Tech YMCA, the Agency on Aging, the Montgomery Chapter of the AARP, and the Blacksburg United Methodist Church. In addition, Jim served with the Montgomery County Christmas Store, the Boy Scouts of America, the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Rotary Club, the Torch Club, and the American Legion. He also served at state and national offices of the Reserve Officers Association and as a member of the Board of the Roanoke Retired Officers Association. Jim was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 59

years, Mary Bryan Blackshear Montgomery. Survivors include their children: Charles T. Montgomery (Cathy) of Richmond; James B. Montgomery (Diane) of Charleston, S.C.; and April D. Montgomery (Kelvin) of Norwood, Colo.; grandchildren: T.J. Montgomery (Kati), Meagan M. Lemon (Preston), Ivy R. Montgomery, Suzannah M. Gills (Daniel), and Madison J. Montgomery (Heather); and eight great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Jan. 13, 2024, at the Blacksburg United Methodist Church. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions may be made to the Endowment Fund of the Blacksburg United Methodist Church or to a charity of one's choice. Condolences may be expressed at [www.mccoynfuneralhome.com](http://www.mccoynfuneralhome.com).

## General Assembly

from page 1

The remainder of Montgomery County is represented by 4th senate district. Republican David Robert Suetterlein received 53.57%, or 31,876 votes. P. A. "Trish" White-Boyd, the Democratic candidate, received 46.22%, or 27,503 votes.

There were 123 write-in votes, or 0.21% percent. The City of Radford and parts of Montgomery County are part of the 42th district of the Virginia House of Delegates, represented by incumbent Jason Ballard, a Republican. Ballard ran unopposed in the election and received 92.48% percent, or 18,104 votes. There were 1,472 write-in votes, or 7.52% percent. The remainder of Montgomery County is represented by the 41st district. In that race, Republican J. Christian "Chris" Obenshain received 51.93% percent, or 12,351 votes over Democratic candidate Lily V. Franklin, who received 11,408 votes, or 47.96%. There were 26 write-in votes, or 0.11%. As of press time, the results were unofficial.

## Festival

from page 1

started going to the Virginia Tech Science Festival as children, and now they are grown up, on staff and behind the table participating in the logistics of the festival." The Science Festival started in 2014 with the intention of inspiring the audience by seeing what happens at Virginia Tech and connecting that with what's traditionally learned in K-12 schools. "The wonderful thing about

working with children is that you have a new audience each year," said Newbill. "I see the festival will keep growing, and I hope more researchers, corporate and community members will use it as an outreach channel. We have an audience — you just bring the science." The festival is a collaborative effort across most of Virginia Tech's colleges and research institutes as well as many community members. It is supported by the Center for Educational Networks and Impacts, the Institute for Creativity, Arts and Technology, College Access Collaborative, and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Parking for the event is available at Virginia Tech's North End Garage and other campus locations.

Lindsey Haugh for Virginia Tech



# George Washington and Jefferson National Forest issues a fire restriction order

The USDA Forest Service is implementing a Stage 1 fire restriction on the George Washington & Jefferson National Forest to maintain public safety and protect forest resources during drought. Building, attending, maintaining or using an open fire outside of a developed recreation site is prohibited on National Forest lands effective from Nov. 9, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2023.

Visitors igniting and maintaining campfires within developed recreation sites should use caution and make sure that all campfires are fully extinguished before leaving their site. Campfires should not be left unattended.

Open fires may not be ignited or maintained at any dispersed recreation site, including along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, within the George

Washington & Jefferson National Forest. This includes all wood, charcoal, coal or other solid-fuel open air fires. Fires may be maintained within metal rings, burn pits, or grills within developed recreation sites. Propane and other fuel powered camp stoves are still permitted.

This fire restriction has been implemented due to dry conditions, high fire danger, and little chance of

significant rain in the immediate forecast. "We are working to manage the fire threats on our forest and hope that a fire restriction will reduce the likelihood of additional fire activity," said Forest Supervisor Job Timm.

