



# News Messenger

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Wednesday, December 27, 2023

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PHOTO BY WILSIE PHOTOGRAPHY

At the annual Community Foundation of the NRV grantee luncheon, nonprofit leaders gather for a group photo.

## Community Foundation of the NRV awards \$230,225 to nonprofits

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) has awarded a total of \$230,225 through its Responsive Grants program to 69 nonprofits serving the New River Valley.

This total represents the most the CFNRV has ever given out during its competitive grants process. Since 2002, the foundation has awarded more than \$7 million in grants.

CFNRV's Responsive Grants provide operating support, allowing recipient organizations to use the grant dollars where they are needed most. The applications came from organizations that support localities across the New River Valley focused in a variety of areas: animals, arts and culture, community and civic affairs, education, environment,

health and wellness, poverty, and support, parenting, and care.

"At the Community Foundation, we understand how difficult it can be to raise operating dollars, and how critical those dollars are to fulfilling the nonprofit's mission," said Jessica Wirgau, chief executive officer of the CFNRV. "We hear regularly from grantees that they are seeing increased needs from clients, whether for food assistance, housing, educational support, or healthcare. To know that our funds can help meet that increased need, even in a small way, is extremely gratifying."

These grants are made possible by many generous donors to the

See **Community**, page 4

## Warm Hearth Foundation Silver Santa Program continues to serve village seniors

BLACKSBURG - Warm Hearth Foundation's Silver Santa program is in its fifth year with community members and local businesses adopting seniors living at Warm Hearth Village (WHV).

The Silver Santa program benefits those living at WHV who rely on low, fixed monthly incomes, or who receive housing or health care subsidies. Silver Santa started as a way to bring joy during the holidays with a friendly visit and basket full of items tailored to each resident's needs and wishes.

Working in partnership with 64 generous donors in our community, the Foundation provided wish list items to 128 residents across the campus this year. Donors assisted by purchasing wish list items with LewisGale Hospital Montgomery helping 30 residents. Other local business, including BAE Systems, Inorganic



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

A Warm Hearth Village resident heads out with gifts to deliver.

Ventures, Valley Junior Women's Club, Overstock, VT Counselor and Prices Fork Grange Education, St. Mary's Church, Blacksburg See **Seniors**, page 3

## Local kids are out of school and into slime, Grinch Slime

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

What better way to enjoy the first day of the holiday break than getting slimy!

Montgomery County school children enjoyed making Grinch Slime at Meadowbrook Public Library in Shawsville on Dec. 21.

All materials were provided by the library and stations managed by staff and volunteers as youngsters, excited about the holiday break, enjoyed making colored slime. The ingredients call for ¼ cup of water, ¼ cup of glue, green food coloring and glitter (optional), stir mixture for at least 30 seconds, and add in 2.5 tablespoons of liquid starch.

For the Grinch, a heart was essential to include in the ingredients, a tiny plastic heart!

Rebecca Ghoorahoo with her mom, Leslie Ghoorahoo, stopped in at the library for a little slimy fun.

Nine-year-old Rebecca was excited to take some time to get a little messy at the library before preparing for family Christmas events. She had some tips on the colorful concoction to share though.

"If you want a mess, add glitter," Ghoorahoo said.

As far as Christmas wishes, Ghoorahoo was very excited to visit her grandma for the holiday season and did not have



Leslie Ghoorahoo and nine-year-old daughter, Rebecca, get slimy at the Meadowbrook Library on Dec. 21.

any big requests from Santa this year.

"I'm happy, I have everything," Ghoorahoo said.

Wow, I think the

Grinch's heart just grew three sizes.

Check out Meadowbrook Library's calendar at [www.mfml.org](http://www.mfml.org) or on their Facebook



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Circulation Specialist Valerie Williams, Assistant Manager Terra Hanks, Library Assistant Faith Lamberth, and Volunteer Cassidy Helm manage the stations as kids mix their slime concoctions.

page for other children's activities over the winter school break and into the new year.

According to their webpage, the

Montgomery-Floyd Libraries will close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 27 and 28. Additionally, the library will not be open on Jan. 1, 2024.

## After 37 years of service, Substation II in Blacksburg closed on Dec. 21

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Customers were lined up out the door early on Dec. 21 as Sub Station II began their last day of food service to the community.

The business, located at 112 Turner St., recently announced on their website at [www.substationblacksburg.com](http://www.substationblacksburg.com) that they would close their doors after 37 years of business. Store manager Hamid LaPuasa

has planned to retire and spend more time with family and friends. Hamid has managed the store since its opening in December of 1986.

With a location across the street from Virginia Tech University, many students could be found daily in the restaurant, dining on the many menu options of sub sandwiches, salads, side orders of nachos and potato salad, and of course the cookies. Residents, local workers, and visitors to the area

often stopped into the restaurant as well while on their lunch breaks or with their families for a quick dinner enjoying the restaurant's indoor and outdoor seating.

Many locals will recall their Super Special sandwich, #19, which the business referred to as their "claim to fame" consisting of salami, bologna, cheese, turkey, cappicola, ham and pepperoni.

The restaurant also provided catering options

with party subs and meat and cheese trays.

As news of the Sub Station closing spread, many customers flocked to the restaurant to get one last taste of their favorite food choice, making for more than the typical long lines in the last weeks of the restaurant's business.

Many loyal customers and friends of Hamid commented on his Facebook page retirement congratulations and farewells to what some called "the end of an era."



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Sub Station II, located on Turner Street in Blacksburg, says goodbye to the community after 37 years of business.

Good December 31st, 9:45 am - 6:15 pm  
and January 1st, 7:45 am - 7:15 pm  
**ALL LOCATIONS**  
ANY SINGLE ITEM UP TO \$50 WITH THIS COUPON!

**50% OFF**  
YOU CHOOSE THE ITEM!

Not Valid with any other offer. Excludes Sale Items, Gift Cards, Yeti Drinkware, Propane, Propane Tanks and Ammunition. No Rainchecks. Items over \$50 receive \$25 OFF.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Dec. 27:

### 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, Dec. 28 - Tuesday, Jan. 2:

### City of Radford trash pick-up schedule

Trash from Monday, Dec. 25 collected on Thursday, Dec. 28. Tuesday, Dec. 26 collected on Friday, Dec. 29. Monday, Jan. 1 collected on Tuesday, Jan. 2. Please have garbage ready for collection by 7:30 a.m. Drop Center Hours: Closed Jan. 1.

## Thursday, Dec. 28:

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

At the Christiansburg Library. Save a life! American Red Cross Blood Drive.

Walk-ins welcome, or sign up; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Friday, Dec. 29:

### New Years Splash 2024

Join us at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center 5:30 to 8 p.m. as we ring in the new year aqua-style! All will have a magical time swimming around and hanging out with our pirate and mermaids. Additional games and festive activities include: karaoke, paddleboards and our dive-tacular version of a New Year Countdown. This is a pre-registration event. Tickets are on sale until Thursday, Dec. 28 and cost \$10 each for ages three and up. Admission for children two years of age and under is free.

## Friday, Dec. 29 - Sunday, Dec. 31:

### Bag Book Sale

At the Christiansburg Library; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Start the new year off with some new (to you) books! \$5 for all the books that you can fit in a plastic bag. Proceeds to benefit the Montgomery Friends of the Library.

## Saturday, Dec. 30:

### Doughnuts & Destiny: Vision Board Workshop

At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. - 1p.m. Ring in 2024 with intention!

