

# News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, December 30, 2023

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USPS 016-490

\$1.00



IMAGE BY STARLINE ON FREEPIK

## Not able to stay up until midnight for the ball drop?

*Bull and Bones hosts early New Years Eve celebration in Christiansburg*

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

Bull and Bones Brewhaus and Grill is offering up an earlier celebration at their Christiansburg location for those “old farts” that like to be bed in a bit earlier; a 9 p.m. ball drop and champagne toast. “We did the event last year but did not really advertise, but this year we are making a more active push for it,” General Manager of the Christiansburg Bull and Bones, Robbie Hockett said. The Christiansburg Bull and Bones is in its second year of business and hopes to see a great turnout for the new year’s event.

John Coeburn, owner of Bull and Bones, was traveling on vacation where he saw another business offering an earlier countdown to new year’s option and thought the concept would be a great idea.

Although reservations are not required, they are encouraged. Hockett suggests getting to the restaurant no later than 7 p.m. to get a seat in the dining room.

“We expect to have room for everyone in the dining room, but the bar seating will fill up quickly at the Christiansburg location,” Hockett said. “We will have the specials as well as the full regular menu.”

See **New Year’s**, page 4

## The Milk Parlour brings in the new year with two special events

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

It will be a busy and fun weekend for The Milk Parlour as they prepare not one, but two special events: their Saturday Drag Show event with special guest Christina Doll, and a New Year’s Eve celebration with featuring 90s-style music with the band, Nice Couch.

The Milk Parlour, located at 211 Draper Rd., NW, Blacksburg, will open their doors on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 8 p.m. for the drag show event that begins at 9:30 p.m. Many performers will be appearing during

the evening to entertain the audience.

“The performances are very theatrical,” Manager Michelle Berry said. “Each performer will go up and do a couple of songs that will include lip synching, dance moves, and audience involvement. They each have play lists and songs and it is like a sing along as well.”

The New Years Eve celebration at The Milk Parlour will ring in 2024 on Sunday, Dec. 31, headlining 90s rock music with band, Nice Couch. According to their website at www.nicecouch.net, the group has been performing

progressive psychedelic funk rock since 2013 and are a local band beginning their journey in Radford.

“The band will be 90s rock and roll,” Berry said. “Everyone over 21 years old can make a champagne toast as they count down to midnight. It will be a good night to hang out and dance and see friends and see live music as well.”

The band will begin playing at 10 p.m., so attendees should plan to arrive prior to that time. The Milk Parlour will be open on Sunday until 2 a.m. and there will be a \$10 cover charge for this event.

## Beta Sigma Phi supports MCEAP



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI

Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Christiansburg’s Beta Sigma Phi Sorority recently donated soup and crackers to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Inc. (MCEAP). Accepting the donations is Margie Vitale, MCEAP Operational Director and Manager, center. Presenting the donations are Alpha Mu Master members Doris Caldwell and Sharon Legg.

## Virginia Tech achieves gold-level recognition as a Bicycle Friendly University

BLACKSBURG - Virginia Tech has pedaled its way to national recognition as a gold level Bicycle Friendly University, a prestigious designation awarded by the League of American Bicyclists.

Among the 220 colleges and universities in 46 states and the District of Columbia enrolled in the Bicycle Friendly University program, Virginia Tech has secured its position in the top 18 percent of all bicycle-friendly campuses.

The League of American Bicyclists, a trailblazing grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to advocating for better bicycling conditions and the rights of cyclists,

bestowed this accolade upon Virginia Tech as part of its Bicycle Friendly America program. Virginia Tech’s gold level recognition signifies the university’s dedication

to not only fostering a sustainable and eco-conscious campus, but also to creating a vibrant and healthy community

See **Bicycle**, page 3

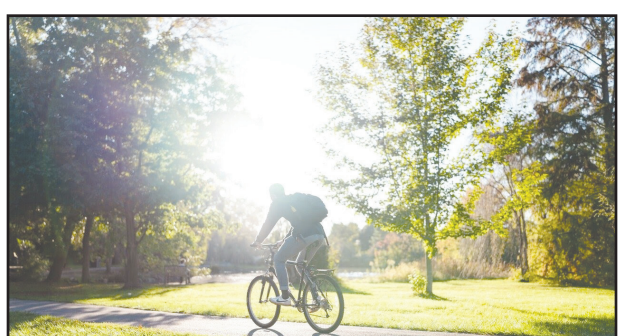


PHOTO BY CHRISTINA FRANUSICH FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech has pedaled its way to national recognition as a gold level Bicycle Friendly University, a prestigious designation awarded by the League of American Bicyclists.



Olha Nimko with her nine-year-old daughter, Daryna.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLHA NIMKO

## Visiting scholar talks life in Ukraine, motivation to help other refugees

Olha Nimko was on a family ski trip in Ukraine’s Carpathian Mountains when she learned Russian forces were invading her country’s capital.

Her colleague woke her up with a frantic 5 a.m. call to share the news. She knew there were tensions between the countries, but she never anticipated it would turn into a full-scale war. The February 2022 invasion shocked the world and sparked a war that has killed thousands of civilians and displaced millions of Ukrainians — including Nimko.

Nearly two years later, she is a visiting scholar in Virginia Tech’s Department of Political Science. She joined the university as an assistant research professor in August with help from the Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies and Global Strategic Services. Inspired by her own experiences and the stories of millions across the globe, Nimko, who taught law at a university in Ukraine, is using her new Virginia Tech role to address food insecurity among refugees.