- USDA Forest Service

# Radford University named to Military Times' 2023 'Best for Vets' college rankings

Radford University has been named to Military Times' 2023 "Best for Vets: Colleges" list, the most comprehensive ranking of schools that assist service members and veterans.

The results of "Best for Vets: Colleges" are drawn from Military Times surveys of hundreds of institutions around the country, with the goal of recognizing schools where veterans of the United States military can receive the best education and support.

In its most recent rankings of the top 325 schools, released Nov. 6, the news outlet cited Radford University and its Military Resource Center (MRC), which offers programs geared toward former service members as they integrate into academic and professional lives.

Radford, which has branches of the MRC on both its main campus and at Radford University Carilion in Roanoke, earned its first of numerous "Best for Vets" rankings

in 2014.

The rankings are determined by student success metrics measured by the U.S. Department of Education - including retention, grade point average and graduation - as well as the range of military-specific resources and the level of financial assistance an institution offers, according to the site.

"Our comprehensive survey and thoughtful methodology make our rankings best in class," said Mike Gruss, editor-in-chief at Sightline Media Group, parent company of Military Times.

On a national scale, Virginia is home to the second-largest population of active-duty military personnel and the largest population of veterans under age 40. In his homecoming address on Oct. 16, President Bret Danilowicz announced that one of the goals of his upcoming two-year strategic plan would be to increase its relationships with former service members.

"Radford University is attractive to veterans for our health and science programs and our outdoor experiences, and we have been nationally recognized as a military friendly school," Danilowicz said. "Already, approximately 400 students per year use GI Bill funds to attend Radford."

"We can make this number grow to serve those who served."

Also during that presentation, Shaun Landry, a Marine Corps veteran and business management major, spoke about his experiences at Radford.

"Outside of class, everyone at the MRC is there for me. They have my back and helped me pick my path," Landry said.

"That sense of community is great about our MRC - everyone is like-minded and supports each other."

Neil Harvey for Radford University



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
U.S. Army ROTC cadets conduct the posting of the colors at Radford University's ceremony to recognize Veterans Day 2022. The event took place at the Hurlburt Student Center Auditorium.

# USDA reports consumers increasing their away-from-home food spending

Consumers' food spending habits are changing, and recent data indicates a growing preference for time- and money-saving options.

While COVID-19 lockdowns brought a slight resurgence in at-home food purchases, U.S. Department of Agriculture data revealed that away-from-home food spending in 2022 surpassed home spending by nearly \$300 billion—the highest recorded margin, according to American Farm Bureau Federation economists.

The USDA Food Expenditure Series tracks the U.S. food system by reporting on total food and beverage spending at home, on grocery store purchases and away from home.

Away-from-home food spending has exceeded home spending by over \$100 billion since 2015, except during 2020, when COVID-19 lockdowns barred many consumers from public settings. After 2010, away-from-home food spending increased 7% annually—9%

when excluding 2020 pandemic-related anomalies—compared to 4% for food at home.

These trends are not surprising to AFBF economists, as restaurants and quick service options have increasingly influenced U.S. food consumption culture.

"Many of us prefer to grab a bite at a restaurant or through takeout options than to cook for ourselves," noted AFBF economist Daniel Munch.

"Typically, price and convenience are going to be top priorities for consumers," added Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "With everyone working and running around, grabbing a quick meal is one less thing to worry about."

While the cost of many restaurant meals exceeds that of home-cooked recipes, the growth in low-cost, quick service options has amplified spending away from home.

Between 1997 and 2022, food expenditures at full-service restaurants increased by 283% while spending at fast food restaurants increased by 317%. Food purchased and consumed at retail outlets or through vending machines saw the largest increase in market shares—making up 4% of away-from-home expenditures in 1997 and growing to 11% in 2022.

Spending behavior for food consumed at home also has shifted significantly. Grocery stores, once dominating market shares by 72% in 1997, accounted for only 54.2% in 2022. Much of this decline has been attributed to growth in the warehouse and home delivery segments, with grocery store expenditures between 1997 and 2022 increasing by 109% while spending at warehouse shopping clubs increased by 679%, and spending on food delivery increased by 684%.

