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VDOT provides an update to Montgomery County Board of Supervisors on county road projects

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Virginia Department of Transportation's David Clarke presented current projects completed and ongoing in Montgomery County by transportation personnel at the Board of Supervisors meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 15.

A big project occurring this time of year is in the removal of carcasses from roads. Crews continue to remove deceased deer from areas throughout the County and will continue to incorporate additional crews in keeping an eye on the situation during the Thanksgiving

holiday. Additionally, the department has been completing some machining work on gravel roads, pipe replacement, patch work, and ditching on several roads in the County, Clarke said.

"I think I mentioned it last time, but we did complete the Royal Rustic Road Project, Craig Mountain Road, and working on the design, what will be the next project which is Taylor Hollow Road. Brush cutting on Centennial, started doing some grading work on Taylor Hollow, because we were starting to look at how to address that curve," he said.

There will be more pothole patching on Indian Valley Road, Fairview Church



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VDOT

Road, and North Fork in Mount Pleasant. The VDOT team is also working on preparing for winter weather this coming

season.

See VDOT, page 4

NRV Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's raises \$65,000

RADFORD – New River Valley residents participated in this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's at Bisset Park on Sunday, Nov. 5, raising more than \$65,000 to support the care, support and research programs of the Alzheimer's Association.

"We set our goal at \$53,000 and it was no match for the community which has surpassed that amount with donations and support," said Nikki Hicks, Walk Manager. "We are so proud of the top team, the young women of Sigma Kappa Epsilon Chi from Virginia Tech. They have raised \$45,600 so far, putting them at number six in the nation among Sigma Kappa chapters participating in walks."

Sigma Kappa is a national team in the Walk to End Alzheimer's and nationwide has raised over \$1.3 million so far this year. Also in Virginia, the James Madison University Sigma Kappa chapter has raised over \$36,000.

Sponsors of the Walk this year included Food City and English Meadows.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease – a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In Virginia alone, there are more than 150,000 people living with the disease and 354,000 caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Submitted by the Alzheimer's Association



Participants at the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's celebrate raising \$65,000 during the Bisset Park event.



Purple is the color of the day at the Walk to End Alzheimer's held in Radford earlier this month.



Representatives from Food City, one of the sponsors of the event, give out refreshments to walkers.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Local employers sponsor CTE Takeover Day at East Mont. High School

ELLISTON — Branch and Carilion joined several local businesses to take over Eastern Montgomery High School on Monday, Nov. 6 for the area's first Career and Technical Education (CTE) Takeover Day.

"While employees have long worked closely with local schools to attend career fairs, recruit apprentices, and showcase career options to classes,

students often don't have time to explore careers in depth and talk to professionals who have made a living in that career," according to a statement by Branch. "Branch sought a solution to this problem and engaged the local school, which has high participation in their CTE (Careers and Technical

See CTE Day, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANCH

A representative from Carilion Clinic makes a presentation to students at Eastern Montgomery High School about careers in the healthcare industry.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIWANIS CLUB OF CHRISTIANSBURG

The club purchased and installed new scoreboards for Kiwanis Field.

Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg shares 2022-23 annual report

The Christiansburg Kiwanis Club had a record year in membership growth by adding 19 new members for a net gain of 14 members and donated thousands of hours of community service - and thousands of dollars - to Christiansburg.

The club currently has 78 members and is the largest club in Division 16 of the Capital District.

In addition to the financial support, the club members provided 4,660 hours of volunteer service to our local community, supporting the activities described below and some others not listed.

A major accomplishment was re-establishing the Key Club at Christiansburg High School, which had been inactive for several years.

A much-needed upgrade took place at Kiwanis Field where new scoreboards were purchased and installed on the ball fields by the club.

See Kiwanis Report, page 6

Forecast predicts a warmer winter with more snow; expert explains why



IMAGE COURTESY OF PEXELS VIA VIRGINIA TECH

A gloved hand tossing a handful of snow.

With Halloween and the peak of fall foliage in the rearview mirror, the question of what winter might have in store looms larger. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently released a winter outlook predicting that winter weather patterns will be affected by the Pacific Ocean climate pattern known as El Niño.

"This forecast suggests both a warmer winter overall and a snowier winter than last year," said Andrew Ellis, a

hydroclimate scientist in the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech. "With a strong El Niño and the potential of a super-El Niño, there is a definite lean toward wetter conditions for winter across Virginia. During El Niño years, wetness is often predicated on an increase in coastal storms that originate along the Gulf Coast states. With that being the case, western Virginia finds itself on the cold side of the storms, so

See Snow, page 4

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce receives Virginia Tourism Corporation Grant for tourism marketing

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce received a \$10,000 grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC)'s Microbusiness Marketing Leverage Program (MMLP) for its Buy Local Campaign.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will partner with other local businesses to supply matching funds for the project. The focus of the Buy Local campaign is to highlight the retail tourism available in Montgomery County by promoting small businesses through television and radio marketing commercials.

Virginia Tourism Corporation awarded more than \$757,000 to 131 marketing programs, ultimately impacting 655

combined partners, and supporting more than 1,300 jobs across the state to help increase off-season visitation to tourism businesses and destinations.

Steve Baffuto, President & CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce stated, "It's an honor to receive this grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. We plan to take full advantage of this opportunity and showcase the wide selection of retail businesses and restaurants Montgomery County has to offer."

"The Microbusiness Marketing Leverage Program is part of VTC's strategy to grow year-round visitation in Virginia and is designed to support small tourism businesses

with marketing dollars to drive out-of-state visitation during off-peak travel seasons. We are excited about this program because we see it as a gateway for small businesses to engage with VTC's marketing and development ecosystem to grow their business and build on the Virginia is for Lovers branding," said Rita McClenny, President and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation.

The VTC Microbusiness Marketing Leverage Program is designed to increase visitor spending in the off-season by leveraging limited marketing dollars, stimulating new tourism marketing through partnerships, and extending the "Virginia is for Lovers"

brand. This is a program focused on supporting tourism businesses with less than 20 full-time employees through marketing partnerships. A minimum of five Virginia entities must partner to apply for the microbusiness marketing grant. Partners may consist of Virginia cities, towns, counties, convention and visitors' bureaus, chambers of commerce, other local or regional destination marketing organizations, private businesses, museums, attractions, cultural events, and other tourism-related businesses.

Submitted by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

United Way of Southwest Virginia recognized as Virginia's "Community Star"

United Way of Southwest Virginia has been named Virginia's 2023 "Community Star" by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH).

On the third Thursday of November, NOSORH leads National Rural Health Day (NRHD), an annual celebration that shines a light on those who serve the vital health needs of the nearly 61 million people living in rural America. United Way of Southwest Virginia was featured prominently on the official NRHD website, PowerOfRural.org, on Nov. 16, 2023, alongside other Community Stars from across the nation. The platform showcases each Star's remarkable dedication and contributions to rural healthcare.

"We are honored to be named Virginia's

Community Star for 2023 for our work in the recovery process in multiple Southwest Virginia localities after devastating flooding in 2021 & 2022," said Mary Anne Holbrook, VP of Community Impact, United Way of Southwest Virginia. "Through our work with donors, stakeholders, and other agencies, we are well on the way to returning a sense of normalcy to those affected by these disasters. The 'Power of Rural' translates in our work to 'Rural does not mean less.' The power of rural is quick, trusted relationships that share an unwavering commitment to their communities."

In 2015, the Community Star Recognition Program was established in conjunction with NRHD to tell the stories of the people and organizations who make a difference in

rural communities. Since then, over 300 inspiring rural stars have been honored nationwide on NRHD.