Thanks in large part to a donation from the Cranwell International Center, Nimko and her 9-year-old daughter, Daryna, have a house in Blacksburg. Nimko’s husband and Daryna’s father had to stay behind in Ukraine because of a countrywide mandate forbidding men between the ages of 18 and 60 to leave.

In Blacksburg, Virginia Tech faculty and community members helped Nimko to make her new home. Volunteers moved furniture into her house, gave her food and a bike, and assisted with various tasks during Nimko’s summer relocation.

Also, Global Strategic Services, part of Outreach and International

Affairs, helped Nimko navigate complex immigration regulations.

“From the beginning, there was a tremendous outpouring of university support to invite Olha to Virginia Tech,” said Belinda Pauley, J-1 services program manager. “Her experience as a scientific researcher and practicing attorney, as well as her experience in food security, human rights protection, socially vulnerable citizens’ rights protection, and environmental law, made her an excellent candidate for her research work here.”

Nimko’s journey to Virginia was far from simple. She and her daughter still hear the bombing and wailing of air-raid sirens in their dreams, and the two constantly worry for the friends and family they left behind.

After the invasion, Nimko embarked on a two-day journey home to Zhytomyr — a city in the north of the western half of Ukraine. At times, it took 12 hours to travel 200 miles. There, she was employed as an assistant professor of law at Polissia National University. Family members from Kyiv travelled to her home after the invasion. But Russia attacked Zhytomyr — the province’s administrative center and a major transportation hub — in the first days of the war.

She and her family spent sleepless days and nights underground in the cold, just waiting for the bombing to stop in her region, which, according to statistics, occurred nearly 30 times a day.

“It was incredibly scary to hear the sounds of automatic gunfire and see Russian planes and helicopters flying over our city, randomly dropping bombs,” Nimko said.

See **Scholar**, page 4



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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.

## Saturday, Dec. 30 -

## 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 -

## 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.

## 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.

### School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will convene for its regular meeting at 6 p.m. at the School Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at [www.rcps.org](http://www.rcps.org).

## Saturday, Jan. 13:

### Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will be serving up hot biscuits topped with delicious sausage gravy, or with

the latest batch of our "world-famous" apple butter. We will also have scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg; 8 – 10 a.m. This is below the Sanctuary, on the lower church parking lot level. This is a fundraiser for our club to help us as we serve our community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. More information at <https://fb.com/MtTaborRuritan>

## 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](mailto:CompPlan@blacksburg.gov), with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

# Radford City School Board chooses new superintendent

**Heather Bell**  
[hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

RADFORD – Radford City Public Schools has a new superintendent.

The Radford City School Board convened in Radford City Council chambers Thursday evening to make the announcement. Dr. Adam Joyce, who previously served as Galax City Public Schools Director of Instruction, was chosen from 10 candidates, all of whom hailed from Virginia, and will begin his tenure as Radford's superintendent Jan. 16, 2024.

In making the announcement, School Board Chair Jenny Riffe welcomed Joyce to the Radford family and thanked Interim Superintendent Dr. Roger Collins for stepping in to lead RCPS during the search process.

"Your Radford City School Board has been hard at work for the past six months to seek out our next Superintendent," said Riffe. "We began our search process in earnest by appointing the esteemed Dr. Roger Collins as our Interim Superintendent in June, 2023. Dr. Collins has been an amazing interim who dove headfirst

into "keeping the main thing the main thing" at RCPS. We have loved working with him and he has become an invaluable member of our Bobcat family."

"It is with a great deal of excitement that the Radford City School Board has selected Dr. Adam Joyce to lead our school division as our next Superintendent of Schools," she continued. "Dr. Joyce is not a stranger to the Radford community. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Communications, his Master's degree in Educational Leadership, and his Doctor of Education degree in Education Leadership from Radford University. He is currently the Director of Instruction with Galax City Schools. He was the former Principal of Pulaski Middle and Dublin Middle Schools. He was also the former Assistant Principal of Carroll County High School. Dr. Joyce began his education career as a special education and civics teacher in Carroll County Schools.

"Please help me in welcoming Dr. Adam Joyce and his wife, Cindy, who will be moving to Radford within the year."

Joyce addressed the crowd and thanked



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Dr. Adam Joyce has been chosen as the new superintendent of Radford City Public Schools. He will begin the job on Jan. 16, 2024.**

the school board for the opportunity.

"I'm excited to join this team, and I'm excited to work hard for the students, the staff, the families and the community," he said. "I've always believed, and now I know, that Radford is a strong division

and I can't wait to see all the things we can do for our students. I look forward to maintaining an open line of communication, making myself available, and serving as the latest cheerleader [for Radford City Public Schools]."

# Six feral foals recover under care of equine hospital clinicians and staff

Treating a sick foal is a challenge in itself, but when feral foals arrive one after the other in quick succession, it adds a different level of complexity.

Six weanling foals were transported to the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center (EMC) in Leesburg for emergency evaluation and treatment after being purchased at an auction by Colby's Crew Rescue, based in Keswick, Virginia.

Veterinary professional with two foals. Megan Marchitello, clinical instructor of equine medicine, works with two of the weanling foals during treatment. Photo courtesy of Megan Marchitello. The foals are the offspring of formerly domesticated animals that had either escaped from or been set free by their owners. They were fearful, suffering life-threatening health issues and being held at a slaughter holding facility before being offered at auction.

The first two foals to arrive at the Equine

Medical Center were referred by Gary Kubala of Littlestown Veterinary Hospital in Littlestown, Pennsylvania.