We'll set out the boards and supplies, you provide the vision for your year ahead. This self-guided workshop is open to all ages. Breakfast pastries and coffee/tea will be available in the community room.

## Sunday, Dec. 31:

### Town of Blacksburg holiday hours

Blacksburg Transit will operate on reduced service. The Blacksburg Community Center will be closed. The Blacksburg Aquatic Center will be open regular hours.

## Monday, Jan. 1, 2024:

### Town of Blacksburg holiday hours

All town administrative offices will be closed. The Blacksburg Community Center and Aquatic Center will be closed. There will be no Blacksburg Transit service. There will be no trash pickup in the SE quadrant. Make-up service will be Wednesday, Jan. 3. Please have all materials to the curb by 7 a.m.

### Radford Public Library closed

RPL will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 for the New Year holiday.

## Tuesday, Jan. 9:

### Fall Prevention and Balance in the Home

Join Blacksburg Parks and Recreation at 2 p.m. for a presentation on Fall Prevention & Balance in the Home, by

Cindy Henderson with CORA Physical Therapy. In addition to the presentation, this program offers participants free injury screenings, live demos, giveaways, and a Q&A session. This program will be held at the Blacksburg Community Center and is free to attend. Registration is required. To register, call 540.443.1142 or email jherbert@blacksburg.gov

## On-going:

### Now through Jan. 15:

Blacksburg Transit reduced service  
Blacksburg Transit will operate on reduced service for the holiday season beginning Dec. 14. Reduced service will remain in effect until Jan. 15. There will be no bus service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For more information, please contact 540-443-1500.

### Now through Jan. 1:

Free downtown Blacksburg parking  
Free holiday parking will be in effect downtown. Normal parking rates will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

### 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 plan. Amendments include changes to Future Land Use Map designations or the text of the Plan. Applications due on Jan. 15, 2024. A pre-application meeting is required prior to submittal. Contact Maeve Gould, Comprehensive Planner, at (540) 443-1300 or CompPlan@blacksburg.gov, with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

# OBITUARIES

## Bishop, James Vander

On Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, after a fun-filled day with his family in Dollywood, my Superman James Vander (Jimmy) Bishop, age 63, passed away suddenly.



To his son Jason, he was "pops", Deven and Tyler's "grandpa", Maddy's "pop-pop" and special brother Matt Sirk. He had four brothers, Larry (Linda) Childress, Oden (Pat) and Mike (Donna), Colen (Amanda) Bishop. Jimmy had numerous nieces and nephews who loved him, two of which were able to share his love of amusement parks through to the end, Teresa (Candy) and Roger Jenkins, Jr. For 23 years, we shared Jimmy

with his second family, The Town of Blacksburg. He was the number one knuckle boom operator for the town.

A visitation is scheduled for 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at McCoy Funeral Home at 150 Country Club Dr. SW in Blacksburg. To honor Jimmy, please wear a T-shirt of your favorite superhero, Star Wars, Harry Potter, Beatles, or racing team. Please bring your favorite story or memory of Jimmy to share with others who will forever hold this wonderful man in their heart. And in the words of Sirius Black, "But know this; the ones that love us never really leave us."

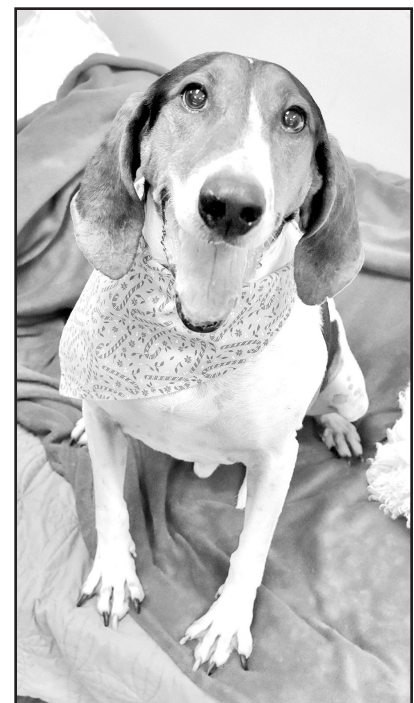
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# PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Holt, an energetic, happy hound who would love to sniff out his furever home! He loves to go for walks and also play in the yard. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to see how pawsome Holt is.

Cannoli can't wait to find her purrfect match! She is a shy gal who is a little more reserved around humans. Settling in at a new, loving home could help boost Cannoli's confidence.

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.



## BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

Blacksburg Town Council will hold a public hearing regarding the Town Manager's Recommended Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2024/2025 to 2028/2029 in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, located at 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. A summary of the proposed expenditures is listed below. Copies of the Recommended Capital Improvement Program are available for review in the offices of the Town Manager and Town Clerk located in the Municipal Building at 300 South Main Street, weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and in the Blacksburg Branch Library located at 200 Miller Street SW.

### RECOMMENDED CIP EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

Fund	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total Recommended FY 2025-2029
<b>General Fund</b>						
Finance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,600	\$ 64,200	\$ 90,800
Fire	1,276,073	1,142,437	1,142,437	1,142,437	1,087,437	5,790,821
Rescue	903,155	468,155	469,155	429,155	429,155	2,698,775
Parks and Recreation	961,000	1,160,000	1,073,000	2,150,000	100,000	5,444,000
Planning and Building	-	-	-	-	-	-
Engineering and GIS	427,500	957,600	2,637,500	11,622,500	47,500	15,692,600
Police	1,783,558	1,002,308	1,002,308	1,002,308	1,002,308	5,792,790
Public Works	4,826,439	4,285,327	5,828,327	2,905,327	2,975,327	20,820,747
Technology	245,000	120,000	80,000	510,000	374,000	1,329,000
Town Manager	351,400	273,800	2,510,000	22,668,500	725,000	26,528,700
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>10,774,125</b>	<b>9,409,627</b>	<b>14,742,727</b>	<b>42,456,827</b>	<b>6,804,927</b>	<b>84,188,233</b>
<b>VDOT Revenue Sharing Fund</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>580,000</b>	<b>13,375,000</b>	<b>3,730,000</b>	<b>1,165,000</b>	<b>19,450,000</b>
<b>Stormwater Fund</b>	<b>66,375</b>	<b>365,975</b>	<b>891,375</b>	<b>66,375</b>	<b>66,375</b>	<b>1,456,475</b>
<b>Water and Sewer Fund</b>	<b>2,790,004</b>	<b>1,508,104</b>	<b>4,305,404</b>	<b>2,406,804</b>	<b>1,314,204</b>	<b>12,324,520</b>
<b>Transit Fund</b>	<b>11,017,900</b>	<b>2,745,000</b>	<b>15,742,500</b>	<b>6,853,500</b>	<b>4,135,300</b>	<b>40,494,200</b>
<b>Building Systems and Equipment Replacement Funds - Major Purchases</b>	<b>2,060,281</b>	<b>2,440,700</b>	<b>5,960,550</b>	<b>1,229,488</b>	<b>2,005,300</b>	<b>13,696,319</b>
<b>Solid Waste/Recycling Fund</b>	<b>228,650</b>	<b>178,650</b>	<b>178,650</b>	<b>178,650</b>	<b>178,650</b>	<b>943,250</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$27,537,335</b>	<b>\$17,228,056</b>	<b>\$55,196,206</b>	<b>\$56,921,644</b>	<b>\$15,669,756</b>	<b>\$172,552,997</b>

# Holiday season contributes to December being the top month for U.S. home fires

Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals, present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for home fires.