Additional information about National Rural Health Day can be found at PowerOfRural.org. To learn more about United Way of Southwest Virginia, visit www.unitedwayswva.org.

United Way of Southwest Virginia fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in Southwest Virginia because they are the building blocks for a good quality of life. Through an initiative-based cradle-to-career approach, United Way of Southwest Virginia is creating sustainable solutions to address the challenges facing tomorrow's workforce. United Way convenes cross-sector partners to make an impact on the most complex



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNITED WAY OF SWVA

Personnel from the United Way of SWVA are recognized as Community Stars by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health.

problems in our region. Through collaboration with government, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals, United Way innovates for positive, lasting social change. With a footprint that covers nearly 20%

of the state of Virginia, United Way of Southwest Virginia programs and initiatives serve the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski,

Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, and the cities of Bristol, Galax, Norton, and Radford.

United Way of Southwest Virginia

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

VDOE provides Virginia school nutrition programs with over \$2.1 million worth of local food

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs partnered with two regional Virginia food hubs to deliver \$2.1 million dollars of locally grown and raised food products to school nutrition programs in the Commonwealth.

The Centralized Local Procurement Pilot Program (CLPPP) – funded through a U.S. Department of Agriculture Supply Chain Assistance grant – was designed to strengthen regional food systems and avoid supply chain disruptions.

"We know that students learn best when they start the day with nutritious breakfasts. We also know that Virginia communities thrive when schools connect

students to locally grown food," Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons said.

Throughout Virginia, 54 local school divisions ordered local agricultural products through Virginia regional food hubs, 4P Foods and Appalachian Sustainable Development. The variety of local foods included fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, as well as chicken and beef.

"We are continuously developing innovative strategies to support school nutrition programs and we are proud to be the only state in the nation to utilize this USDA funding opportunity," VDOE Office of School Nutrition Director Sandy Curwood said. "Our office maintains its commitment to ensure every Virginia

student has access to freshly prepared, nutritious, locally sourced, and culturally inclusive meals."

"The CLPPP has been transformative for our local food system," partner food hub 4P Foods Founder and CEO Tom McDougall said. "Not only is it good for the farmers and students, it's also good for our environmental footprint, the nutrient density of the food, the economic opportunity for our farming communities, the resiliency of our supply chains, and so much more."

"I am so excited to be a farmer involved with the farm to school initiative," said Amy Carwile of Archlynn Farm in Charlotte County, Virginia. "I am passionate about growing fresh, wholesome produce,

and that Virginia's children are the recipient of some of that hard work is an encouragement. In addition, sales are the lifeblood of any farming operation and increased revenue streams at fair and equitable price points are always meaningful and appreciated."

The VDOE Office of School Nutrition Programs is working on an impact analysis of the program and plans to extend the program for an additional year.

Submitted by the VDOE

2023 Real Estate Taxes

Due: December 5, 2023

TOWN OF Blacksburg

Town of Blacksburg Real Estate Tax invoices for the second installment of 2023 have been mailed and are due by Tuesday, December 5, 2023. If you have not yet received a tax statement, call the Department of Financial Services at 540.961.1105.

Payment may be mailed, made in person or placed in the drop box at 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, paid by phone with a credit card or paid online at www.Blacksburg.gov/payments. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by December 5, 2023. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning January 1, 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 25:

Holiday Décor Swap

At the Christiansburg Library; noon – 4 p.m. Tired of your old Holiday Décor? Bring it in and swap it for something new. Please make sure all donations are clean and in good working order. Décor can be dropped off at the library the week of the swap, or bring it with you to the swap!

Wednesday, Nov. 29:

CommUNITY Yoga for Self-Care for Adults

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45- 6:45 p.m. Join Kelly McCoy of The Whole You for an all-level yoga class for adults. Learn poses to help strengthen and lengthen your muscles as well as some breathing and meditation techniques to help calm the nervous system. This class is FREE to the public and is funded by grant money via the Virginia Department of Health.

Thursday, Nov. 30:

Waffles Club! A Young Writer's Group

At the Radford Public Library; 4 -5 p.m. Join us for a gently guided writing club for kids, aka the Waffles Club (Writing Association for Fun Loving Enthusiastic Students)! Together, we will work on responding to writing prompts, have some quiet writing time, and the opportunity to share work! Geared toward 8-12 year olds. Contact Morgan

for more information at morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov. Please bring your favorite writing materials!

Saturday, Dec. 2:

SWVa Legal Aid Society meeting

The Board of Directors of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society will meet at 9 a.m. at The Inn at Virginia Tech, 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg. The public is welcome to participate.

Sunday, Dec. 3:

NAACP Veterans Affairs Committee

The NAACP Veterans Affairs Committee will present a program to honor veterans at 3 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St, Christiansburg. The guest speaker will be former Navy Commander Dr. David Points of Roanoke.

Saturday, Dec. 9:

NAACP year-end meeting

The NAACP will hold its year-end meeting 9 -11:30 a.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg. Douglas Asante will speak about Ghana and the slave trade.

Sunday, Dec. 17:

Luminary display

The annual Stroubles Mill Neighborhood Association Luminary display will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Blacksburg (Hethwood). Rain date is Monday, Dec. 18.

On-going:

Blacksburg stormwater utility credit application deadline

The deadline for Stormwater Utility Credit Applications is Jan. 1, 2024. If you are located within the Town of Blacksburg and have a stormwater management facility on your site, you may qualify for a credit on your monthly stormwater utility fee. Go to www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to know more about whether you qualify. Please note that stormwater management facilities are typically ponds (either dry ponds/dry detention basins or wet retention basins). Other types include underground storage structures (usually located under parking lots in commercial areas), vegetated areas like bio-retentions, and mechanical filters that remove oil and sediment from stormwater runoff. For questions, please contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

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.

Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan Amendment application process

In 2021, Town Council adopted the

updated Comprehensive Plan. As part of the mid-way evaluation between five-year updates, the town accepts privately initiated applications for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. These amendments include changes to Future Land Use Map designations or the text of the Plan. Applications will be due on Jan. 15, 2024. A pre-application meeting is required prior to submittal. Contact Maevé Gould, Comprehensive Planner, at (540) 443-1300 or CompPlan@blacksburg.gov, with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

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, Dec. 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/publicarts-utilitybox to learn more about the project details and submission information. Questions: contact Kenna Jewell, 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 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

See Events, page 6



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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Trustees of Blacksburg Church of Christ Missions & Cole Burch Properties LLC, Property Owners, and Carter Machinery Company, Inc., Applicant, to allow for machinery and equipment sales, service and storage, and for a contractors equipment storage yard, and for rental of equipment commonly used by contractors, on approximately 5.81 acres located south of Roanoke St. and west of Simmons Rd. SE, also addressed as 2091 and 2095 Roanoke St. including several vacant parcels, identified as Tax Parcels 499-(16)-1-4, 8A, 9-12; 499-(16)-4A, 5-8; 529-(1)-13-17, 23-26; 529-(1)-18, 19; 529-(2)-4-9; 499-(A)-15; Parcel IDs 007705, 014072, 007704, 014069, 020750, 230046; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on

Legals - Montgomery County

the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by HS Development II LLC & STMOB LLC, Property Owners, and HS Development II LLC, Applicant, to allow for a Planned Housing Development consisting of a 114-unit apartment community on

Legals - Montgomery County

approximately 7.497 acres located at the terminus of Sunset Drive NE, identified as Tax Parcels 436-(A)-43; 436-((A))-23A; 436-((A))-42, 436-((A))-22A; Parcel IDs 001575, 021982, 007729, 024266; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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 27, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St.,

Legals - Montgomery County

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 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 46.777-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, approximately 0.41 miles east of the intersection of Brammer Lane and Houchins Road (State Route 758). The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-51 (Parcel ID: 033688), 46.777 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.