Janice, a three-to-four-month-old filly, had bronchopneumonia and an umbilical hernia. Morocco, a 4- to 5-month-old filly, had swelling on her left hind leg, other minor scrapes and scratches, as well as a disfigured right ear tip, thought to have been caused by frostbite. Morocco also showed signs of facial trauma.

The remaining four and yet unnamed three-to-four-month-old foals arrived soon after, all with bronchopneumonia and superficial wounds, and one with an orthopedic issue.

The foals were initially received for emergency treatment by Krista Estell DVM '09, clinical associate professor of equine medicine, and transferred into the care of Elizabeth MacDonald M.S. '15, clinical instructor of equine medicine for continued

care. The entire equine team worked together to ensure that these fragile patients received the best care possible.

It became apparent early on that staff would need to spend time each day handling the foals to make treatment less stressful and create a positive interaction with humans. Staff worked on general handling, picking up their feet, and leading.

"The care and compassion that the weanlings received from EMC staff during their treatment and the dedication of their owners gave them the best opportunity for making a full recovery," MacDonald said.

Once stabilized, the foals continued their recovery at Always There Horse Care in Haymarket, Virginia, under the care of licensed veterinary technician Malena Brisbois. "Each goodbye was bittersweet, but knowing we contributed to their remarkable turnaround made every effort worthwhile,"

Brisbois said.

After a couple of months with her pneumonia resolved and her health and body condition improved, Janice returned to the Equine Medical Center for surgical repair of her umbilical hernia.

Sophie Boorman, clinical assistant professor

of equine surgery, repaired the hernia. Due to Janice's history of pneumonia, she was carefully evaluated prior to surgery to ensure that she was healthy enough to safely go through the surgical procedure.

The partnership between the Equine Medical Center, Colby's

Crew Rescue, and Always There Horse Care highlights the outcomes possible when skilled medical expertise is combined with compassionate, dedicated care.

*Andrew Mann for Virginia Tech*



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN MARCHITELLO

**Megan Marchitello, clinical instructor of equine medicine, works with two of the weanling foals during treatment.**



# Virginia gas prices rose last week over the previous week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 4.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.00/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 11.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 5.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 0.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.00 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.24/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$2.05/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.24/g while the highest was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$2.05/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 2.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.07/g

today. The national average is down 13.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 1.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

- December 26, 2022: \$2.94/g (U.S. Average: \$3.06/g)
- December 26, 2021: \$3.16/g (U.S. Average: \$3.25/g)
- December 26, 2020: \$2.10/g (U.S. Average: \$2.25/g)
- December 26, 2019: \$2.36/g (U.S. Average: \$2.54/g)
- December 26, 2018: \$2.14/g (U.S. Average: \$2.30/g)
- December 26, 2017: \$2.26/g (U.S. Average: \$2.44/g)

- December 26, 2016: \$2.15/g (U.S. Average: \$2.28/g)
- December 26, 2015: \$1.82/g (U.S. Average: \$2.00/g)
- December 26, 2014: \$2.23/g (U.S. Average: \$2.30/g)
- December 26, 2013: \$3.20/g (U.S. Average: \$3.26/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

- Roanoke- \$2.95/g, up 6.0 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.89/g.
- Richmond- \$2.97/g, up 4.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.92/g.
- West Virginia- \$2.95/g, down 3.0 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.98/g.

"After 13 straight weeks of decline, average gasoline prices have edged higher due to optimistic comments from the Fed on cutting interest rates

in 2024, coupled with Houthi attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, boosting concerns of a disruption to global shipping, including oil shipments," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "For now, the price of gasoline has already jumped, but could ease slightly this week ahead of the New Year. For now, I'm optimistic that we may still have a chance of seeing the first \$2.99 national average since 2021 sometime before spring arrives. We'll have the full details on what we expect for gasoline and diesel prices in 2024 later this week. Hopefully motorists will be able to celebrate a New Year with good news at the pump!"

*GasBuddy*

## Bicycle

from page 1

for its students, employees, and visitors.

"It is inspiring to see so many universities committing to the vision of a Bicycle Friendly America," said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists. "These institutions, including Virginia Tech, are leading by example and helping to set the standard for better bicycling. Each Bicycle Friendly University acts as a trailblazer to develop and promote safer, more accessible transportation infrastructure, and supportive programming for new bicyclists in their communities."

Virginia Tech's gold level achievement is more than just an honor. It's a

testament to the university's effort to create a holistic campus environment. By investing in the comfort and safety of bicyclists, the university is driving positive change in multiple spheres:

**Reduced carbon footprint:** Embracing bicycling as a primary mode of transport significantly reduces the university's carbon footprint. More people choosing bikes over cars means a greener, more sustainable campus.

**Reduced health care costs:** Encouraging physical activity through bicycling leads to healthier lifestyles among students and staff. By promoting regular exercise, the university is indirectly lowering health

care costs associated with sedentary lifestyles.

**Connected to community:** Bicycling fosters a sense of community. It connects students, faculty, and staff, creating a network that extends beyond the classroom. This interconnectedness strengthens the bonds within the Virginia Tech family.

**A fun and healthy campus culture:** Bicycling promotes a vibrant campus culture. It encourages outdoor activities, promotes wellness, and fosters a sense of camaraderie among cyclists. The result is a campus alive with the joy of movement and the thrill of exploration.