“December is a leading month for home fires, which is largely due to the activities we engage in during the holiday season,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “Additionally, an increase in the use of heating equipment, driven by colder temperatures across most of the country, contributes to this heightened risk.”

Fortunately, Carli notes, many winter fires can be averted with added awareness and planning. “By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking basic precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season,” said Carli.

NFPA’s winter holiday resources include tips and guidelines for helping reduce the risk of fires, while the association’s latest statistics underscore the increased risk of fire during the holiday season and beyond:

**Christmas trees**  
An annual average of 150 home fires involving Christmas trees were reported by the US fire departments between 2017-

2021. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment, such as decorative lights, were involved in more than two of five (44 percent) home Christmas tree fires.  
Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires (19 percent) were started by decorative lights. Eight percent were started by candles.

As Christmas trees dry out, they become more flammable. Thirty percent of Christmas Tree fires occur in January.

**Decorations**  
An estimated average of 790 home fires began when decorations (excluding Christmas trees) caught fire. These fires caused an annual average of 4 civilian fire deaths, 33 civilian fire injuries, and \$14 million in direct property damage between 2017-2021.

17 percent of home decoration fires occurred in December.

In 48 percent of fires involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as candles or operating equipment.

**Candles**  
An estimated average of 5,700 home fires (2 percent) started by candles caused an average of 80 civilian deaths (3 percent), 560 civilian injuries (5 percent), and \$247 million (3 percent) in direct property damage per year between 2017 and 2021.

Year-round, 33 percent of fires began with candles; in December, the number jumped to 46 percent.

Christmas is the peak day for candle fires, at an average of 35 fires, roughly 2.5 times the daily average; Christmas Eve ranked second. New Year’s Day is ranked third, with 30 fires per day.

In three of every five candle fires, the candle was too close to something that could catch fire.

Falling asleep without extinguishing the flame was a factor in 10 percent of home candle fires and 12 percent of the associated deaths.

**Cooking**  
Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires (49 percent) and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

In addition, home fires caused by heating equipment peak during the winter months, with nearly half (49 percent) of home heating fires occurring in December, January, and February. Put a Freeze on Winter Fires, an annual NFPA campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), works to educate the public about ways to stay safe during the colder months, offering tip sheets and other resources to help reduce the risk of heating fires and other winter hazards.

*National Fire Protection Association*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONTGOMERY-FLOYD-RADFORD BRANCH OF THE NAACP

**Deborah H. Travis, Chapter President of the Montgomery-Floyd-Radford branch of the NAACP, speaks during the recent NAACP veterans celebration at Asbury United Methodist Church in Christiansburg.**

## Montgomery-Floyd-Radford NAACP honors veterans

On Sunday, Dec. 3, the Montgomery-Floyd-Radford branch of the NAACP held its veterans’ celebration at Asbury United Methodist Church in Christiansburg.

Approximately 20 veterans and 85 guests were warmly greeted.

The celebration of our nation’s heroes began with the posting of colors by the Christiansburg High School Corps of Cadets—Nathan Kellogg, Kraven Stevers, Addison Linkous and Kaylee Harris. Following this, Samuel H. Bishop welcomed everyone, and “The Star-Spangled Banner” was then sung by all. Chapter president Deborah H. Travis explained one of the goals of the NAACP’s Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Committee is to advocate for equitable programs for veterans’ benefits.

Melvin Palmer and Nataliah Bishop read poems of honor, and Connie Teele shared her original poem, “The Military.” A musical performance was provided by Glen Holmes on piano and vocalist Alan Johnson who sang “A Change Gonna Come.” Branch Vice President Dr. Michael Herndon introduced the speaker, Commander Dr. David Points of the United States Naval Reserves, who eloquently spoke, sharing both historical and statistical information about the United States military. At the conclusion of the event, the color guard retired the colors, and everyone enjoyed a celebratory meal in the church community room.

*Melissa N. Matusevich, NAACP Communications Committee Chair*

# Student Achievements

### Emma Bosman achieves Dean’s List at Belmont University

NASHVILLE, TN - Emma Bosman, of Blacksburg, qualified for Belmont University’s Fall 2023 Dean’s List. Approximately 52 percent of Belmont’s 7,338 undergraduate students qualified. Belmont Provost Dr. David Gregory said, “The Dean’s List achievement reflects the hard work, perseverance and dedication to academic excellence of Belmont’s outstanding students. It is my privilege to congratulate these individuals on their semester-long academic efforts. To our most recent graduates receiving this distinction, you are hope-inspiring examples to your peers and future colleagues. To the students returning next semester, may this achievement be a steppingstone towards even greater pursuits in your academic journey.”

Dean’s List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

### Local students named to Bridgewater College’s Dean’s List

BRIDGEWATER, VA - The dean’s list for the 2023 fall semester at Bridgewater College has been announced by Dr. Leona A. Sevick, provost and executive vice president. More than 550 students were named to the list. Students on the dean’s list have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Students from this area named to the dean’s list are: Emelyn Koene, an English and communication, technology and culture major, and Ashley Rutherford, a biology major, both from Blacksburg.

### Gabrielle Boling earns Dean’s List Honor at Lee University

CLEVELAND, TN - Lee University congratulates Gabrielle Boling, of Christiansburg, on earning Dean’s List honors during the Fall 2023 semester. Dean’s List recognition is earned by full-time, undergraduate students with a semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.0.

### Corbin Mathews receives degree from Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, GA - Corbin Mathews, of Christiansburg, has earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Mathews was among approximately 1,725 undergraduate and graduate students who earned degrees during the Summer 2023 semester.

Read about other accomplished scholars on Gold Letters: A Spotlight on Student Achievement: [bit.ly/Gold-Letters-News](https://bit.ly/Gold-Letters-News). The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is one of the top public research universities in the U.S., developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

### Danah Jeong graduates from University of Georgia

ATHENS, GA - Danah Jeong is among the more than 2,900 graduates in the University of Georgia’s Class of 2023. Jeong, of Blacksburg, earned a PHD Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics. “We are delighted to celebrate the incredible achievements of our University of Georgia students in the Class of 2023,”

said President Jere W. Morehead. “Commencement offers students, friends and families an opportunity to recognize the tireless dedication UGA students have shown during their time on campus. We look forward to seeing all the great things these students will go on to do as alumni of the University of Georgia.”

### Omicron Delta Kappa celebrates new members

LEXINGTON, VA - Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, welcomed 348 new initiates from 12 universities during October 2023. Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year. New inductees include Amanda Bishop, of Christiansburg, and Brianna Huffman, of Blacksburg, both students at Radford University.

### Concord University announces Fall 2023 Dean’s List

ATHENS, WV - Hannah Deck, Blayne Ferguson, and Kayla McCraw, of Blacksburg, and Connor Brizendine, Kelsie Groseclose, and Andrew Tickleare, of Christiansburg, are on the Fall 2023 Dean’s List at Concord University. The Dean’s List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who were registered for a minimum of 12 Concord credit hours and have attained a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the end of the semester.

# Seniors

from page 1

also adopted multiple residents to help deliver baskets with a total value of \$10,465.