The report notes that food spending behavior varies by state and region, with Washington, D.C., ranking first in away-

from-home food expenditures. With Virginia's vast assortment of population densities and cultural preferences, "it would be difficult to pigeonhole Virginia into one category," noted Banks.

How and where shoppers purchase food impacts the way farmers prepare and market their goods. With local and economic conditions and changing preferences constantly influencing spending habits, it's important for farmers to stay ahead of emerging trends, Banks said.

Subscribing to industry magazines and newsletters from food processors and retailers can help farmers closely monitor emerging market trends.

"If there's a growing interest for, let's say, purple potatoes, buyers in industry magazines are going to start talking about it before you hear about it on the farm," he explained.

Submitted by Virginia Farm Bureau

# Warm Hearth Village employees celebrate more than 30 years of service

BLACKSBURG - Warm Hearth Village takes great pride in its workforce. Employees are connected by a strong mission to serve seniors and this manifests itself in many ways including the highest quality care and services as well as long-term loyalty.

Recently, two employees were recognized for more than 30 years of service with the organization.

Barry Hunter started as a stock clerk at Showalter Center 32 years ago. He then spent several years in maintenance and is

currently on the grounds crew.

"It is definitely harder to work outside, but I like it the best," Hunter said.

When asked why he has stayed so long he said it was because of all the people he works with.

"All my supervisors, the people I work with, we all get along really well. Warm Hearth Village is a great place to work," he said.

In 1988, Rosie Deplazes started as a nursing assistant, became a certified nursing assistant and is now a registered

medication aide.

"It's definitely about the residents," she said. "It's like I have 100 sets of grandparents. They are just awesome. I hope to retire from here."

An additional 19 employees will celebrate anniversaries of 20 or more years in 2023 and 28 have more than 10 years of service.

President and CEO William Lester, who has been at Warm Hearth for 20 years, said, "I believe the culture here is like no place else. Residents show their appreciation



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE  
(From left) Warm Hearth Village Director Alison Trigg; Shaunna Andrews, Director of Nursing, Rosie Deplazes, CNA/RMA; all of Showalter Center, and William Lester, President and CEO.

to our employees as do their co-workers in so many ways. As an organization we strive to provide advancement opportunities and rewards

that help employees grow and feel appreciated."

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides

a full continuum of living options on our campus and in the home.

Submitted by Warm Hearth Village

CROSSWORD ANSWERS									
A	R	E	A	S		D	H	A	B
E	T	E	R	N	A	L		U	N
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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Two from CHS sign on dotted line



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Christiansburg's Braelynn Williams (left) and Tanner Evans (right) signed National Letters of Intent Wednesday to continue their playing careers in college. Williams will play volleyball at UVA-Wise, while Evans is headed to the University of Charleston for baseball.

## CHS volleyball player to play for UVA-Wise

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Braelynn Williams, a volleyball player from Christiansburg High School, has signed a national letter of intent to continue her playing career at UVA-Wise.

"I chose UVA Wise mostly because of the team and coach," Williams said Wednesday after her signing in front of family, friends, coaches and fellow players. "I felt welcomed and right at home from the minute I got to experience the UVA-

Wise culture. I also picked the school because of the insanely nice facilities. I cannot wait to play in the Convocation Center [at the school]."

This season, she has been a part of a varsity squad that has won 20 regular season matches and is playing in the state Class 3 playoffs. Despite an injury that kept her on the sideline, Williams has 80 kills, 13 blocks and 14 digs.

The University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVA Wise) is a public liberal arts college in Wise, Va. It is part of the University of Virginia,

though separately accredited, and was established in 1954 as Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia.

The current enrollment is 1,844 students.

The school's athletic teams are called the Cavaliers (formerly known as the "Highland Cavaliers" before 2017). The college is a member of the NCAA Division II ranks, primarily competing in the South Atlantic Conference (SAC) since the 2019-20 academic year.