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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 27, 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 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 052-7B1 (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.

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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.

Notice of Public Hearing

Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission

Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St. Blacksburg, VA on the following item: CUP-23-4-Conditional Use Permit Request for multi-family use on the ground floor in the GC-General Commercial zoning district on 3.94 acres of an 8.44 acre parcel at 203 Country Club Drive SW (Tax Map No. 287-A 41A) by Balzer and Associates for Diversified Investors XIII, LLC (owner) The project site is part of what is known as the Rugby Field next to Country Club Drive. The proposed use of the property is for an age restricted (60+) apartment building. There will be a mix of 1 and 2 bedroom units for a total of 123 units with 187 bedrooms. This equates to a density of 47.46 bedrooms per acre/31.21

Legals - Montgomery County

units per acre. In February 2022, a conditional use permit was approved for a townhome development (CUP 21-0006) on this parcel. This application includes a request that the previously approved CUP (Resolution 2-C-22) for this site be voided if this CUP request is approved. The Future Land Use (FLU) is Commercial and Mixed Use E. Residential uses are allowed in this designation subject to the standards in the GC zoning district. Persons affected by or interested in the conditional use permit request may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission will take action. Copies of the request and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/publichearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

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Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Snow from page 1

snow chances are greater.”
 Ellis answered further questions about what the forecast does and doesn't predict.
 Does the newest NOAA outlook enable any predictions for how much snow is coming?
 “El Niño winters are often warmer across Virginia for the balance of the winter, but the increased moisture and coastal storm track increases the chances that cold air finds moisture more frequently to generate

a snowier winter overall. This is often from a few larger snowfalls.”
 How might climate change affect the forecast?
 “It is difficult to imprint the effect of recent climate change on the winter season forecast. Climate change effects on precipitation and on El Niño dynamics are not very clear. The most reliable influence of climate change is an overall warming, but once precipitation is involved, all

bets are off because increased clouds and precipitation have an overall negative effect on temperature, thus canceling out the warming effect.”
 How accurate have previous winter outlooks proven to be?
 “Seasonal forecasting, in general, is difficult, and accuracy is limited. Hence, seasonal forecasts are only slight leans in one direction regarding moisture and temperature. However, the El Niño and La

Niña climate phenomena correlate most strongly with winter climate across the United States. During ‘neutral’ years when those phenomena are not present, the forecast is largely a coin-flip for nearly all of the country. However, with this being a strong El Niño year, there is a greater sense of confidence in the winter season forecast.”

Mike Allen for Virginia Tech

CTE Day from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANCH

EMHS students look on for a lesson in carpentry. Careers in the construction industry were a focus of the CTE takeover event.

Education) program.

“The construction industry is in unprecedented times, with unprecedented opportunities and fewer workers,” said Donald Graul, Branch CEO. “Branch always embraces opportunities like this CTE Takeover Day to dispel common myths about the engineering and construction industry.”

Building the future construction workforce is a top priority for Branch, as 53% of the nation’s skilled workforce is expected to retire by 2035. Branch, along with partners Carter Machinery, E.C. Pace, Trane, and the New River Home Builders Association showcased several construction paths, including Construction Management, Heavy Equipment Operator, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Construction Technology, GPS Surveying, and the skilled trades of Electrical, Mechanical, Welding, and HVAC.

Since Branch focuses on careers in construction and the skilled trades, they invited Carilion Clinic to engage the students who are interested in a healthcare path. Carilion interacted with students interested in careers in Emergency Management, Respiratory Therapy, Patient Transport, Medical Imaging, and Nursing. Carilion’s Director of Emergency Management, Craig Bryant, says he is an advocate for early career exploration opportunities and bringing awareness to the variety of careers available in healthcare.

“We look forward to speaking with students and educating them on career paths and opportunities within Carilion,” said Bryant prior to the event. “Our commitment to taking care of patients, keeping our community healthy, and making sure our facilities are safe and operational requires a team approach from multiple career fields.”
 “Carilion’s team

includes doctors, nurses, engineers, construction trades, police, paramedics, business and safety experts and many more who are dedicated to the community and our patients,” he continued. “In our workplace, we’re devoted to the success of our employees. Some begin their career here in one of our many positions that require no prior experience. Other team members join Carilion as an experienced professional.”

Eastern Montgomery is rounding out the program with alumni and students’ parents in varying careers participating. Those groups provided an opportunity for student engagement in eye health, emergency medicine, surveying, forestry, welding, graphic design, and pet grooming.

“We are excited for the chance to partner with community employers to help our students learn about different career opportunities,”

said Assistant Principal Matthew McDaniel. “We focus on making sure students graduate college and career ready. We invite colleges and universities to meet with students to talk with them about those post-secondary paths, but this gives an opportunity for students that would rather go directly into the workforce after graduation to learn about and connect with local employers. We hope this will open their eyes to different career paths that they may be unaware of and learn some of the skills that will be necessary to succeed after they leave EMHS.”

Students chose five to six careers to explore, in lieu of their regular classes. Additionally, all students received guidance in soft skills, professionalism, and information on how to get the education or training they need to pursue one of these careers.

Staff report

News Messenger

Established 1869

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

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VDOT from page 1

Questions from County Supervisors led to a discussion on a variety of road concerns within the districts of the County.

District C Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski indicated previous conversations concerning the proposal of a reduction in speed limit on Craig Mountain Road, and specifically a speed study that was to be conducted.

“It’s in process right now,” Clarke said. “The results are not in yet.”

“Do we have just a rough estimate,” Fijalkowski said.

“Once they have the data which is what they’ve seem to have, it shouldn’t take long for the...I would guess, I mean, this is kind of a difficult year, difficult time of year to you know predict that kind of thing, but I would think by January,” said Clarke.

The railroad underpass on Den Hill Road allows for one-lane passage and a citizen has required about possible improvements for this difficult location, according to Fijalkowski. Convex mirrors has been used in these types of blind traffic areas, but that is not a typical method for VDOT, Fijalkowski verified with Clarke.

Supervisor Todd King with District D followed up with Clarke again concerning a traffic study at the Union Valley and Route 8 intersection in Riner, Virginia.

“I asked them about that, and I don’t have anything about that. I will keep prodding them for that,” Clarke said.

King also stated a large pothole on Tyler Road, near Stanley Road that needs attention as well as some ditching.

Supervisor Sara Bohn requested an update on the Millpoint drainage issue, in which Clarke said that this would be taken care of in the next couple of months.

Clarke explained that developed areas tend to produce more drainage, and VDOT cannot take care of those issues until it impacts the County-supported roadways.

“Entrance pipes are the responsibility of the property owners,” Clarke said. “What we were looking at is a solution, or at least to make it a little bit better, whereby if you have one of those, an entrance pipe with slots at the top, water would come down, it would go into the pipe from the top because there’s a slot on there, and

then run off.”

VDOT would not be able to support this type of drainage management, but the County VDOT team is looking into ways for a solution.

“VDOT would still install it for free,” Bohn said.

“Yeah, we could that,” Clarke said.

Signage for children play areas like Nellies Cave Park and what was previously referred to as the Cheese Factory is in need, according to Bohn. Clarke confirmed that this is something that VDOT will permit or support the County in the installation of those signs.