Participants create their needs/wish lists in late summer. Registered donors can adopt one or two seniors to shop for. Residents requests items such as food, personal care and pet supplies and maybe a special wish item. This year’s wish lists ranged from a toaster, to blankets, to special food to meet their pet’s restricted dietary needs. The sleigh-load of gifts arrived to the Warm Hearth Foundation Dec. 8 and 9. The WHV Team of Elves, including residents, employees, and board members delivered the gifts door-to-door Dec. 14.

Kim Wasil, Philanthropy Assistant, is new to the program this year.

“A resident called me post-delivery to say the basket was the best thing that happened all year. It made me so happy to be a part of something that made someone’s holiday season brighter,” she said. “The way this community shows up to show love for the seniors in our Village is so powerful and we cannot wait to see how this program grows next year.”

Resident Laura Shawhan has lived in the village 18 months and participated in Silver Santa for the first time this year.

“I requested items for my dog and received a

certificate to Walmart for food, an outfit, toys. I was thrilled.” Shawhan said. “I am blown away by everything Warm Hearth offers.”

WHV thanks everyone who has contributed to the success and longevity of the Silver Santa program. The Village is grateful to be part of such a generous community.

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.

*Warm Hearth Village*



Warm Hearth Village representatives pick up 30 “Silver Santa” baskets from LewisGale Hospital Montgomery.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE  
The Warm Hearth Village elves prepare for deliveries.

# OPINION

## Marking the anniversary of “Right Help, Right Now” initiative

I hope you had a very merry Christmas and that you’ve been able to enjoy time with family, friends, and loved ones who help make the holidays special. As we get ready to ring in the new year, members of the Virginia General Assembly prepare ourselves for a return to Richmond to confront the challenges facing the Commonwealth. One of these challenges is the issue of mental health, especially as it relates to our youth, and it’s a great example of an area where Republicans and Democrats can work together to solve a serious problem.

This past week was the one-year anniversary of Governor Glenn Youngkin’s “Right Help, Right Now” initiative that seeks to tackle the mental health crisis head-on. To mark the occasion, the Governor announced an additional \$500 million will be earmarked in his upcoming budget to address multiple shortcomings in our

current approach to treating mental health ailments. This includes \$307 million to eliminate the Priority 1 waitlist for mental health treatment. \$58 million will help build a best-in-class behavioral health workforce through salary increases in state hospitals. An additional \$28 million will be put toward opioid abatement and response initiatives, and \$23 million will expand access to school-based mental health services for children.

While supplementary funding is certainly one of the most important pieces of the Governor’s policy, equally as important are steps the Governor will take through legislative and regulatory means to specifically protect children. These actions are intended to assist before external pressures cause a breakdown in our youth’s mental health. One such action is protecting the privacy of all children under 18 from social media companies

by banning targeted advertising and creating a marketing profile of kids without their parents’ consent. Another is to ban social media companies from using addictive practices – such as auto-playing videos or virtual gifts – on children. And, as mentioned earlier, mental health services will be extended in our schools using both in-person and tele-behavioral health methods to vastly increase the level of support our children have access to.

Taken together, Virginia is laying the groundwork to ensure our future generations grow with support systems in place to address the things that degrade mental wellbeing. There are more pressures on all of us now than ever before, and much of that seems to be driven by social media. While social media certainly has its valid uses and is a source of enjoyment for many, we must not forget the impact it can have on impressionable youth. I applaud the

Governor for his sincere focus on the mental health crisis and I look forward to working with House colleagues soon to enact policies that begin to solve it.

It is my honor to represent you in Richmond, and I want you to be fully informed what your government is doing for you. As the Delegate representing the 12th District (soon to be the 42nd District due to redistricting), your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJasonBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf. Best wishes for a happy new year!

*Del. Jason Ballard  
Virginia General Assembly*

### 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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

## Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg celebrates successful holiday season

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg has had a very successful holiday season.

We ran the Salvation Army bell on Fridays and Saturdays at Wal-Mart, we purchased Christmas gifts for 44 Salvation Army Christmas Angels, we volunteered at Montgomery County Christmas Store,

and we had a holiday dinner at Warm Hearth Village Center on Dec. 7 where we presented Christmas angels, and \$500 checks to Salvation Army and Women’s Resource Center.

*Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg*



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIWANIS CLUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY-BLACKSBURG

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg celebrate a successful holiday season at a dinner held Dec. 7.

## Community from page 1

CFNRV. Individuals, families, and businesses establish endowments with the foundation that match their charitable interests to fund scholarships for students or grants for nonprofits. Endowed funds are invested with the goal of awarding scholarships and grants for generations to come.

For this year’s Responsive Grants, 59 different endowments contributed to the \$230,225 total, with several making grants to

multiple organizations. Through each step of the grants process, the CFNRV team works with volunteers on the grants distribution committee to read and score each application and match applicants to the funding available.

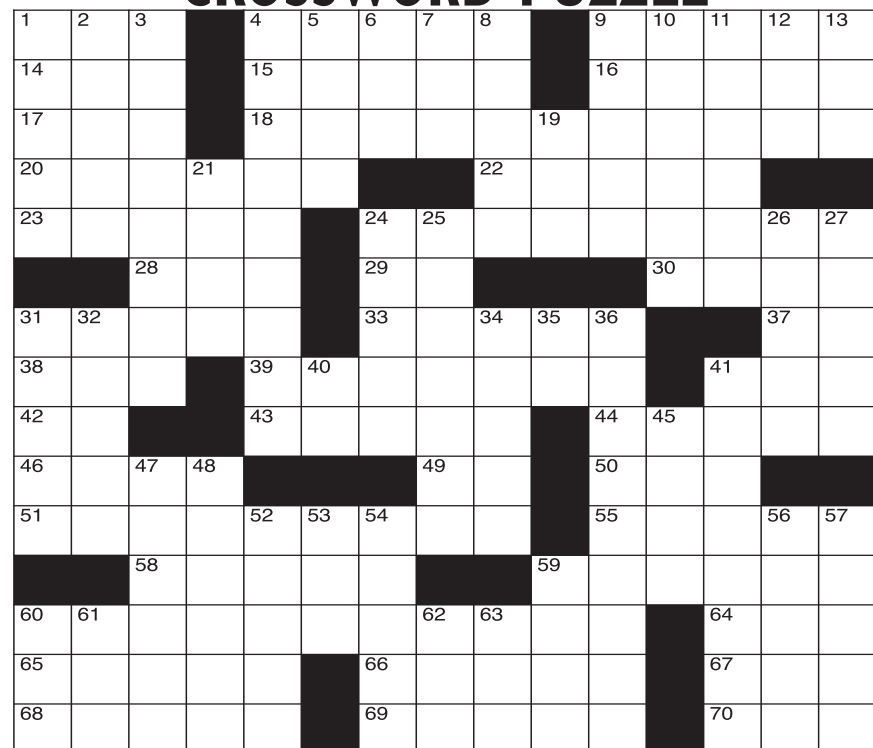
At a lunch reception at Hyatt Place Blacksburg on Wednesday, November 15, the CFNRV recognized each of the grantees. The event was sponsored by National Bank of Blacksburg, Atlantic

Union Bank, First Bank and Trust Company, and Green Valley Builders.

The Responsive Grant application will open again in late May 2024 and applications from nonprofits serving the NRV are welcome to apply, as are units of government (such as libraries.) More information on the application process can be found at cfnrv.org/grants or by contacting the CFNRV team at cfnrv@cfnrv.org or 540-381-8999.