Nick Quint, Sustainable Transportation's network manager, expressed his excitement about the recognition, stating, "We are incredibly proud to be recognized as a gold level Bicycle Friendly University. This achievement underscores our dedication to sustainable transportation and creating a vibrant, bike-friendly campus. We will continue to enhance our biking infrastructure and support initiatives that encourage more people to embrace bicycling as a sustainable and enjoyable means of transportation."

*Stephanie Overton for Virginia Tech*



### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. 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 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](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. 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 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](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A street vacation request by HS Development II, LLC for the vacation of a 0.151 acre portion of the existing public street and right-of-way at the southern terminus of Sunset Drive NE. Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board hereby schedules a public hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:15 p.m., in the Board Chambers, Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia for the purpose of receiving citizens' comments on the following:

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 County Budget  
The purpose of this public hearing is to gather citizen comments on the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year budget.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Angela M. Hill  
County Administrator

**ADVERTISE!**

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on JANUARY 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by Roy Bolen Estate, Sharon Dalton Bolen for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Manufactured Home on a vacant lot located within the R-3 Residential Zoning District. The property is located at the intersection of Fire Tower Road (State Route 600) and Radford Road (State Route 11). The property is further identified as Tax Map 090-10 1 (Parcel ID: 170194), .483 acres, zoned Residential (R-3) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan and is further designated as Medium Density Residential in the Plum Creek Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on January 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following request: A request by Shah Development, LLC (Agent: Foresight Design Services) to rezone 5.57 acres from Conservation (C-1) to Planned Unit Development - Residential (PUD-RES) and 21.148 acres from Manufacturing (M-1) to Planned Unit Development - Residential (PUD- RES), to allow for the development of a total of up to eighty-eight (88) single-family residential and two-family residential (duplex) dwellings, and twenty (20) single-family attached residential (townhomes) dwellings. The property is located on Houchins Road (State Rt. 758), approximately 0.15 miles east of the intersection of Houchins Road and Brammer Lane. The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-A 46 (Parcel ID: 018437), 13.586 acres, and Tax Map 080-A 44 (Parcel ID: 018441), 13.132 acres, in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property lies in an area designated as Urban Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County 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>.

**ADVERTISE!**

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on January 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following request: A request by Shah Development, LLC (Agent: Foresight Design Services) to amend the proffered conditions approved as part of the rezoning of the property located at 3966 Prices Fork Road, originally approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 11, 2019. The proposed amendments would allow any of the following by-right uses, as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, to be permitted on the property: automotive, light truck, sales, service, rental, and repair, without motor fuel sales; bed and breakfast inn; cabinet shop, furniture, upholstery, craft industry of less than one thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet; church; civic club; community center; conference or training center; day care facility; farm machinery sales and service; financial services; fire, police, rescue facility; garden center; general, convenience store less than three thousand (3,000) square feet, without motor fuel sales; library; medical care facility; office, administrative, business or professional less than three thousand (3,000) square feet; park, unlighted; pet, household; post office; printing service; public use, public facility; public utility lines, other; public utility lines, water and/or sewer; restaurant; retail sales and services less than three thousand (3,000) square feet; roadside stand; school; school of special instruction; or telecommunication tower, attached. The proposed amendment to the

### Legals - Montgomery County

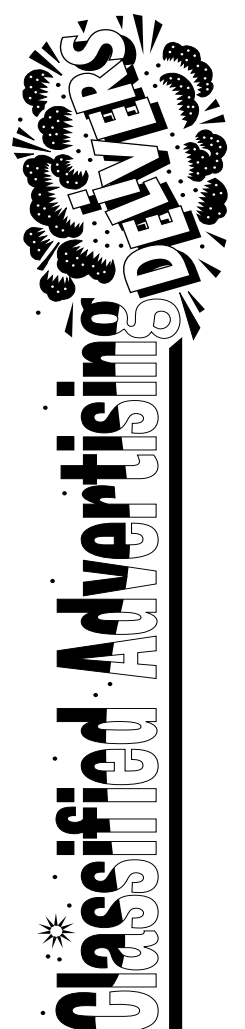
#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

proffered conditions also includes proposed conditions related to site improvements, landscaping, and lighting. The property is located at 3966 Prices Fork Road (State Route 685), at the intersection of Prices Fork Road and Kyle's Way. The property is further identified as Tax Map Numbers 052-A-32A (Parcel ID: 017475), totaling 1.5 acres, currently zoned Community Business (CB) in the Price's Fork Magisterial District.

The property lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further identified as Low-Density Residential in the Price's Fork Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.



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## OBITUARIES

**Branscom, Martha Phillips**

Martha Phillips Branscom, 82, (Teresa); grandchildren, Brandi Milewski (T.J.), Craig and Clay Branscom, and Jehu, Callie and Hattie Maxwell; great grandson, Campbell Milewski; brother, Lloyd Phillips (Rosemary); and many other relatives and friends.



Survivors include her husband, Hubert Casper Branscom, Jr.; daughters, Karen Campbell (Randy), and Renee Coleman (Josh); sons, Scott Branscom (Rhonda), and Steve Branscom (Teresa); grandchildren, Brandi Milewski (T.J.), Craig and Clay Branscom, and Jehu, Callie and Hattie Maxwell; great grandson, Campbell Milewski; brother, Lloyd Phillips (Rosemary); and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 1 - 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024.

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

**Furrow, Elsie Marie**

Elsie Marie Furrow, 84, of Blacksburg, died Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023.



She was born in Blacksburg on June 3, 1939, to the late Brinston and Sally Cooper Davis. She was also preceded in death by her husband Charles Cleveland Furrow; sisters Alberta Songer, Virginia Caldwell and Peggy Mitchell; and one infant brother.