Darrell Sheppard serves as Supervisor for District E and brought attention to some citizen complaints concerning an area of Glade Road that recently had culverts installed.

“It’s getting some bad potholes where they’ve just got the gravel,” Sheppard said.

Sheppard also requested an update on the status of Mount Zion Road and Long Shop areas where lines need to be painted on the roadways, as well as Sterling Road needing resurfacing.

CROSSWORD

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64					65					66	

- CLUES ACROSS**

 1. Easy as 1-2-3
 4. Goat and camel hair fabric
 7. A woman’s undergarment
 10. British bathrooms
 12. Assemblages of parts into one entity
 14. Semitic fertility god
 15. Dull & uninteresting
 16. Yemen capital
 17. Stare impertinently
 18. Banished persons
 20. Heart failure & energy supplement
 22. Reduction in force
 23. Women’s ___ movement
 24. Polynesian wrapped skirt
 26. Double-reed instruments

CLUES DOWN

 1. Linen vestment worn by priests
 2. The trunk of a tree
 3. Transmission line cable
 4. Freshwater duck genus
 5. Bulk storage container
 6. Oil obtained from flowers
 7. Shopping containers
 8. Abnormal breathing
 9. Brew
 11. Bake eggs in their shells
 12. Serviceable
 13. A person in the navy
 14. A child’s slight injury
 19. Fain
 21. Supports trestletree
 24. Parian Chronicle discovery site
 25. Greek famous for fables

CLUES ACROSS

 29. Own (Scottish)
 30. Summer window dressings
 35. Many not ands
 36. Paddle
 37. Being a single unit
 38. Silly behavior
 44. Insecticide
 45. A blank area
 46. Reduces stress
 48. Morning moisture
 49. Tear away roughly
 50. Elevated
 53. Cristobalite
 56. Baseball’s Ruth
 57. Indian monetary unit
 59. Convent of speed
 61. Having a slanted direction
 62. Gross receipts
 63. A river in NE Spain
 64. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

 27. Farical afterpiece
 28. Dispatches by mail
 29. Hall of Fame (abbr.)
 31. Aah
 32. Unnaturally pale
 33. Before
 34. Fixed in one’s purpose
 39. Madames
 40. Frosts
 41. City drains
 42. Baseball playoff
 43. Cruise
 47. Steeple
 50. Precipitation
 51. Cas ___: winter melons
 52. A unit of two
 53. Viewed
 54. Taxis
 55. 4840 square yards
 56. London radio station
 58. Perform work regularly
 60. Longest geological time

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OBITUARIES

Gibson, Dorothy Bond

Dorothy Bond Gibson, 88, of Gibson; daughter and son-in-law, Sally Radford, passed away on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Margaret Cayton Bond; husband, Donald Lewis Gibson, Sr.; son, Donald Lewis Gibson, Jr.; daughter, Donna Martin; her great-grandson, Jacob Mustard; brothers, Roger Bond and Harry Bond, Jr.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Camela



and Ray White; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Rita Hite; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m., Nov. 27, 2023, at Sunrise Burial Park in Radford with Pastor Brian Cockram officiating.

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

Nester, Mary M.

Mary M. Nester, 80, of Chesapeake, died Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, in Chesapeake Regional Medical Center with her children by her side. Formerly of Radford, Virginia, she enjoyed her lifelong love of sewing.

Mary leaves behind her children, Lucinda Nester of Richmond, R. Scott Nester of Chesapeake and Jennifer Ashbrook (Frank) of Virginia Beach; and two grandchildren, Ashley and Andrew Ashbrook. Mary was predeceased by her husband of 32 years, Lewis Nester.



At Mary's request, a funeral service will not be held. A private graveside service for family members will be held Saturday, Nov. 25 at 11 a.m. in Browns Cemetery, Belspring, Va.

"Mom, we will always carry your memory in our hearts". Family and friends are invited to sign the online guestbook and share memories at www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

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

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 Sonafank, 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

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

True and Reasonable

Read Acts 25:1 through 26:32

Late at night, a burglar attempted to enter a home by crawling head-first down the chimney. A few feet into his endeavor he found himself stuck. His cries for help went unanswered because the residents were sound asleep. In the morning, sounds of whimpering coming from the family room led to the man's discovery, and the police were summoned. After the demolition of a few bricks, the perpetrator was in handcuffs. The man claimed not to remember anything. "I'm innocent," he said. His actions spoke much louder than his words.

At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted.

"Your great learning is driving you insane." "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable" (Acts 26:24-25).

Not everyone who hears of our hope will accept our message. The evidence of our lives—the joy we have and the peace we know—speak loudly on our behalf. When we are caught living our faith, some will see our trust in Jesus as true and reasonable.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, help me to be innocent of sin and guilty of living my faith for all to see.

Quicklook: Acts 26:19-31

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

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@stmlc.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

Virginia Tech continues efforts to achieve carbon neutrality on Blacksburg campus

BLACKSBURG - As Virginia Tech continues to be a leader in sustainability – ranking in the top 100 universities globally in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings the last two years in a row – university-wide efforts to reach carbon neutrality on the university's Blacksburg campus advance.

On Nov. 6, Mary-Ann Ibeziako, assistant vice president for sustainability and chief sustainability officer; Nam Nguyen, executive director of energy and utilities; and Matt Stolte, director of engineering services, provided updates to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors' Buildings and Grounds Committee on the university's progress toward achieving its Climate Action Commitment and developing its inaugural utilities master plan.

The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and its corresponding implementation plan sets forth goals and action steps for achieving 100 percent carbon neutrality on the Blacksburg campus by 2030 in a manner consistent with Virginia Tech's strategic plan and campus master plan. Also drawing from these plans is the utilities master plan now being developed. The adaptable visioning document will provide a comprehensive road map to align campuswide utility systems with the goals of the Climate Action Commitment. Together, these provide Virginia Tech with a flexible, sustainable, and scalable road map for the future of an evolving Blacksburg campus.

As highlighted in the Climate Action Commitment, achieving carbon neutrality on the Blacksburg campus requires continued enhancements to the university's physical infrastructure and a culture of sustainability built through the academic mission and individual and collective behaviors. A comprehensive description of progress to date is available in the Sustainability Annual Report, which is presented annually to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Sustainability-focused enhancements for physical infrastructure

Over the last year, several enhancements were made to further the sustainability and efficiency of the Blacksburg campus' physical infrastructure.

Efforts to transition the Blacksburg campus' building lighting systems to LEDs to improve energy efficiency continued, with 22 percent of buildings converted. In 2023, buildings that were converted included Henderson Hall, Williams Hall, Sterrett Center, Theatre 101, Surge Space Building, Shanks Hall, Major Williams Hall, Burchard Hall, the Architecture Annex, and others.

Also this year, the turbine at the Virginia Tech Power Plant was rewound to improve its operational efficiency. Looking ahead, the power plant will be entering its fourth heating season using entirely natural gas for operations. This is several years ahead of the 2025 scheduled conversion date to 100 percent natural gas set forth in the Climate Action Commitment.

In 2022 – the most recently available data year – Virginia Tech saw a 60 percent recycle rate and 78 percent waste diversion rate. This was approximately double the recycling rate from 2021. This significant improvement can be partly attributed to a new woodchipping practice implemented by the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities that allows downed trees and pruned branches to be converted into mulch for use on the Blacksburg campus.

As part of efforts to strengthen and elevate the energy and utilities efforts as Virginia Tech looks to be an innovative leader in sustainability, Nam Nguyen was promoted to executive director of energy and utilities for the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities. Nguyen, a Virginia Tech alumnus who brings over 25 years experience in the electric utility industry, leads the strategic direction of the Virginia Tech Electric Service, the Virginia Tech Power Plant, chilled water plants, energy management, mechanical utilities, and development and execution of the utilities master plan.