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

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Product or \_\_\_ (abbr.)
  - Zodiac sign
  - S. China seaport
  - Former OSS
  - Early English printer
  - Aphid genus
  - General’s assistant (abbr.)
  - Aussies
  - Dissuades
  - Make law
  - Drench
  - Soak in a liquid
  - Male child
  - It cools your home
  - Small constellation
  - To call (archaic)
  - Explores beneath the Earth
  - Commercial
  - W. hemisphere organization
  - You can find it in a can
  - “Land of the free”
  - 42 36 inches
  - Footwear
  - Challenges
  - They hold things together
  - Of I
  - Partner to flow
  - Not connected by kinship
  - Worries
  - Garlic mayonnaise
  - A way to take by force
  - Legendary English rockers
  - Your consciousness of your own identity
  - Fencing swords
  - Silly
  - Actor DiCaprio
  - Encircles with a belt
  - Mails a message
  - Longing
  - CLUES DOWN**
  - Horse mackerels
  - It can be viral
  - Prickly plants
  - Consciousness
  - Type of sarcoma
  - Tax collector
  - Situated at an apex
  - One who scorches
  - Influential psychotherapist
  - Situated at an apex
  - Communicative
  - Forearm nerve
  - Former CIA
  - Folk singer DiFranco
  - Employee stock ownership plan
  - Large-scale
  - School environment
  - Remove
  - Male parents
  - Large rodent
  - Weighed down
  - Held tightly
  - \_\_\_ route: going there
  - Explains again
  - Exclamation of surprise
  - Courteously
  - Lying down
  - Ljude
  - Forcefully took
  - Loosely compacted sediment
  - High mountain
  - Portable conical tents
  - Cereal grass
  - Dining utensil
  - Thoughtful
  - Helps you walk
  - Indicates near
  - Midway between northeast and east
  - Local area network



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# Marketplace



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### For Sale - Firewood

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### Help Wanted - Clerical

**Part-time receptionist for Oakey's Funeral Service - Vinton Chapel.**  
Hours vary with some weekday evening and daytime shifts and every other daytime weekend available. Please contact Joshua Dama, Manager at (540) 982-2221 or email jdama@oakeys.com.

### Help Wanted - General



### TOTAL ACTION FOR PROGRESS CEO Recruitment Profile

Total Action for Progress (TAP) is a community action agency that serves eleven localities in the Roanoke Valley and adjacent communities: the counties of Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Rockbridge, and the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, Lexington, Roanoke, and Salem. TAP helps individuals and families achieve economic and personal independence through education, employment, affordable housing, and safe and healthy environments.

Every TAP employee shares in TAP's responsibility to "Mobilize Community Resources" in support of TAP's anti-poverty efforts.

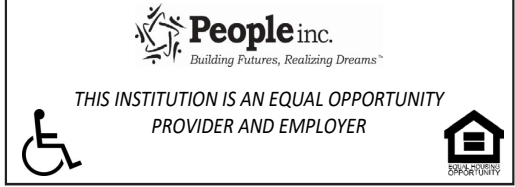
TAP is seeking an experienced CEO who is responsible for maintaining an organizational culture that embodies the following values: Advocacy for the oppressed, and disenfranchised. Results orientation. Fiscal and programmatic accountability. Teamwork, collaboration with others and partnership building. Excellence in performance. Innovation. The passion to make a difference. Responsiveness to the needs of the community. Maintenance of an agency-wide focus on Whole Family and Trauma Informed services.

**PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Responsible for carrying out the mission of the organization and the strategic plan as set forth by the Board of Directors. Responsible for meeting with key board committees especially Finance, Property, Personnel and all others at the request of the Board Chair. Responsible for carrying out the policies and procedures set forth by the Board of Directors. Responsible for final approval of the hiring and termination of all staff.

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1-Bedroom Apartments for the Elderly (62+) & Disabled  
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### Help Wanted - General

Responsible for the financial health of the organization, the development and prudent expenditures of the same according to budgets prepared by staff and approved by the Board of Directors and audited by financial and program auditors.

Responsible for making sure that staff are provided with wages comparable to similar employment and benefits necessary for their well-being and that of their families.

Responsible for stimulating collaborative ventures with other organizations, the private sector and federal, state, and local governments to strengthen services for low-income Virginians.

**ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**  
An understanding of the specific nature of a community action agency, its history, and commitment to the same. Advanced understanding of a variety of programming that includes early childhood development, youth and adult education and training, housing development and management and a wide range of economic development programming including business start-ups and loan pools.

Excellent presentation, writing and public relations skills. High emotional and cultural intelligence enabling the person to connect with a wide range of people from a variety of ethnic, social and economic backgrounds. High energy level and proven ability to manage stressful or extenuating circumstances. Bilingual ability is a plus.

**QUALIFICATIONS, EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**  
Master's degree or equivalent experience. Ten to twenty years in a senior management position of an organization with similar complexity and size of TAP. Experience writing grant submissions and managing a team of grant writers.

Experience working with a board of directors. Experience working effectively with the public and representing an agency before the public. Experience working effectively with local, state, and national public officials on issues vital to the organization. Experience and passion for working with a highly diverse organization. Essential computer skills

### Help Wanted - General

and the experience and ability to oversee IT operations.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**  
Must pass a comprehensive background and drug check. A valid Virginia driver's license and reliable transportation is required. TAP participates in the Virginia DMV Driver Alert Program. Employees who operate a TAP vehicle or their personal vehicle to conduct TAP business may be subject to driver record monitoring through the Virginia DMV Driver Alert Program.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**  
This description provides information regarding the core functions of the designated position, and general nature and level of work associated with the job. It should not be interpreted to describe all the duties whose performance may be required of such employees or be used to limit the nature and extent of assignments such an individual may be given.

TAP is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a Drug Free Workplace. We only hire individuals legally eligible for employment in the United States.

### COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:

Salary range is \$90k to \$115k depending on qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be offered a generous benefits package including health, dental, vision, retirement plan match and gift, paid time off, sick leave, free short-term disability, long term disability, life insurance/AD&D, and professional development support, 14 paid holidays.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**  
To be considered, please submit a cover letter and resume with salary expectations, and three professional references to **Tabatha Cooper, HR Director, via email at Tabatha.Cooper@tapintoho.org** or via mail to: **TAP, Human Resources, PO Box 2868 Roanoke VA 24011**

**This position will remain open until filled. Inquiries may be directed to: Tabatha Cooper - HR Director PO BOX 2868 Roanoke, VA 24001 Email: Tabatha.Cooper@tapintoho.org Phone: 540-283-4800**

### WANTED Models

Models needed for life drawing class, male and female, \$65 for 3 hour session. Call David 540-473-3713

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### Legals - City of Radford

**NOTICE:**  
**December 13, 2023**  
A white 550 Jet Ski FL8258GV HIN KAW447440482-B. A yellow 400 Jet Ski VA4511AK HIN KAW 051850676. A yellow 400 Jet Ski VA4512AK HIN KAW051690673. Are located at 4923 Clement Lane Radford VA 24141.

### Legals - City of Radford

If these watercraft are not claimed by the titled owner within 30 days, I will apply to the Department for registration/title in my name. Mark A. 540-639-0610

### ABC NOTICE

RADFORD COFFEE COMPANY INC., trading as RADFORD COFFEE COMPANY, 333 WEST MAIN ST, RADFORD, VA 24141.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for Restaurant-Wine, Beer, and Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Rachel Doyle-Owner.