She is survived by her three daughters and sons in law Lori and Chris Heslep, Debra and Steve Womack, and Sharon and Francis Young; grandchildren Amanda Young, Diana Roark, Amy Lytton, Sara Ladd, Ethan Heslep, Brett Heslep, Ryan Furrow, and Zach Furrow; many great-grandchildren; sisters Marlene Cox, Martha Smith, Lorene Cooper, Gloria Smith, and Erma Whitlock; numerous nieces and nephews; special friend and family, Reba and Oakley.

Elsie adored her family and enjoyed playing bingo, board games, and rummy with them.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to all the staff, nurses, and doctors at Skyline Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Good Samaritan Hospice.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed in the Westview Cemetery.

**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: fbradford.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 Sonafrank, 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.

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

**READY OR NOT**

Read Revelation 22:1-21

At the turn of the century, the world was in a panic. On the eve of a new millennium, no one was sure what midnight would bring. Experts claimed a programming glitch could cause computers to struggle with the date change. The acronym Y2K became a household phrase connected to the possible collapse of computer-dependent industrialized nations.

Some scoffed, but others prepared. They stockpiled canned goods and bottled water. They outlined a strategy for living without electricity. They took the doomsday warnings seriously and wanted to be ready.

John's Revelation contains a similar foretelling of a future event that will change life on earth.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done" (Revelation 22:12).

Whether or not you prepared for Y2K, the forewarned tragedy did not amount to anything. As believers, however, we all must be ready for Christ's return. The events prophesied in Scripture will come to pass. So, as 2012 comes to a close, ask yourself this question: Am I ready?

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, help me be ready for Your soon return.

Quicklook: Revelation 22:7-17

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

Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

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

**LUTHERAN**

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

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

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday

at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where we 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." You'll love our minister, The Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison, who engages us in God's word. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Caring Initiative which includes Micah's Backpack, Soup for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. 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). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmclc.us; 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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org



# AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: Talk fraud this holiday season

The holidays are a time when friends and family of all ages gather together, share updates on their lives and recount cherished memories. One thing to add to that list this year: a conversation on how to stay safe from fraud.

We know that scammers target people of all ages. Last year 40% of all scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission were from people under the age of 40, and victims over the age of 60 lose the most money to scams on average. So we are all vulnerable to these criminals, and we could all use a little help and guidance. Here are two fraud topics to talk about with your family this holiday season.

What is a question, story or phrase that no one other than your close family would know? Scams targeting parents and grandparents are only becoming more believable with the adoption of Artificial

Intelligence, but no matter how realistic a voice may sound it won't know this private memory or password. Passwords are another critical topic. We all have so many passwords that it's hard to keep straight. This leads many to choose simple passwords or use the same one repeatedly. A quick chat about how you choose and protect your passwords could save someone you love a lot of money.

Lastly, be willing to share. Too many victims of fraud suffer in silence because they are ashamed to admit what happened to them. The truth is that scammers are sophisticated criminals and for victims sharing their story is the best way to protect others and get the support they need.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

AARP Virginia

# Pajama Day at the office? My, how things have changed

Evans "Buddy" King  
Columnist

Tis the season (or tis at the time I'm writing this); decorating, shopping, caroling, etc. We all know the drill. The normal Christmas craziness.

It's also the time for crazy things at my law office - mainly "good" crazy, but nonetheless crazy. Since the week before Thanksgiving, we have had a catered Thanksgiving luncheon, a Happy Hour hosted by the firm's management committee, an offsite Christmas luncheon, an Ugly Sweater contest, an Ornament Exchange, a Cubicle and Hallway Decorating Competition, the trimming of the "Kozakewich tree" in memory of a deceased partner, and frequent unofficial "after hours" in various offices.

These have all been great in their own way - convivial, morale building, festive, nice respites from the drudgery of a business where the inventory is how many billable hours you put on the shelf in a year (thankfully I have moved past those days, but it IS the lifeblood of the business of the practice of law).

Yesterday took things to a new level, however, sort of a "work from home" on steroids. Yesterday at S & J was "Pajama Day". Yes, everyone was encouraged (allowed?) to wear pajamas to work. And many did. I fought off the urge.

My normal nighttime attire is a pair of UVA lacrosse shorts and a long sleeve Red Sox tee shirt, so it was easy to explain why I came in my normal work clothes. And in full candor, this was mainly a staff event, although a number of the younger lawyers worked all day in their PJ's. At times when walking through the halls I thought I was in line for the Polar Express.

It was inevitable that my thoughts turned to the way things were when I came to the firm straight out of law school in 1980. The firm founders

- Phillip Steptoe and Louis Johnson ("The Colonel" - Secretary of Defense under President Truman) - were long gone, but many of the lawyers who were still around carried on their tradition of excellence - and formality. Suits were the "unofficial" uniform of the day. Our lawyers would have been more likely to come to the office in clown costumes than not wear a dark suit with a freshly pressed white shirt and tasteful tie. The few female lawyers then were equally conservative and professional in their dress.

About 13 years ago our firm moved into our current digs (in an office park of all things), deserting the old 12 story Union National Bank building in downtown Clarksburg where we had been housed for 97 years. So, the whispering and scowling of the ghosts of the likes of Herb Underwood and Ralph Bohannon and Ernie Swiger that surely occurred yesterday were probably more present in those abandoned hallways than in our new ones. But I assure you many came back from their graves.

