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Saturday, December 2, 2023

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(Left) Director of the Montgomery Museum of Art and History Casey Jenkins and (right) CEO of LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, Lauren Dudley receive the 2023 Virginia Innovation Award.

Montgomery Museum of Art and History receives 2023 Virginia Innovation Award for "The Art of Happiness"

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History's "Art of Happiness" program not only brings awareness of mental health and emotional wellbeing to the region, but also provides a place where individuals can connect with art on a deeper level.

The program, in cooperation with LewisGale Regional Health System, received the 2023 Virginia Innovation Award from the Virginia Association of Museums.

"This is one we're really happy, really proud about this," said Montgomery Museum of Art and History Director Casey Jenkins. "It takes museum spaces, resources, and exhibits and pairs that with mental health; raising

See Award, page 4

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approve special use permit for childcare center near Prices Fork Road

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

A special use permit for the Mayapplings Child Care Center, LLC was approved by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors during their regular meeting on Nov. 27, 2023.

Brea Hopkins, Planning and GIS Director, presented before the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for a special use permit request that would allow for a childcare center to be located off Prices Fork Road, outside of Blacksburg, on Old Fort Road. The property is currently zoned Agricultural A1 with some surrounding residential zoning.

Mayapplings was originally founded in 2015 in Newport, Va. The childcare center was forced to relocate to Blacksburg because of the Mountain Valley Pipeline in 2018 and is currently renting a space on Mount Tabor Road. The center would provide care for children 3-6 years of age. Their curriculum involves outdoor play and learning and will benefit from being outside of the town of Blacksburg, Hopkins said.

The Westhill Development undergoing construction would provide a future connection to

the property; however, currently, a maximum of 21 students that would attend would do so by a staggered pick-up and drop-off by parents.

Supervisor Darrell Sheppard expressed concern about the connection to the new development.

"I'm already worried about that road because of accidents and, you know, natural disaster, trees falls across the road and somebody has a heart attack, you can't get to them," Sheppard said. "What happens if we have kids over there and something happens, and we can't get to them. I'm just not, don't think I'm going to be for it, but I've had several people call me, you know, complaining about it."

Hopkins shared that a timeline for the future connection has not been established yet.

Hayley Reynolds, President of the Board of Directors for the Mayapple School along with Melissa West, the Founder and Director of the School was present for additional questions. Reynolds responded to Supervisors' questions concerning the lack of a proposal for outdoor lighting for the facility. Due to the hours

of the center ending at 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and no weekend use of the building, parking lot lighting would not be necessary.

Comment from the public was opened by Supervisor Sherri Blevins, with no citizens coming forward to speak.

The board voted five to one approving the special use permit, with Sheppard voting in opposition of the request.

Another public hearing for DW LLC rubble landfill has a proposed location just outside of Christiansburg, accessed through Houchins Road and Brammer Lane, and is zoned Agricultural A1. The landfill will be for inert waste, which is brick, rock, broken concrete, and other materials that do not contain chemicals.

"It's not your standard landfill that you hear about so much about with trash and junk and debris, this is just inert waste," Hopkins said.

Typically, a permit is allowed use-by-right up to 15,000 cubic yards, according to Hopkins, but this request is for an additional 10,000 cubic yards. If the additional cubic yards are approved,

See Permit, page 4



Relay for Life Event Leadership Team (left to right) Steven White, Rhonda Whaling, Barbara Jones, Daniel Haller, Donna Christian, Linda Howell, Anthony Woodyard, Pat Worrell and Beth Lucas pose with last year's tree.

Relay For Life Montgomery County hosts Tree of Hope ceremonies

Come join us for a night of music, joy, celebration and remembrance while supporting the Relay for Life of Montgomery County as we host our annual Tree of Hope Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. at LewisGale Hospital Pulaski.

The Trees of Hope are located inside the hospital lobby during the month of December. The trees are adorned with Christmas ornaments personalized with the names of cancer survivors, caregivers and the names of those who have lost their battle. The ornaments are purchased through our Relay teams and the names are read aloud during the tree lighting ceremony.

"The Trees of Hope are a way for Relay For Life of Montgomery County to partner with Lewis Gale and show the impact cancer has on our communities. We hope through the acts of honoring and remembering loved ones impacted

See Ceremonies, page 6



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RELAY FOR LIFE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Trees of Hope are adorned with Christmas ornaments personalized with the names of cancer survivors, caregivers and the names of those who have lost their battle. The ornaments are purchased through Relay teams and the names are read aloud during the tree lighting ceremony.