Efforts to further integrate and elevate sustainability in the university's academic mission have continued in 2023.

Student proposals through the Green RFP program and the Honors College have resulted in several new pollinator habitats installed around the Blacksburg campus to increase the number of nesting sites for the insects

responsible for the reproduction of at least 85 percent of the world's flowering plants. The new locations – including roundabouts adjacent to the Drillfield and the stormwater retention pond near the Duck Pond – join those already in place by Hillcrest Hall that helped Virginia Tech achieve its Bee Campus USA certification last year.

The Climate Action Living Lab continues to grow with more than 150 faculty, staff, and students involved. The initiative that focuses on building bridges between academics and operations in a formalized structure to coordinate climate action teaching, research, and outreach piloted several projects in the last year, including a building energy efficiency audit, solar feasibility study at the Catawba Sustainability Center, and review of the university's maintenance protocols.

Sustainability-focused research also continues to advance across the university. Throughout the year, College of Architecture, Arts, and Design students explored the use of bamboo as a sustainable building material in Chone, Ecuador. In October, the College of Engineering was awarded \$2 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to research the use and risks of enhanced aquifer recharge to improve groundwater availability and quality. Also in October, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' 2023 Global Agricultural Productivity Report was released, detailing methods for improving agricultural output and productivity by optimizing resource utilization and minimizing environmental and economic costs.

To help further integrate Virginia Tech's sustainability efforts in the academic mission, Mary-Ann Ibeziako was named assistant vice president for sustainability and chief sustainability officer. Jointly reporting to the vice presidents for Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities and Research and Innovation, Ibeziako leads the strategic direction of the university's sustainability initiatives and implementation of goals set forth in the Climate Action Commitment.

Sustainability through individual and collective behaviors

Across Virginia Tech, efforts have continued to foster a culture of sustainability at the individual and collective levels.

In early 2023, as part of efforts to further integrate missions of the Climate Action Commitment and Transportation Services, Alternative Transportation was rebranded as Sustainable Transportation. Sustainable Transportation provides information on transportation options for getting to and around campus, including carpools, electric vehicles, transit, bicycles, and more.

To help encourage proper recycling habits on the Blacksburg campus, an automatic waste sorter was introduced at the Squires Student Center as part of a pilot project that began earlier this year. Individuals can throw away both waste and recyclable materials into the bin, while it automatically sorts the materials into waste versus recyclables and notifies individuals which material was which.

Opportunities for student and community involvement in sustainability initiatives were plentiful in 2023. In the spring, over 10,300 native trees and shrubs were planted by volunteers along Stroubles Creek to help restore its riparian zone. Additional tree planting opportunities were held by Jamie King, university arborist, throughout the year. Annual events including the Sustainable Eats Walking Tour, Sustainable Transportation Fair, and Earth Week also provided opportunities for education and engagement.

Overall, in 2022 – the most recently available data year – the university's greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by approximately 10 percent when compared to the previous year.

Planning for a sustainable future

Looking ahead, the planning process for the utilities master plan will be completed in 2024. The plan will help assess the condition and capacity of the university's utility systems for prioritization of service-level risk. Also next year, two chillers in the North Chiller Plant will be replaced to maximize the plant's operational efficiency.

Meaghan Marsh for Virginia Tech

VT researchers awarded grant to increase understanding of industrial hemp

With the significant increase in industrial production of hemp, there is a demand for newly discovered uses of its products.

The uses of industrial hemp include pain medication, cancer treatment, and more, but little is known about the regulation of biosynthetic pathways for cannabinoid production.

Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are working to improve the understanding of these processes to allow for better selection for, or modification of, plants with particular cannabinoid content. This could increase

profit and reduce risk for growers as well as advance further use of cannabinoids in medical treatments.

The project is led by Bastiaan Bargmann, assistant professor in the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences and affiliated faculty member with the Fralin Life Sciences Institute.

This work will make possible the generation of new varieties, either through conventional or new plant breeding technologies, with enhanced, reduced, or abolished production of specific cannabinoid compounds.

To achieve these goals, the objectives are to

study the gene regulatory networks that govern cannabinoid biosynthesis and to measure the effect of manipulation of this regulation on the metabolic profile of cannabis.

The research is funded by a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the work will be performed in collaboration with the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville, Virginia, and York University in Canada.

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

Events

from page 3

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 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.

Kiwanis Report

from page 1

Twenty-six Kiwanis members had perfect meeting attendance for the year.

One of the club members, Steve Simmons, is currently serving as Lt. governor of Division 16 of the Capital District. Another member, Bob Lewit, is currently serving as Trustee of the Southwest Virginia Region of the Capital District.

Alicia Glynn was selected by the Club as the Kiwanian of the year.

Most of this year's programs are recurring and geared to support children in the local community.

During this year,

funds raised for the Service Account totaled over \$79,000, and disbursements this year included:

1. The Head Start Backpack Program. Each Thursday, just before the club's weekly meeting, Kiwanis members meet at the Head Start building and pack 57 backpacks for the Head Start children. The school's meals program provides food for the children on weekdays, and the Kiwanis Backpack Program provides food on weekends. In support of this program, members procure, inventory, and store the food plus pack the bags.

2. Two Walmart gift cards, in the amount of \$550 (\$500 from the Kiwanis Club and \$50 from Walmart), are provided to each of the seven schools in Christiansburg. These cards are used to buy needed clothing and school supplies for children who cannot afford to buy their own. Once the cards begin

to reach a low balance, the club replaces them upon request from the schools. Before this program was introduced, often teachers and other staff members would personally pay for these needed items.

3. Three \$1,500 college scholarships were awarded to Christiansburg High School students who needed support for their continuing education.

4. A Christmas party for approximately 60 children is held annually. Normally the club and its members provide toys and clothing with Santa distributing both at the party. Food and drinks are provided for the children and their chaperones. The pandemic affected the Christmas Party in 2022, rather than a party, the gifts were picked up by the children at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. The names of the children who participate in the party are based on need and are selected by the teachers from Christiansburg's schools.

Using input from the children's parents, as to the needs and sizes of the clothing, each club member takes a child's name and buys clothing. The Club funds toys from a want list supplied by the children's parents. This past year the total cost to the members and club exceeded \$12,000.

5. For children who cannot afford the entry fees to participate in sports at the Christiansburg Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center, Kiwanis pays the cost.

6. The club provides annual support in the form of financing and volunteer assistance to Kiwanis Park where an approximately five-acre expansion is currently underway.

7. Other cash contributions, not mentioned above, were made to: Agency on Aging (\$2,000); Intellectual Disabilities Agency of NRV (\$2,000), Sleep in Heavenly Peace (\$1,000), Montgomery County Department of Social Services (\$614), CHS

Cheerleaders (\$1,500) and several more.

8. As a part of the club's outreach program to provide support to the youth of the local community, a partnership was formed with the Montgomery County Social Services to provide supplies needed to support the youth and elders served by the agency.

9. Provided football programs for CHS and financial support to the CHS cheerleading squad.

10. Co-sponsored by supplying labor and purchasing prizes for the Town of Christiansburg's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

11. Provided labor to the Montgomery Museum's Heritage Day event, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and others.