Things have certainly changed over my years. Shortly before I began my career, my wife and I took a trip to a Jos A. Bank warehouse in Baltimore and I bought two gray suits (charcoal of course) and a couple of "power ties" of the day - maize and red. Eventually I accumulated over 200 ties and many suits, none of which I have worn much in the last five years. The suits have tended with the passage of time to shrink dramatically in my closet, as I discover on the occasions of funerals or court appearances I am forced to attend. And after a couple of spells of work from home forced by caregiving duties and Covid, ties became unnecessary.

I was a member of the first generation of

S & J lawyers to shed their suit jackets while in the office (and to call their secretaries by their first names). I think it started with Bob Steptoe, grandson of one of our founders, and longtime leader of the firm. I found it not only uncomfortable to sit at a desk or in a conference room with a jacket on, but also expensive, it being much less a financial burden to replace a dress shirt than a suit when the elbows wore out. But I also remember the concern I had when walking down the hall in my nice, crisp white shirt sans jacket early in my days at the firm and senior partner Bob Steele saying, "oh, I didn't realize we changed the dress code".

A couple of apocryphal stories from those days.

Over time I had started to occasionally wear a sports coat (a blue blazer of course) and dress slacks, even khakis, to the office. My great 101-year-old friend Pete had a wonderful traditional men's store in downtown Clarksburg in those days. His store rivaled the great ones of Charlottesville and Williamsburg where I had window shopped while in school. I walked into Pete's place one day at lunch wearing a nice pair of khakis with my blue blazer and rep tie. Looking sharp and professional I thought. Pete looks me up and down and says, "Buddy, when did they start letting you wear jeans at the firm?" And he was serious - it was Southwick suit all the way in his world.

My other great "professional dress" story probably comes from the 1990's. Bob Steptoe, a classy dresser if there ever was one, was our managing partner. He was approached by one of the younger lawyers who asked, "Can we have a casual day once a week, Bob?" Without blinking an eye, Bob's response was, "We already do, we call it Saturday". Nuf ced.

Oh, how far we've come.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARRIS FAMILY

Radford VFW Post 776 Commander Gary Harris, right, is presented with a quilt from Quilt of Valor representatives Glory Smith and Melissa Chase.

## VFW Commander honored for service with Quilt of Valor

RADFORD - VFW Post 776 Commander Gary Harris was recently presented with a quilt from the Quilt of Valor Foundation at the VFW's holiday dinner, held Dec. 16 at the Fraternal Order of Police headquarters in Radford.

The Quilt of Valor Foundation presents quilts to service members and veterans. As of July 31, 2023, Quilts of Valor has presented 354,712 handmade quilts.

"A Quilt of Valor is more than just a handmade quilt; it embodies gratitude, respect, and appreciation for those who have served our nation," according to the Foundation. "These meticulously crafted quilts, whether machine or hand quilted, hold within their stitches a profound recognition

of the struggles and triumphs of our service members. The Quilts of Valor Foundation aims to wrap these individuals in a tangible reminder of our nation's deep respect for their service and sacrifice."

Harris said he is honored to be recognized by the Quilt of Valor Foundation.

"It was an honor by just being selected- why me? There are others more deserving than me," he said. "To find out how long this has been going on was even more wonderful and to see the quilt with the eagle on it, made it so much more special because I collect eagles, almost like it was meant to be."

The Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 when founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq.

## Food City receives Gold MyPlate Champion achievement



FILE PHOTO

ABINGDON, VA - Food City was recently recognized with the Gold MyPlate Champion achievement for the grocery retailer's participation in the MyPlate National Strategic Partnership and for their promotion of the MyPlate program.

"We're committed to the communities we serve. Our team works hard to provide our customers and associates with the information necessary to make more informed dietary choices," says Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

Sponsored by the USDA Center for Nutrition, the MyPlate program promotes the health benefits that can be achieved by making small dietary changes over time, such as eating more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat or fat-free dairy milk and yogurt. Food City highlighted MyPlate messaging through media segments, health fairs, and community education events. The dietitian team integrated

key topics to create a virtual store tour presentation and recipe booklet to support customers shopping MyPlate at Food City.

"The USDA MyPlate provides a simple and straightforward guide to build a balanced plate. By sharing this message in the grocery store we can empower people to explore how food impacts their mood, energy, and health status. The dietitian team at Food City can offer support for diet education, but the biggest impact is giving guidance for what foods to choose and how to incorporate them for better health," says Kirby M. Stanton, Food City registered dietitian. "We are honored to be part of the MyPlate partnership and provide nutrition guidance to the communities we serve."

For more information about using MyPlate at Food City, visit the "Diet and Lifestyle" page at www.foodcity.com.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## A look back at emotional photos from the 2024 NRV sports world

*Our photographers caught some great photos this year, including several with the raw emotion of the sports world. Here are a few of those.*



The joy is seen in Auburn High School volleyball players after they won another state championship, their seventh straight, in November.

PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS



Tanner Evans suffered a season-ending injury in the seventh game of the year. His emotions are shared on Senior Night with his coach Alex Wilkens.

PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



The Blacksburg volleyball team huddles before they take to the court in a state semifinal match at James Wood High School. The team wore purple ribbons in memory of senior Serenity Hawley who lost her life in November. Many members of the team were close friends with Serenity and competed in the post-season to honor her memory.

PHOTO BY JON FLEMING



The state championship was so sweet this past month for the Radford Bobcats. Here, the defense celebrates with the interception by a lineman (Dawson Martin) for a touchdown that put the icing on the cake at the end of the game.