The UVA-Wise volleyball team

is currently 9-15 this season and is coached by Alyssa Hanley, who is in her second season on the sidelines.

Williams has high hopes for her play on the court.

"My goal for on the court is to better the team," Williams said. "I hope to add in any area that is needed. My goal is to expand my volleyball knowledge and skills while at Wise. I hope to make a difference by being a part of the UVA Wise volleyball team."

She hopes to major in elementary education while at Wise.

## RU women claim Big South tourney

The Radford women's soccer program earned its ninth Big South tournament championship Sunday afternoon 2-1 over USC Upstate thanks to Ashley Loundermon and Lilly Short's second goals of the tournament.

The tournament win is the ninth in program history and the ninth in head coach Ben Sohrabi's time at Radford. Radford will be making its tenth appearance in the NCAA Tournament this weekend, the first Big South program to reach double digit appearances.

"We had a great conference regular season and had a bullseye on our back all year defending our 2022 title," commented head coach Ben Sohrabi. "Our mentality was that we had to back it up. We found a way to get it done in the semifinals and move on today too."

Opposing playstyles clashed in the match as Radford's defense took on the task of containing the best offense in the conference. The intensity was on full display early as the two squads combined for six shots in the opening 15 minutes of play.

Radford's aggression would pay off in the 32nd minute. Alexeis Kirnos and Short combined around midfield squeezing past a stout Spartan defensive line to find Loundermon alone in the middle of the box. Loundermon, who scored the game-winner against Charleston Southern in the semifinals, placed a perfect header past the outstretched goalie for the 1-0 lead.

Radford's defense would thwart every USC Upstate opportunity for the rest of the first half. Freshman Caitlyn Nottingham played exceptionally early on pairing up against senior competition and not backing down. Freshman Lexi Radvanyi was also elite, earning a trio of saves in the first 45.

Entering the second half Radford kept their aggression knowing a second goal would be pivotal. It would only take 14 minutes into the half as Radford would pick up the eventual game-winner in stunning fashion.

In the 70th minute, Helena Willson lined up for a free kick at right about the same spot as her game-winner in the 2022 Championship. The senior leader placed a perfect pass right in front of the net that found the head of Lilly Short who left no doubt with a strong strike past the goalie for the 2-0 lead. With the goal, Short would

join Loundermon as Highlanders with two goals in the tournament.

That goal would indeed prove pivotal for Radford as USC Upstate did what they do best, put constant pressure on opposing defenses. The Spartans would find multiple opportunities over the closing minutes but the defensive line found answers at every corner. In the 79th minute, USC Upstate found their response. The Spartans got a one-on-one opportunity which Radvanyi initially made an incredible save on before a trailing Spartan tapped in the deflected shot for the goal.

Up just 2-1, Radford needed to dig deep to avoid extra time. Willson, Nottingham, Kayla Edwards, and Jillian Silverstone put up some of their best work of the season and kept Radford in the lead. The minutes would turn to seconds and as the clock hit zero Radford was back on top of the Big South for back-to-back seasons.

Radford will remain undefeated at the Matthews Sportsplex with an 8-0 record over four tournaments. The tournament victory joins the 2018, 2019 and 2022 squads. The queens of Matthews have outscored opponents 15-5 in those four tournaments.

At the postgame trophy ceremony Radford was also awarded their all-tournament selections. Willson, Kirnos, Loundermon and Short were all named to the all-tournament team while Short would take home Tournament MVP honors.

"We have a great culture in our program and the standard we expect," added Sohrabi. "It's passed down from older player to younger player and been like that especially since 2017. I'm so proud of this group and what they did today. I give a lot of credit to USC Upstate. They're such a tough team to play. They're well coached and have a style that works well for them."

Radford will now await its selection into the 2023 NCAA Tournament.

"I'm looking forward to the NCAA Tournament," finished Sohrabi. "We're better prepared than last year thanks to scheduling multiple tournament teams in our nonconference schedule this year. We are prepared and our girls know what to expect."

Radford University Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT

Rodney Gaines stands with his 2023 AAU World Bodybuilding Championships award.