Kiwanis is the promoter of the Wilderness Trail Festival, which is not only the club's largest fund-raising project, but the largest downtown event in Christiansburg drawing an estimated crowd of 8,000 to 10,000 attendees. This year's event had the largest number of attendees

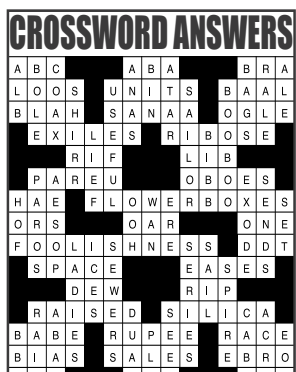
ever.

During 2024, the Kiwanis Club is expecting another banner year while celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Sources of club income are derived from community fundraisers, donations, and grants. All such income goes into the service account and 100% is funneled back into the local community, with most going to support youth activities. All administrative costs, including meeting meals, are paid for by the members' dues.

Kiwanis is a global organization of members. clubs and partners who are dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has provided service to our local community since its charter was granted in 1949.

Submitted by the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg



MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Radford signs two for women's basketball

Radford University Women's Basketball Head Coach Mike McGuire has announced the exciting signing of two future Highlanders for the 2024-25 season.

Ava Sawi, a 5'7 guard from Alexandria, Va. and Anna Stromberg, a 6'2 forward from Andover, Minn. round out the duo of new Highlanders who will be making their collegiate debuts next season.

Ava Sawi

Guard | 5-7 | Alexandria, Va. | Episcopal High School

Quentin Roosevelt Character award winner

Named basketball MVP in her district for the 2022 season

Two-time all-state honoree and two-time all-league

Was named the Alexandria Sportman Club Athlete of the Month for January 2022

Coached by Katrina Reed at Episcopal High School and is a member of the Boo Williams AAU squad coached by Boo Williams

Daughter of Jay Sawi

Ava on why she chose Radford: "I chose Radford because I love the coaching staff. The area and campus are also beautiful and stuck out to me."

McGuire on Ava: "Ever since Ava visited with us last October, we have been blown away with her as a person. Ava is so well rounded. She will bring immediate maturity, verasatility, and playmaking to our perimeter. Ava is driven, focused and has a strong work ethic that will impact our culture and mindset on a daily basis. We are looking forward to getting to work with Ava."

Anna Stromberg

Forward | 6-2 | Andover, Minn. | Legacy Christian

Averaging 19.6 points, 16 rebounds, 2.1 assists, 1.4 steals and 2.1 blocks per game

Was a member of the National Honor Society in 2022 and 2023

Named all-conference basketball in 2021-21

Named team captain for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons

Is a four-year letter winner in basketball as well as volleyball

Well-versed in robotics being named captain of the robotics team in 2023-24 and went to Robotics Nationals in 2022

Coached by Nate Lindholm at Legacy Christian and is a member of the Legacy Hoops AAU squad coached by Nisha Fisher

Daughter of Harry and Wendy Stromberg

Anna on why she chose Radford: "After visiting Radford with Coach

McGuire and his staff, I was encouraged by their devotion to this team and this program. Not only that, but I was excited to be a part of this business community that values entrepreneurial and innovative thinking at Radford."

McGuire on Anna: "Our staff saw Anna for the first time during the July evaluation period. We immediately were attracted to her and her upside. As we continued to get to know her, we knew she was a great fit based on her value system and what she believes in. Anna is a versatile post with great size and a high ceiling. She comes from an extremely hard-working family and working hard has been instilled in her. We are really excited to help Anna find her best in a Highlander uniform."

Radford University Athletics

Jones, Johnson ink with Virginia Tech

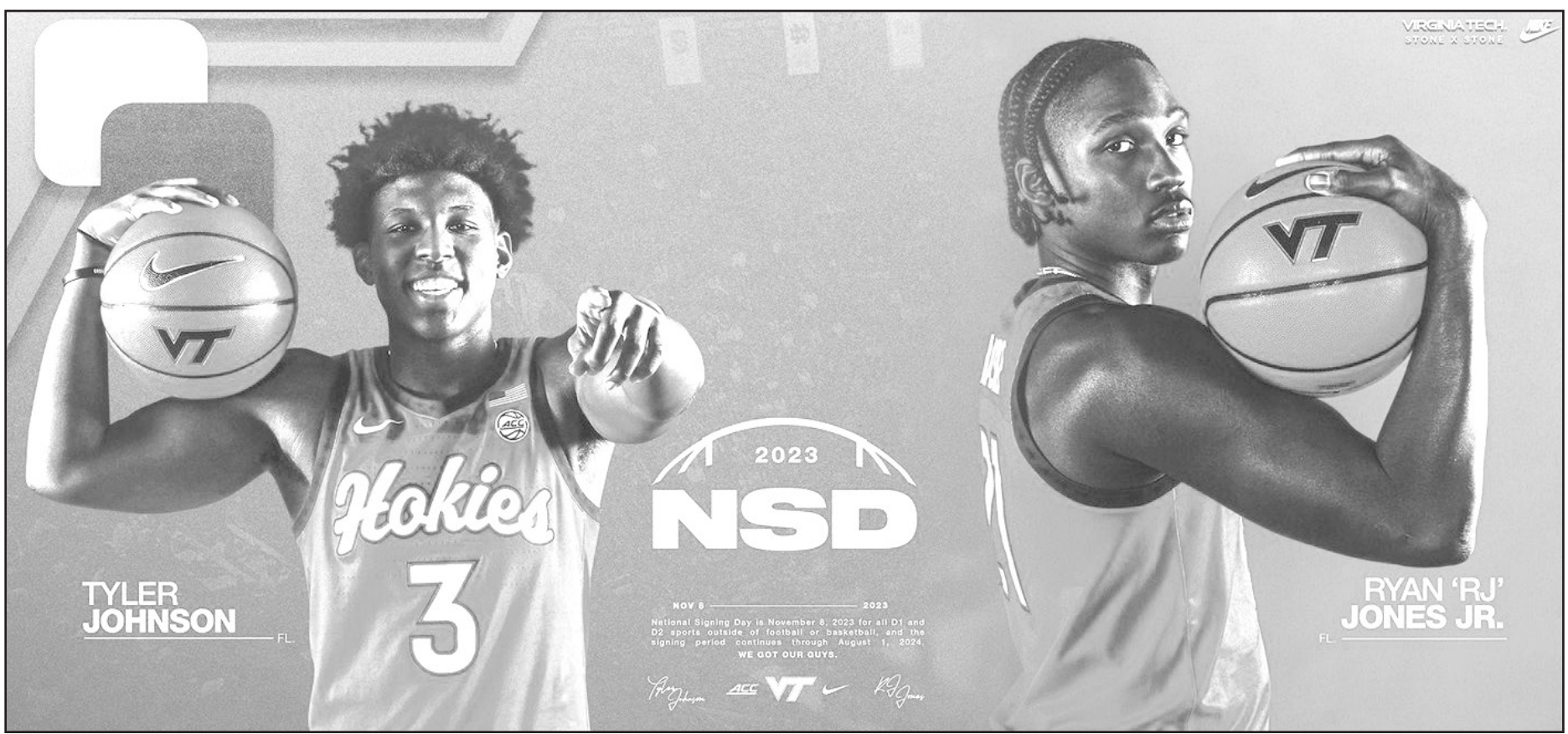


PHOTO COURTESY VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech men's basketball head coach Mike Young announced Tuesday the signings of Tyler Johnson and RJ Jones to national letters of intent for the 2024-25 season.

The Hokies' 2024 class is currently ranked 46th in the nation by 247Sports.