PHOTO BY BRYANT ALTIZER

### Should they stay or should they go?

**From the Sidelines**  
Marty Gordon



Thanks College Football Committee, for you have set the stage for the dismantling of the ACC as we know it. Florida State is standing on the edge and ready to jump to another conference, and they are using being left out of this year's Final Football Four as a reason to look elsewhere. I have always been told "things are not always greener on the other side of the hill." A prime example is the departure of the University of Maryland. Yes, they gained lots of money to leave the ACC, but it has not spelled better athletics. If FSU leaves, they will have to pay up and the exit fee is probably more than they would want to pay. In 2016 when the ESPN deal was announced, ACC officials said the conference's grant of rights makes it financially untenable for a school to leave, guaranteeing

in the 20 years of the deal that a school's media rights, including revenue, for all home games would remain with the ACC regardless of the school's affiliation. The underlying fact is that the ACC is locked into the current agreement through 2036. But FSU says woah that roll. There is major discrepancies of the television contracts in comparison of the ACC and the Big Ten and SEC. The ACC schools are making \$27 million compared to as much as \$57 million for the SEC. Earlier this month, one solution which was floated is the creation of an unequal revenue distribution with some schools like FSU and Clemson receiving more depending on their success on the field. This seemed to appease the schools in the short term, but FSU used the furor of being left out of the College Football Playoff picture to reignite the controversy all over again. The bigger question in this whole scenario is who might play "follow the leader". It is obvious that Clemson would also be considering a similar move. But this discussion is not new, and others like North Carolina, Virginia and Virginia Tech have talked about it. Virginia Tech does not fit the Big Ten or Big 12 level of athletics, and the SEC does not seem to fancy the Hokies joined a crowded room. Could the ACC exist without one, two or the four others leaving? Yes, it could continue to be a conference, but not a player in the college athletic landscape. FSU and Clemson have been big dogs not only for football but other sports over the past 10 years. Without them,

the ACC would fall back to the high grass. There is no real solution in any of the ACC schools joining another conference. Most of the others including the SEC have maxed out creating a mess for scheduling of all athletics. The Big Ten is an option but will it create better competition for everyone involved? The ACC's only option, which will keep everyone still in-house, is to convince ESPN to restructure the television contract. While it might not be comparable to that from the SEC or the Big Ten, it could keep everyone under the same umbrella. Let's get smart and finally think about the best for college athletics.

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and  
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## MONTGOMERY SPORTS

# Radford boys down Pulaski



**Daniel DeHart-Lewis goes up for a fast break dunk in last week's cross the New River game against Pulaski as Radford picked up the 61-56 win. Lewis finished with 18 points.**



**Radford's Koreyon Ferguson, who had six points in the win, puts up an off balance shot in the lane in a physical game versus Pulaski County.**



**Luke Woodard drives to the basket for a score in the Bobcats' victory. Woodard would tally 18 points in the contest.**

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

# Former assistant back in RU volleyball fold

An extraordinarily successful assistant coach with the Highlanders from 2011-2018, Chris Hertel has been named the 12th head coach of the Radford Volleyball program, Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg announced this past week.

"I'm thrilled to be returning to Radford University," said Coach Hertel. "I want to thank Robert Lineburg, Malinda Tasler and the rest of the Radford staff for their confidence in me, and for bringing me back to the NRV."

"I think the program is in a good place and poised to make some waves in the Big South Conference, and I'm excited to get started," Hertel continued. "I would also like to shout-out my alma mater, Coach Jordan and all the people that make New Mexico State so special to me."

"We are delighted to have Chris Hertel return to Radford University," said Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg. "He was instrumental in the success we had while an assistant coach under Marci (Jenkins) Byers. These were some of the best years in Highlander Volleyball

history. Chris has also been a part of an outstanding program at his alma mater, New Mexico State University. These experiences, as well as his knowledge of Radford University and the Big South Conference, have prepared him very well to lead the Radford University Volleyball program."

"I'm happy to welcome Chris back to Radford," added Associate Athletics Director for Compliance/Senior Woman Administrator Malinda Tasler. "The committee was very impressed with him and we're looking forward to the future of our volleyball program."

Hertel returns to the New River Valley following five seasons as an assistant coach at New Mexico State. He helped guide the Aggies to a 99-38 record across those five seasons, winning three consecutive WAC championships from 2019-2021 before reaching the Conference USA title game in 2023.

Under Hertel's tutelage, the Aggies received 21 all-conference honors with 16 coming in the WAC and five being handed out by Conference USA. Megan Hart was named WAC Player of the

Year, AVCA All-Region and an AVCA Honorable Mention All-American in her first year playing for Hertel in 2019, and Victoria Barrett was named WAC Freshman of the Year in 2020-21.

Most recently, Hertel helped Darian Markham earn Conference USA Libero of the Year honors for the 2023 season.

Before leaving for New Mexico State, Hertel served as the Highlander's assistant coach from 2011-2018. His teams posted a 167-82 record during that time and went 83-35 during Big South conference play. The Highlanders reached six Big South Tournament championship matches, coming away with a pair of titles and NCAA tournament appearances.

In 2018 alone, Hertel's assistance helped Radford reach the National Invitational Volleyball Championship (NIVC) for the first time in program history, where the squad came away with an opening-round victory.

Hertel coached more than 30 Highlanders to all-conference status in the Big South while at Radford. He helped Maddie Palmer reach new heights as the two-time Big South Player of the

Year, just the third player to win the conference's top award during back-to-back seasons. Palmer was also named an American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Southeast Region Honorable Mention.