**NOTE:** Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

### Legals - City of Salem

**Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem,** at its regular meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of E2ST John, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 68 St. John Road (Tax Map # 155-2-2.1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.

2. Consider the request of Poindexter SW Florida, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 2105-2121 Apperson Drive (Tax Map # 281-1-2.2) from BCD Business Commerce District to HBD Highway Business District.

If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: H. Robert Light  
Clerk of Council

### ABC NOTICE

HANGING ROCK, LLC, trading as HANGING ROCK TAVERN, 1790 THOMPSON MEMORIAL DR, ROANOKE COUNTY, Salem VA. 24153.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for retail restaurant and brewery restaurant Wine, Beer MB, license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES HARDY, CEO

**NOTE:** Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

### Legals - City of Salem

**Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,** at its regular meeting on January 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of T J Real Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1236 West Main Street (Tax Map # 141-1-4) from HBD Highway Business District to CBD Community Business District.

2. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two family dwelling on the property located at 301 Carey Avenue, (Tax Map # 74-2-6.1).

3. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 416 Electric Road (Tax Map # 150-3-1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.

4. Consider the request of Virginia Baptist Children's Home (dba HopeTree Family Services), property owner, for rezoning the properties located at 1000 block Red Lane and a portion of 860 Mount Vernon Lane (Tax Map #'s 41-1-1, 41-1-2, 41-1-3, 41-1-4, 41-1-5, 41-1-6, and a portion of 44-3-10) from RSF Residential Single Family to PUD Planned Unit District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: H. Robert Light  
Deputy Executive Secretary

### Legals - Montgomery County

### ABC NOTICE

HANGING ROCK, LLC., trading as HANGING ROCK OUTDOORS, 484 FRIENDSHIP ROAD, SHAWSVILLE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA. 24162.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a BREWERY license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES HARDY, CEO

**NOTE:** Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, January 9, 2024** beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:  
Ordinance 2045: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating

### Legals - Montgomery County

Budget to Appropriate \$927,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund and \$800,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Stormwater Capital Improvement Fund. The proposed ordinance will allow the Town's two previously approved agreements with Glade Spring Crossing, LLC for the Glade Spring Crossing housing development. One will be used for the sewer cost sharing of \$927,000 and another for \$800,000 for a regional Stormwater project.

These projects will be funded by an upcoming bond offering.

Ordinance 2046: An Ordinance Granting a Lease of Office Space in Town Property Located at 141 Jackson Street, N.E. The proposed ordinance will grant space in the town owned property located at 141 Jackson Street NE to New River Land Trust for storage.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters,

### Legals - Montgomery County

copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

### NRV Regional Water Authority Summary Statement of Financial Condition For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Assets \$ 93,456,376  
Deferred Outflows 1,091,330  
Liabilities (58,373,932)  
Deferred Inflows (1,145,544)  
Net Position \$ 35,028,230  
Revenues \$ 10,643,849  
Expenses (6,024,743)  
Non-operating revenue/expense (1,251,189)  
Net Change in Net Position \$ 3,367,917

A copy of the Audit Report can be found on the Authority's website at www.nrvwater.org.

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**GENERAC**

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## House of Marty presents year-end awards

**From the Sidelines**  
**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

The world of sports was full of several success stories this past year both on the field, diamond and court but also off all of those. The annual Marty awards are just an opportunity to bring attention to the big and little stories in that sector of life.

The top Marty has to go to the Radford High School Bobcat football and Virginia Tech women's basketball teams, thanks for giving us something to remember in their respective championships.

The Lady Hokies were the ACC tournament champs, and the Bobcats are this year's Class 2 state football trophy winners.

The one-two combo of Tech's Liz Kitley and Georgia Amore has gained them an individual Marty to add to their hardware on the shelf at the shared apartment. Without them, there would have not been an ACC championship.

Okay, another Marty has to be given to Virginia Tech football coach Brent Pry. You have weathered the storm and seem to have found a soft spot in Blacksburg,

rebuilding a program that has some very critical fans.

Just keep being you, and coach, keep stepping into the Portal to gain some depth for a team trying to climb out of the basement. Fans are not the easiest ones to deal with especially after some very lean years.

At no time should you ask Scotty to beam you up. Blacksburg is your home. Okay maybe, fans will give you five years. Let's go bowling.

Individually, Radford's Max Kanipe is given a Marty for producing a season to remember. His future engineering degree will be a great chapter in life, but thanks Max for a memorable year on the football field. You deserve the school record in receiving.

I also have to give the entire Christiansburg Sports of Fame committee a Marty award after finally putting together the first HOF class this past year. It was the longtime idea of several people, but it took the likes of CHS alum Jeremy Williams to finally get it off the ground. A Marty to him and the other founding members of this first class.

Christiansburg High School's inaugural sports hall of fame class was

introduced this past fall with 24 former athletes, coaches and supporters. The group spans six decades ranging from the 1950s to the early 2000s.

Chuck Muncy is a returning Marty award winner. The former recreation supervisor has done a great job at rebuilding a Christiansburg High School golf program, which is on the cusp of greatness.

Also, a Marty needs to go to Robin Boyd who stepped down as the softball coach at CHS. But it was his effort in the youth softball programs throughout the area that will be missed. Thanks coach, for all your volunteer time. Many young ladies are doing great things on the diamond because of you.

I have to stretch the Marty to include Floyd County football coach Winfred Beale, who retired at the end of the football season after 43 years on the sidelines. Thanks for everything you have given us, coach.

A week ago, Christiansburg High School athletic director Tim Cromer was named to replace Beale. Cromer deserves a Marty for everything he has given the school he graduated from. Christiansburg sports has moved into the next chapter of

his illustrious novel thanks to him.

A special Marty is given to the Virginia Tech basketball programs for continuing their relationship with the Shoes for Cancer program. The Hokies have given several children a sense of hope and even put a smile on their face after painting simple white tennis shoes that will be worn at a game this season.

Also, thanks with a Marty to the continued partnership with Kroger's and the Virginia Tech football team for "Touchdown for Turkeys," where Kroger Mid-Atlantic donated turkeys for every touchdown scored during VT's football season. Many families in our area were served by this effort.

A Marty also goes to the retiring basketball coach Rick Cormany, who led Radford High School to the top of the mountain in the Commonwealth. Thanks for all the memories, and I still own a "one" for Cormany, as he was my coach in recreation basketball while growing up in Wytheville. I was the only player to score a basket for the other team on an in-bounds. Woops coach.

That's it, the Marty awards are out for 2023. Mike drop hard for the past year, looking forward to a new year in sports.



**Auburn won its seventh state volleyball championship this fall at the Salem Civic Center. This is their fifth straight Class 1 top mark and eighth over the past 12 years.**



**Blacksburg Golf Team won the Class 4 Region D Championship by 23 strokes with 15 under par, 269 score and then turned around to claim the state title.**

## Sports stories to remember from 2023

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

This time of year, it is hard to look back and pinpoint the top sports stories of the year, and we had our share of headlines.

We said goodbye to one of the state's winningest high school basketball coaches when Radford's Rick Cormany stepped down. He was one of the area and state's winningest high school basketball coaches.

"It's just time. I've been year to year since 2019," he said.