Tyler Johnson

6-5 | 190 | Guard
Orlando, Fla.
Oak Ridge High School
Florida Rebels

High School: A four-year letterwinner at Oak Ridge where he was coached by Steve Reece. All-Metro and Orlando Sentinel All-Central Florida first team as a junior ... Coached by Steve Reece and Sean Campbell while playing on the EYBL circuit with the Florida Rebels ... Consensus three-star

recruit ... Rated the 189th-best prospect in the 2024 class on 247Sports ... Recognized as the 17th-best player in the state of Florida and the 36th best at his position nationally, according to 247Sports ... Chose Tech over FAU, Texas State and Hofstra.

Personal: Born in Orlando, Fla. Son of Edgar and April Johnson. Father, Edgar, played basketball at the University of West Florida. Uncle, Jamal Davis, played Division I football at Eastern Kentucky University. Has one sister, Tayla. Honors student (4.4 GPA). Planning on majoring in engineering. Career objective is to play well in college and advance his career to the next level.

Coach Webster on Johnson: Tyler Johnson is the epitome of a big guard. He is very versatile

and can play with the ball in his hands or off the ball and use his size to post up smaller guards. He will bring that versatility and toughness to the defensive end as well, being able to defend guards and forwards. He comes to us from a great high school program at Oak Ridge (Fla.) and has been coached by one of the best in the country in Steve Reece.

RJ Jones

6-8 | 225 | Forward/Center
Gainesville, Fla.
The Rock School
Judah Nation

High School: A five-year letterwinner at The Rock School where he was coached by Justin Harden. Offensive player of the year as a sophomore and SIAA first team as a junior. Played AAU with Judah Nation. Won

a gold medal with Team USA at the 2021 FIBA Americas U16 Championship. Consensus four-star recruit, rated the 69th-best prospect in the 2024 class on 247Sports. Recognized as the 12th-best player in the state of Florida and the 12th-best center nationally, according to 247Sports. Chose Tech over Florida.

Personal: Ryan Jones Jr. (RJ). Born in Lafayette, Ind. Honors student and member of the student council. Son of Ryan Sr. and Monica Jones. Cousin, Dain Dainja, plays basketball for Illinois. Uncle, Don Jackson, played basketball for Northwestern. Has two sisters, Avery and Allicia. Plans on majoring in graphic design. Career objective is to play in the NBA or find a career he loves.

Coach Giltner on Jones: We are excited about RJ officially joining the program for a lot of reasons. His ability to play inside and out, shoot the ball at a high clip, and impose his physicality inside will be a perfect fit for us. After getting to know him and his family for the past few years, it's easy to see that they are great people who value similar things we value. Coming from The Rock, where Coach Harden and his staff have prepared him well, we know we are getting a team-first, hard-working, reliable member to the squad. I know he is excited to embrace Hokie Nation as family, but similarly, Hokie Nation should be excited about him and his potential here at VT!

Virginia Tech Athletics

RU basketball breaks out alterative look

Radford University Athletics, in collaboration with the City of Radford and Nike, has revealed a men's basketball "City Edition" alternate uniform and merchandise line to be debuted on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The uniforms draw inspiration from the official branding of the City of Radford - from the vibrant colors to the signature logos that represent our hometown.

"Our new home alternative jersey is a nod to the City of Radford and its official nickname - New River City," said Deputy Athletics Director Cory Durand. "Our players and coaches take great pride in representing not only our University but the community they live in. This has been a fun collaboration with Nike and the City of Radford and we hope our fans enjoy the new look on the hardwood."

"The New River City loves Highlander Basketball!" said Radford Mayor David Horton. "We are excited for this wonderful extension of the

partnership between the City of Radford and Radford University. We are proud to host Highlander Athletics, and excited to share the love for the New River City with all students, faculty, staff, and alumni at Radford University. Go Radford!"

The Highlanders' home contest against Elon on Dec. 3 will be New River City Day and fans in attendance will have the first opportunity to get their hands on a number of tie-in merchandising items. T-shirts, hoodies, and more will be available at the team shop in the Dedmon Center, and will then become available in the university bookstore and online at RadfordTeamShop.com the following day, Monday, Dec. 4.

Radford will have extra support when they take on the Elon Phoenix thanks to the Radford High School band and cheerleaders who will be performing inside the Dedmon Center for the game as well.

Radford University Athletics

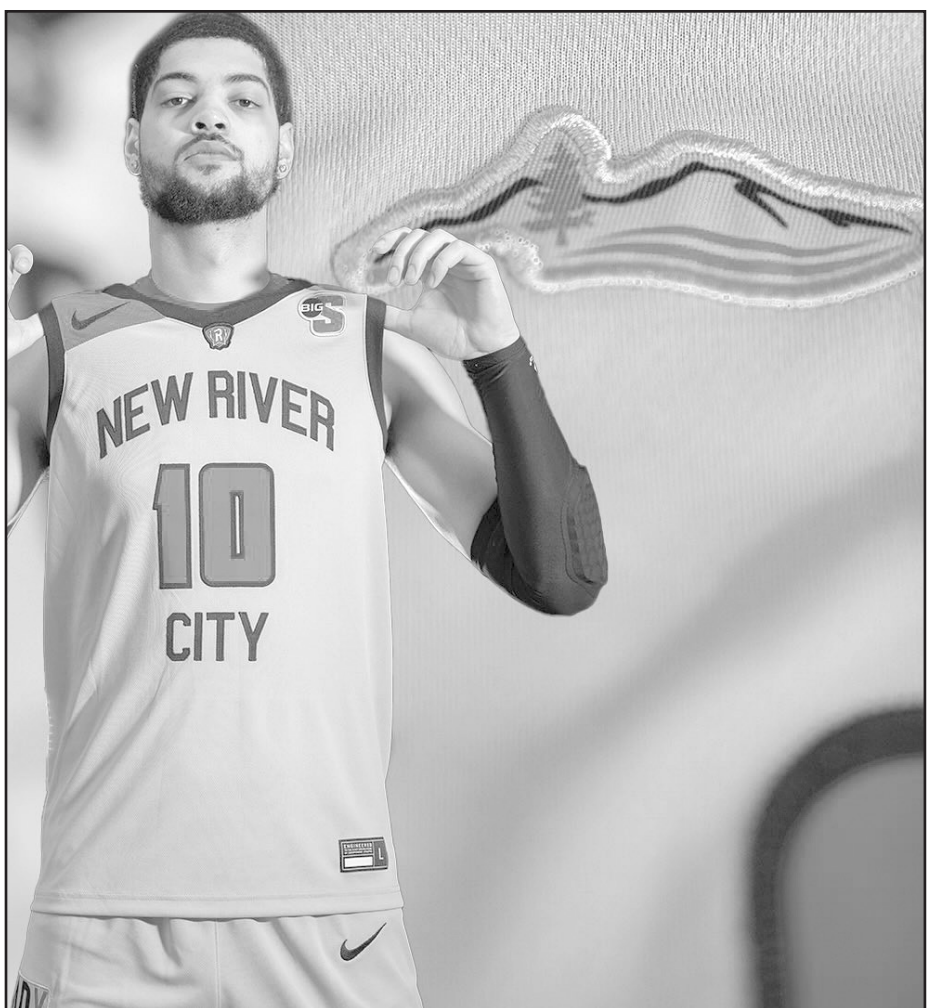


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS



Riley Corvin of Virginia Techniques Gymnastics will continue her gymnastics career in the sport Acro and Tumbling at Mars Hill College.



Eva Dicken of Virginia Techniques Gymnastics will continue her gymnastics career in the sport Acro and Tumbling at East Texas Baptist University.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECHNIQUES

Local gymnasts to compete at next level

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Two gymnasts from Virginia Techniques Gymnastics in Christiansburg have signed National Letters of Intent to continue their careers on the collegiate level.