Not only have Hertel's teams shown success on the court, but his squads were named AVCA Team Academic Award winners from 2012-2017. In 2016, his team's grade-point average ranked in the top-25 nationally across all division one volleyball programs.

A 2011 graduate of New Mexico State, he also played an essential role in the Aggies success from 2006-08 when the team made three-straight NCAA Tournament appearances.

Hertel was a part of the New Mexico State coaching staff in 2007, when the program reached 13th nationally, the highest ranking ever for New Mexico State in the AVCA poll. He also assisted in the team's NCAA run in 2008, when the Aggies reached the second round of the postseason tournament.

Radford University Athletics

# Swain mixes academic, athletic cocktail at RU

As a standout soccer player in high school, Amy Swain knew when she started looking at colleges that one of her key priorities was a school with a solid and successful women's team.

Swain is from Ashburn, Virginia, about four hours to the northeast, but

Radford University hadn't really crossed her radar until a coach she knew recommended she give it a look. In the winter of her senior year, she visited the campus, and a match was made.

I fell in love with the coaching staff, the support system and the team, and

I just knew," Swain said of her tour. "I was like, this is the place where I can succeed both academically and athletically."

On the academic front, she chose to study marketing and, in doing so, was following a family tradition. Her father, Bob Swain, is a client executive with Cisco Systems, and her elder siblings, Maggie and Charlie, at that time were also marketing majors.

"My goal is to go into sales, and I recently found, after doing an internship with Iron Bow [Technologies], that I really like technology sales," she explained. "I like the idea of technology because both my dad and my sister do it, and I like hearing what they do, but then I get to find my own specific areas that I can focus on."

"You can go into working with the D.O.D. (Department of Defense) or working in education or other fields like that."

In addition to her internship with Iron Bow Technologies, Swain served as a marketing and game day intern with Radford Athletics. She also minored in communication and coaching education and, since high school, has taught youth soccer

in Loudon County to children ranging in age from 3 to 12.

Swain's athletic career has been prosperous as well. Although her freshman year coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, she excelled on the field despite having to work within rigorous safety restrictions. She ultimately shifted from playing defender to forward, earning a starting position in 38 of the 40 matches that spanned her junior and senior years.

In 2022 and 2023, she also collected a pair of Big South Championship rings, and in November, Swain and her teammates reached the NCAA Tournament, where they fought hard against the top-seeded Clemson Tigers, shutting out their opponents in the first half. In the end, Clemson prevailed with two points, but Swain said the outcome showed the Highlanders rising to a considerable challenge.

"I'm not gonna lie. Losing 2-0 to a No. 1 seed and coming from a smaller school, a smaller conference, that's a win for us," she professed. "It was really cool."

She's not turning in her cleats just yet, either.

Although she's about to collect her marketing degree, Swain has already begun Radford's accelerated MBA program, which means that as a continuing student, and due to the pandemic, she remains eligible to play

soccer for a fifth year.

"I love challenging myself," she said of pressing forward with her advanced degree in accounting.

"There have been times when I was doubting that I wanted to continue with soccer, just because it's so mentally draining. But it also taught me about overcoming obstacles.

"I've also had great coaches and a great support system of my family and friends that have pushed me to be the player and person I am today. I'm just really grateful to have all those people who built me into who I am now."

Radford University Athletics

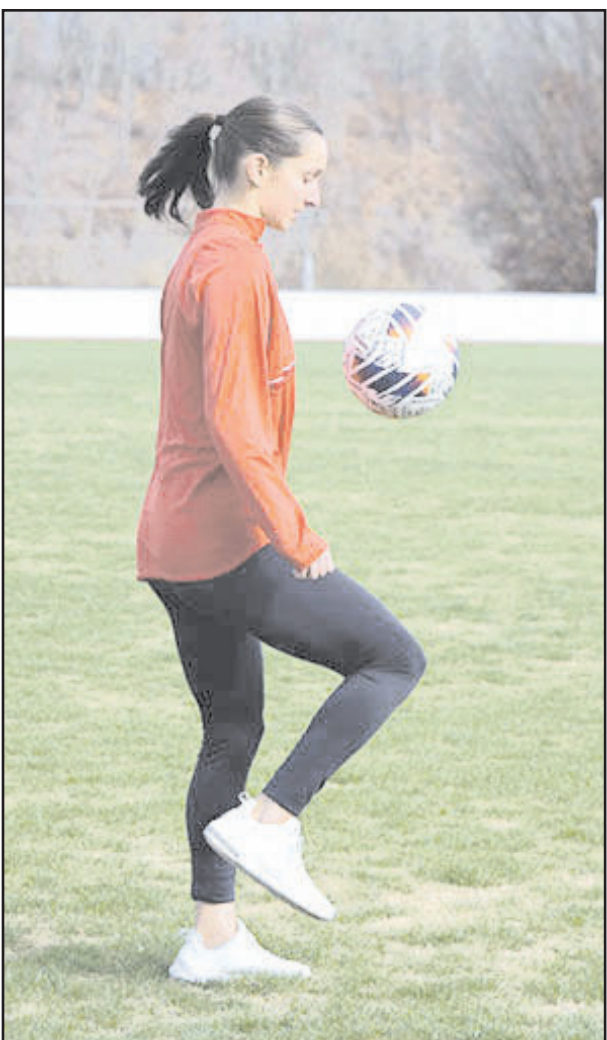


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU

**Amy Swain has found her time at Radford University the perfect mix in the classroom and on the soccer field.**

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