After almost four decades, Cormany will finish his career with 773 wins, good for second-most in VHSL history. He previously served as assistant coach at Radford University before accepting a job as the head man at Rocky Gap. He was there for five years before accepting the post at Radford in 1993.

Cormany said he doesn't know what he was thinking in those early days at Rocky Gap.

"I just knew I had to try and out work everyone and try to learn everyday if we had any chance to be successful. I was way too young to be a head coach anywhere, but I had hard working kids that would get to gym at 6 in the morning and would get better," he said.

The 773 wins puts Cormany in some elite company with the likes of Bluestone's George Lancaster (724 wins), former Maury head man Jack Baker (746 wins) along with retired coaches Bill Littlepage from Hopewell (755 wins) and Robert E. Lee-Staunton legendary sideline boss Paul Hatcher (897 victories).

Cormany just finished his 30th season at Radford and over 560 of his wins have come for the Bobcats.

Radford won 21 of the last 22 regular season championships in the Three Rivers District, 16 of 17 tournament championships, the last four Conference 45 championships, four Region C championships (2001, 2002, 2004, 2013), three Region 1A West Championships (2014, 2016, 2017), two Region 2C Championships (2018, 2019), three state runner ups, nine state Final-4's and state champions in six of the last 12 years.

In November came the announcement that would area racing to a screeching halt. The parent company of Calfee Park Baseball and the Pulaski River Turtles said it was resuming management of Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway beginning November 30.

The ownership said after leasing Motor Mile Speedway & Dragway to Rusty Wallace Racing Experience owner Mark

Ebert for the 2021-2023 seasons, Motor Mile will resume management of the venue for the 2024 season.

Current plans include several special events such as the always-popular Monster Truck, Nights of Destruction and JJ DA BOSS Tours. Other types of events such as concerts and live-action events are being considered.

But, according to a press release, there are no plans at this time for a weekly racing series for either the Speedway or Dragway tracks.

Both tracks will be available for rental for individual days, for special events, or for a recurring series if there is interest by an outside party or organization.

In August, officials from the Rusty Wallace Racing experience said there would no operating contract extension after this year.

In 2020, the Rusty Wallace Racing Group took over the speedway, which is celebrating its 34th year anniversary this year. The track has been known over the years as the New River Valley Speedway and has changed its name four times since its opening over 20 years ago.

The multi-year lease agreement allowed RWRE to take over venue operations, with the speedway becoming the home track for the RWRE and its companion companies.

At the time, former NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace called Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway, one of the finest grassroots motorsports facilities in the nation.

The track has a long, rich history in the New River Valley. In 1952, a dirt track originally opened on the former farm site between Radford and Dublin. In the 80's, a paved 0.416-mile oval was built on the site.

The track announced that it had cut all sanctions with NASCAR and discontinued its oval track racing in late 2017 but reopened under NASCAR sanctioning in 2019.

It was purchased by Shelor Automotive Group in 2004 and was subsequently renamed Motor Mile Speedway. The track is most famous for hosting four NASCAR Busch Series events between 1989 and 1992, which included future NASCAR champions like Jeff Gordon.

In July, A Radford City general district judge extended Radford University's basketball coach Darris Nichols probation from a Driving Under the Influence (DUI), The new court appearance deals with a positive reading on an ignition interlock device, which was placed on his vehicle after a February traffic stop.

The court could have suspended all



**Rick Cormany stepped down this year after a long career as the head coach of the Radford High School boys' basketball team. He finished with 773 wins.**



**The Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Virginia partnered this season with the Virginia Tech football program. For every first down, Freedom First donated to the agency. The Hokies tallied 21 first downs and \$2,100 to the nonprofit organization of the Boys and Girls Club.**

of his probation and sent Nichols straight to jail, but the Commonwealth Attorney and Nichols' attorneys agreed the coach should have another chance.

He faced up to 180 days of a suspended sentence, but now, Nichols will remain on probation through April 2024.

During the initial arrest,

Nichols had a blood alcohol level of .025, twice the legal limit. He was fined \$2,500 and had his drivers license suspended for a year. He was also required to use the interlock device, which alerted the court to the use of alcohol.

Nichols made no statement following the ending of hearing.

The Radford native

Nichols was hired two years ago after serving as an assistant at the University of Florida. Nichols played basketball at West Virginia University and climbed the ranks as an assistant coach all the way to the University of Florida in the SEC.

Nichols helped lead Radford High School to

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Players react as the Highlanders take the win of West Virginia in the final seconds of the game.

# Smith's game-winner stuns West Virginia, Highlanders earn first-ever win over Mountaineers

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – With the game on the line and the clock racing towards all zeroes, DaQuan Smith knocked down the game-winning shot to give the Radford men's basketball team a 66-65 win over West Virginia at WVU Coliseum on Wednesday night, Dec. 20.

The Highlanders missed the chance to tie the game at 65-all with a missed free throw, but they turned the page to the next play and made the most of it. When the Mountaineers missed the front end of a one-and-one on their end, Radford pushed the ball up the court and into the hands of Smith.

The redshirt senior didn't panic, even as the ball slipped from his hands, as he collected it and rose above a defender before hitting nothing but net to give his team a 66-65 lead with just 1.5 seconds left. A heave fell short for WVU and elation spread throughout Highlander Nation, knowing the Mountaineers were felled for the first time in program history.

### PLAY-BY-PLAY

With neither team shooting above 35.0% from the field by halftime, defense reigned supreme for the first 20 minutes of action.

The Mountaineers started the scoring with a layup by Akok Akok,

gaining a narrow lead that never grew beyond four points in the period. Radford's big men produced some scoring punch midway through, as Justin Archer and D'Auntray Pierce scored six straight points to give the Highlanders a 15-14 lead – their first of the game – at the 9:06 mark.

It was yet another back-and-forth affair from there, as the Highlanders and their hosts traded buckets, and many more missed shots, until Radford took a 29-28 lead into the break.

Bryan Antoine and DaQuan Smith combined for just three points on 1-of-14 shooting (1-for-8 from three) in the period while WVU got just six points up to that point from players who were eligible to play this time last week.

Shots didn't exactly fall in the second half either, as the Highlanders shot just 43.3% from the field and 30.8% from deep in the final period.

Leading 41-37 with 16:07 on the clock, Radford went without a field goal for more than four minutes, allowing WVU to slide in for a 43-41 lead that eventually became 54-52 at the 7:07 mark.

The Mountaineers led for the entire rest of the contest, that is, until Smith's shot sent the Highlanders home happy.

# Hokies add 15 signees

Highlighted by 13 high school captains and five state championships as a class, Virginia Tech football head coach Brent Pry welcomed his third signing class to Blacksburg this past week, as the Hokies introduced 15 signees and four transfers on National Signing Day.

Pry and his staff continue to focus on the Hokies' recruiting footprint, inking five in-state signees, all ranked within the top 25 in the Commonwealth per 247 Sports. Six of the 15 signees are from within a 325-mile radius of Blacksburg, including defensive lineman Deric Dandy and running back Tyler Mason, both from Mount Airy, North Carolina, along with defensive back Quentin Reddish from Charlotte, North Carolina.

The class represents seven states. In addition to Virginia, three signees hail from North Carolina, with two each from Maryland and Ohio and one each from Georgia, Florida and New Jersey.

On the offensive side of the ball, Tech welcomed seven signees, comprised of one quarterback, one running back, two wide receivers and



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

three offensive linemen. Defensively, the Hokies signed eight players, featuring four defensive linemen, three defensive backs and a linebacker.