Riley Corvin is headed to Mars Hill and Eva Dicken to East Texas Baptist, both to participate in the gymnastics sport of Acro and Tumbling. The two live in Christiansburg.

The sport is the evolution of different disciplines of gymnastics, which includes the athletic aspects of competitive cheerleading. The format was created at the collegiate level in 2009 to address the interests and abilities of young women competing in this skill set.

Acrobatics & Tumbling is a separate and distinct sport from Men's and Women's Gymnastics; the governing body for all teams is the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association. Effective August 1, 2020

Acrobatics & Tumbling was approved as an NCAA Emerging Women's Sport for all three NCAA divisions.

A total of 48 schools sponsored varsity Acrobatics & Tumbling teams during 2021-22. This includes six on the Division I level, 33 on Division II and nine Division III.

Acro dance is known by various other names including acrobatic dance and gymnastic dance, though it is most commonly referred to simply as acro by dancers and dance professionals. Acro is

an especially challenging dance style for dancers as it requires them to be trained in both dance and acrobatic skills.

Baylor University won this past year's national championship in the sport.

Several national sports media outlets has labeled Acrobatics & tumbling as the next big thing in women's college sports.

The two will follow in the footsteps in one of the Christiansburg training facility's alum and current University of Kentucky standout gymnast Rayna Worley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF

Stayton gets hole-in-one at Auburn Hills

This past week, Keleb Stayton made a hole-in-one on #11 at the Auburn Hills Golf Club in Riner.

Hokies sign nine for new swim class

Virginia Tech's director of swimming and diving Sergio Lopez Miro announced the signing of five women and four men to national letters of intent on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

They are set to join the Hokies in the fall of 2024.

Women
Amanda Barnard-Patrick Henry High School, Rockville, Va.

Honors: Patrick Henry swim captain sophomore and junior year. State champion in 200 IM and 500 free freshman, sophomore and junior year. Holds the state record in the 200 IM. Best time in 1650 free 16:16.73. Best time in 400 IM. Best time in 500 free 4:46.12.

Christine Datovech-Maggie L. Walker Governor's for Government and International Studies, Richmond, Va.

Honors: Three-time NISCA All-America Swimming 2022-2023 (50 free, 100 back, 100 butterfly). Three-time qualifier at 2022 USA Swimming Winter Junior Nationals - East in 50 free, 100 butterfly and 100 free. Participated in the USA Swimming Summer Junior Nationals in Irvine, Calif. in August 2023. Virginia Swimming All-Star Team 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023. Two time individual class three VHSL state champion in 100 butterfly and 50 free. Six time VHSL class 3A region Champion. Richmond Times-Dispatch first team All-Metro junior year in 50 free. Richmond Times-Dispatch second

team All-Metro in the freshman and sophomore year in 50 free. Richmond Times-Dispatch second team All-Metro junior year in 100 butterfly, 100 back and 100 free. VHSL Class 3 All-State Honors freshman, sophomore and junior year. Member of 2022 and 2023 VHSL Class 3 State Championship girl's swim team. Member of 2022 VHSL State Champion 400 free relay team.

Julia Murphy-The Bolles School, Burlington, Vt.

Honors: State champion in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. 2023 100 fly state champion (53.96). 100 fly team record. 400 free relay team record. 200 medley team and state record. 200 free relay team and state record. 200 free LCM state record.

Sofia Salvato-Liceo Scientifico Valeriani, Imola, Italy.

Honors: Participated at the 2023 European Junior Swimming Championships. Won medals these past two years at Junior Nationals. Joined final B at Nationals these past two years. 50 Back 27.66 (SC) 28.83 (LC). 100 Back 58.97 (SC) 1:01.89 (LC). 200 Back 2:11.23 (SC). 50 Butterfly 27.33 (SC) 28.19 (LC). 100 Butterfly 1:00.71 (SC).

Emily Santos-Montverde Academy, Panama City, Panama.

Honors: Swim team captain for three years. During senior year placed first in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:01.44 at the State Championship and placed third in the

mixed relay. During junior year, place third in the 100 breaststroke at the State Championship. Received All-American recognition for 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:02.14. Placed second in the 200 breaststroke and broke national record with a time of 2:30.93 at the 2023 Juegos. Centroamericanos San Salvador for Panama. Participated for for Panama at the 2023 Panamerican Games and won both B finals and broke national record for 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:09.43.

Men
JC Gordon-Liberty Christian Academy, Lynchburg, Va.

Honors: Three time YMCA National Champion. Three time State Champion.

Danny Bishop-Vandegrift, Austin, Texas.

Honors: Four-year varsity letterman. Team Captain 2022-2023. Texas 6A state runner up 2023 in 200 free. Texas 6A state bronze medalist 2023 in the 200 Medley Relay. Texas 6A state finalist 2023 in 500 free and 400 free relay. School record holder in 200 free, 200 medley relay and 400 free relay. First Team All-State.

Jakub Poliačik, Gymnázium Grösslingová 18, Slovakia.




Honors: Holds multiple national junior titles. National record in short course 200 free with a time of 1:45.76. Attended 2021 long course European Championship. Attend long course European Junior Championship finals in the 4x200 free. Member of national team at World Junior and European Junior Championships. 11th in 200 free at Otopeni. Placed 18th in 800 free short course at the World Championship. Participated in U23 European Championship long course.




Levente Balogh-Vörösmarty Mihály Gimnázium, Budapest, Hungary.

Honors: 2023 European Junior Swimming Championship: Fourth in 200 butterfly, fourth in 400 medley relay and seventh in 800 free relay. 2023 Hungarian Junior National Swimming Championship: First in 200 butterfly, second in 100 butterfly, third in 50 butterfly, first in 100 back, second in 200 back and third in 50 back. 2023 Hungarian Short Course National Swimming Championships: Second in the 800 free relay, third in 200 fly, third in 400 medley relay and third in 400 free relay.

ONLINE AUCTION

Truck, Tractor, Tools, and Household Goods Auction in Pulaski VA
Ends Wednesday, December 13th at 6 PM
Address: 4207 Lee Hwy, Pulaski, VA 24301
Preview Date: Saturday, December 2nd at 10 AM
Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com


Items Include: John Deere 5065E Tractor, 2023 2500 HD Dodge Ram w/ Cummins Turbo Diesel (8,000 miles), Nikon D5000 Camera, Kawasaki Mule Pro FX 820, Whirlpool Dishwasher, Ladders, Gas Cans, Duralast Jumper Cables, Yeti Hopper Cooler, Rugs, Filing Cabinets, Stanley Tool Box, Light Fixtures, Flower Pot, Cow Skull, Cannon Gun Safe, King Bedroom Suite, Tools Glassware, Furniture, Christmas Décor, Vera Bradley Totes, Dale Earnhardt NASCAR Collectibles, and MORE!

Pick Up: Saturday, December 16th from 9 AM to 12 PM at 4207 Lee Hwy, Pulaski, VA 24301

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium and VA Sales Tax Charged. All items being sold "as is, where is". The auction company will charge the credit card on file for total invoices up to \$300 max. Any invoices over this amount must be paid by cash, certified, or cashier's check at pick up. The auction starts ending at 6 PM EST with a soft close. Please note that if a bid is placed in the last 2 minutes of bidding, the clock will be extended an additional 2 minutes. No Shipping is provided by the auction company. It is the Bidder's responsibility to determine the condition and value of items. Bidders acknowledge that all items are sold "as is, where is with any and all faults."

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