## Gaines scores multiple titles at Worlds

In a striking display of dedication to his sport, Rodney Gaines, collegiate associate professor in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, won the Amateur Athletic Union Senior Male Athlete of the Year and the Overall Male Athlete of the Year for Strength Sports awards at the 2023 Amateur Athletic Union Mr. Universe and Mr. World Championships.

Gaines, a triple Hokie, also competed in multiple divisions at the championships, including Sports Model, Fashion Model, Bodybuilding Open, Masters Divisions, and Classical Bodybuilding Open and Master Divisions at the event, held in Las Vegas in late September.

Beyond the bodybuilding stage, Gaines displayed his versatility in the modeling arena. He won both the Amateur Athletic Union Sports Model and Amateur Athletic Union Fashion Model categories within the Mr. Universe and World Championship events.

One of the most notable highlights of the competition was Gaines's victory in the Platinum Elite category, where he competed at the professional level of bodybuilding within the Amateur Athletic Union Mr. Universe and World Championships.

Virginia Tech



# East Mont falls to Parry McCluer



Xavier Brown (C) flanked by Chase Bierman (L) and Issac Stiltner (R) gains yards for a Mustang first down in the fourth quarter of a 34-14 loss. Brown had 195 yards on 34 carries.

East Mont's sophomore QB Chase Bierman makes a successful pass at the end of the fourth quarter. The Mustangs finished 3-7 overall this season.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

# Auburn falls to Giles in region finals



Gretchen Surface (center) bumps a volley from Giles High School supported by her Auburn teammates. After taking last week's Mt. Empire District tournament title, Auburn fell 3-2 to Giles. Both teams now advance to state play.

Leah Wimmer aims to score a point for Auburn High School with her return to Giles during Wednesday's contest.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

# Top ranked state golfer to Tech

Virginia Tech women's golf head coach Carol Robertson announced Wednesday the signing of Alina Ho to a national letter of intent. Ho, the top-ranked senior in Virginia, will join the Hokies next summer.

High School: Four-year letterwinner at Langley High School in Great Falls, Va. ... Team captain ... Captured the VHSL Class 6 state championship in 2022, firing a 67 to become the first female from Langley to win the co-ed state title ... Helped Langley win both district and region titles from 2021-23 ... Shot the lowest round of her high school career (66) in the district championship ... Earned the VHSL Award of Excellence three times for advancing to the state championship ... Three-time all-state honoree ... Key member of Langley's seven straight state titles ... Chose Tech over Tulane, James Madison, Delaware, Rutgers and Iowa.

Junior/Amateur: Top-ranked recruit in Virginia in the class of 2024 ... Ranked 35th overall in the class of 2024 by AJGA ... Led Virginia to a win in the Poindexter Cup, which pits Virginia vs. Maryland junior golfers ... Invited to the Mid-Atlantic Girls' Challenge featuring Virginia/Maryland vs. North Carolina/South Carolina ... Named MAPGA Player of the Year in 2021 ... Second-place showing at the

54th VSGA Junior Girls' Championship at Orchard Creek Country Club ... Fourth-place finish at the Junior Orlando International Amateur at Mission Inn Resort ... Two runner-up performances on the Peggy Kirk Bell Tour ... Posted a 72.72 scoring average during 18 rounds in AJGA events in 2023.

Personal: Alina Ho ... Born in Reston, Virginia ... Daughter of Kuan and Linda Ho ... Has one younger sibling,

Kevin, who competes for Langley's rowing team ... Plans to major in business ... After graduation, she would like to coach golf or be a director of operations at a golf course.

Coach: Robertson on Ho: "Alina is a great addition to a very talented team. She is just scratching the surface of her talent, and we are excited to have a front row seat to her future success."

Virginia Tech Athletics



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at 11 AM

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- Offering #2 - 35.44 ac & House
- Offering #3 - 48.98 ac
- Offering #4 - 57.65 ac
- Offering #5 - 7.56 ac

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per tract is required on day of sale. Close on or before January 22, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation and court approval. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on December 7, 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](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

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