Among Tech's incoming transfers, the Hokies welcomed redshirt junior offensive lineman Montavious Cunningham (Georgia State), junior defensive tackle Kemari Copeland (Iowa Western Community College & Army), senior transfer defensive lineman Aeneas Peebles (Duke) and senior linebacker Sam Brumfield

(Middle Tennessee).

Virginia Tech's 2024 National Signing Day class ranks sixth in the ACC according to On3 Sports and eighth per the 247 Sports Composite. Nationally, the Hokies' class has peaked at No. 36 among NCAA FBS programs, per On3 Sports.

Tech's 2024 signing day class achieved a composite win-loss record of 141-48 (.746 winning percentage) during the 2023 season.

Virginia Tech Athletics

### NOTES & STATS

Radford's 29 first-half points were its fewest this season (previously 33 at VCU)

The Highlanders are now 8-2 this season when leading at halftime.

WVU went 0-for-10 from three in the first half. Radford entered the night ranked 42nd in the nation in three-point defense (28.9%).

Rae'Quan Battle led all scorers with 29 points in his debut for the

Mountaineers.

The game featured 15 different lead changes.

Radford will take time to celebrate the holidays with friends and family before refocusing just in time to play Clemson in the final non-conference game of the year. The Highlanders and Tigers will face off on Friday, Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. with all the action being streamed live on ACC Network Extra.

# Stories

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four appearances in the state Group A playoffs, averaging in double-figures every season. He coached seven seasons at Florida, helping lead the Gators to a 108-65 record, including four straight 20-win seasons and three consecutive NCAA Tournament bids.

Nichols garnered a spot in ESPN.com's 40 Under 40 in the summer of 2020, rated #17 on the national list that included both head coaches and assistant coaches. He was also rated the #2 assistant coach in the SEC in a Stadium poll of coaches around the league.

A four-year letter winner

at West Virginia under Bob Huggins and John Beilein, Nichols helped the Mountaineers to a 26-11 record and a trip to the 2008 NCAA Sweet 16 his senior season.

At WVU, Nichols shined as a player in the Big East. He scored 993 career points and dished 399 assists while shooting at a .375 clip from 3-point range. He averaged 10.7 points per game as well as 3.2 assists per game as a senior on the way to WVU's Sweet 16 run. He was also a member of the 2007 NIT

Championship, 2006 Sweet 16 and 2005 Elite Eight teams and finished his collegiate career as a top five most winningest player in Mountaineer history. After graduation, he played professional overseas in the Hungarian League.

Blacksburg High School golfer Jake Albert has announced plans to continue his career at Auburn University after another great summer season.

Albert, who is only a junior, is currently ranked

17th in the American Junior Golf Association after picking up a win at the recent Jack Burke Jr. Invitational and 18th at the Junior Players Championship presented by Rolex. The 16-year-old also finished third earlier this year at the Will Lowery Junior Championship. His biggest accolade was last year as the national champion at a high school golf national invitational at Pinehurst, N.C. Albert's 10-under for the three-day, 54-hole event was the lowest score in the tournament's history. He finished the event with 16 pars.

The invitation-only tournament field featured more than 330 of the top high school boys' golfers from across the country. They had each won their respective state championships as a team or as individuals. Albert would also finish one-hole out in the 2023 VSGA Amateur Championship for second place.

In October, Blacksburg claimed another state golf

championship, shooting a 282 total for a minus-6 at the Williamsburg National Golf Club. Monacan was a distant second at a plus-3. Jamestown and Loudoun County finished tied for third at plus-4. Woodgrove was fifth at plus-23.

Albert finished tied for second for the individual championship with his own teammate Major Ewing and Salem's Kathryn Ha, all at minus-5 67. Joe Johnson of Heritage was the state champ with a minus-6 at 66.

Albert and Ewing's teammate, Piece Campbell completed a course plus-one 73 for a tie for 15th and Cameron Sharp a tie for 23rd with a plus-five 77. Blacksburg was also the Region 4D champ.

Blacksburg High School cancelled its 10th football game of the year with Salem. Blacksburg principal Chris Stewart issued this statement at the announcement:

"With student safety as our primary focus, BHS will forfeit the varsity football game with Salem High School. This decision comes in response to the high number of injuries our student-athletes have experienced that prohibit their ability to return to play and out of an abundance of caution for the limited number of student-athletes that remain active on the roster."

"We also believe that this is the best decision for the long-term success of the program, we want to see our younger student-athletes stay in the sport and build upon the positive outcomes they have gained during the JV season," Stewart said.

Besides the high school athletic area, Riner's own Matt Hagan won another NHRA world championship. Number Four was celebrated, and he is already looking for number five. Hagan is the 2011, 2014, 2020 and 2023 NHRA Funny Car

World Champion and has had a total of 49 Career Event titles, 87 Career Final Rounds, and 21 Career No.1 qualifying positions.

This year, Hagan clinched a Fourth NHRA Funny Car World Championship at the Camping World Series finale in Pomona, CA on November 12. Hagan's title places him in an elite group of only four racers to have won four funny car championships in the history of the sport. Racing greats John Force (15 championships), Don Prudhomme (4), and Kenny Bernstein (4) round out the list.

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team reached the top of the mountain with the school's first ever ACC tournament title. Tech's women's basketball team knocked off Miami (Fla.) and Duke enroute to the championship game as part of the 2023 Ally ACC Women's Basketball Tournament. The third-seeded Hokies pulled away from No. 4 seed Louisville down the stretch to punch their ticket to the NCAA Tournament, while Georgia Amore was tabbed tournament MVP after draining a tournament-record 14 3-pointers.

And speaking of the ACC, the year finished with lots of question on whether the conference would still be looking the same when the new year gets here.

The expansion of collegiate athletic conferences means there will be a log jam in both football and basketball, and the ACC is one of those examples. The ACC announced a new football scheduling model that will go into effect beginning with the 2024 season.

With the additions of Cal, SMU and Stanford, each ACC school will continue to play eight

conference games per season with all 17 teams facing each other at least twice through the next seven years (once at home and once on the road). Under the new schedule rotation, the league's current 14-team membership will also play three times each in California before 2030 with no team traveling to the west coast during consecutive seasons.

The new schedule will continue with no divisions, feature 17 schools and will increase the number of annual conference matchups from 56 to 68. The top two teams based on conference winning percentage will compete in the ACC Football Championship Game.

"We are extremely excited to welcome Cal, SMU and Stanford to the ACC and look forward to having them compete beginning in the fall of 2024," said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "Throughout the entire scheduling model process, the membership was incredibly thoughtful and purposeful in building a creative, flexible and aggressive conference scheduling model while keeping the student-athlete experience at the forefront. The excitement and anticipation for our teams, alumni and fans will undoubtedly build as we look ahead to the future of this incredible conference."

The approved format will continue to have each member institution play eight conference games preseason, with all 17 teams playing each other at least twice over the next seven seasons – once at home and once on the road. The current 14 conference teams will play a total of three times each in California over the seven years and none will travel west to California in back-to-back seasons. But the question remains whether some teams and schools will bolt and leave the ACC.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

SVC	ARIES	MACAO
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ADC	AUSTRALIANS	
DETERS	ENACT	
SOUSE	MARINATED	
SON	AC	LYRA
CLEPE	CAVER	AD
OAS	SARDINE	USA
YD	SHOES	DARES
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