Christiansburg Lions Club Annual Holiday Christmas Craft Show set for today

The Christiansburg Lions Club is excited for the Annual Christiansburg Lions Club Holiday Christmas Craft Show set for today, Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center.

This is the club's 33rd show and we are excited about the event and what it brings to our club and the community at large.

This year's Annual Show will one of our best and greatest, as we welcome back some 145 vendors who over the years have been the mainstay of our annual craft show, and have brought their crafts and homemade goodies from far and wide to share with the folks of the Christiansburg area and the related New River Valley. Over the years, the crafters have made Christmas Shopping in our area a real joy and a happy time of seeing the various crafts, being able to do a little "early" shopping and seeing the variety of talents and skills that go into craft making.

We feel our Annual Christiansburg Lions Club Holiday Craft Show is

one of the ways we give back to the community in that we provide an opportunity for folks to shop, enjoy the day, enjoy the crowd of local folks, and also take

advantage of our Lions Club Snack Bar without having to prepare a luncheon meal at home. We invite all our friends and neighbors to come out and join us in this festive time of shopping and community gathering.

Our Annual Christiansburg Lions Club Holiday Craft Show will be on Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Christiansburg Recreation Center, and will be a day filled with arts and crafts, and a multitude of shoppers, anxious to find that special gift for loved ones at Christmas Time! So, plan to be with us, to spend the day or part of it with us as we get an early start on the holidays and come out and enjoy the many and exciting crafts of the season, and the "glitter" of craft made jewelry, the extraordinary wood crafts, the homemade baked goods, the pictures and paintings

by local artists, and other items, too numerous to mention.

This is our major fundraising event of the year for the Christiansburg Lions Club, and all of the proceeds from the day goes to our special projects, with our main focus on providing glasses and vision screening and vision help to those less fortunate and to our local school children with our annual school vision screening and local charities, organizations, and to support our International Lions Club projects, such as a Leader Dog for the Blind, diabetes awareness and prevention, children's programs around the world, financial support for earthquake, hurricane, and other world crisis, and locally, to support MCEAP (Montgomery County Emerge Assistance Program), the Christmas Store, scouts, Boys and Girls State for high school students, scholarships for local high school students, local rescue and fire departments, and other

See Craft Show, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHRISTIANBURG LIONS CLUB

The Annual Christiansburg Lions Club Holiday Christmas Craft Show is set for today, Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center and includes more than 145 vendors.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 2:

Breakfast with Santa

The Christiansburg High School Music Department will host its annual community event Breakfast with Santa 2023, 8 a.m. - 12 noon in the CHS cafeteria. Admission includes a pancake breakfast, fun games, and holiday crafts. Bring your camera or phone for a photo op with Santa. Cost is \$6 for children 12 and under and \$8 for children 13-99. Kick-off the holiday season with Santa, his elves and reindeer, live music and the music students of CHS.

SWVa Legal Aid Society meeting

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

Holiday Craft Show

Annual Christiansburg Lions Club Holiday Christmas Craft Show at the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 3:

Artists host Holiday Open House benefitting charities

Annual open house event at 408 Eighth Street, Radford, (corner of Berkley and Eighth) with parking on Berkley, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The show will feature artwork by Blacksburg painter Charlotte Chan, Christiansburg

colored pencil artist Jennifer Carpenter, and Radford photographer Susan V. Lockwood. Originals, prints (framed and unframed), and cards will be available. Area residents are invited to stop by and enjoy fine art and refreshments. Also, 10% of all sales will be donated to a local charity of each artists' choice.

Sunday, Dec. 3:

NAACP Veterans Affairs Committee

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

Holiday Bazaar

"Second Chance at the Bazaar" at First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Rd., Radford; 1-3 p.m. Lots of holiday items to choose from. Stop by and get a hot dog for lunch. This is sponsored by the Women with a Vision Bible Study.

Tuesday, Dec. 5:

Radford Holiday tree-lighting ceremony

Join Radford Public Library in the 21st Radford Tree Lighting Ceremony. Doors open at 5 p.m. Hodge Podge Cookies is bringing their sugar and chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate to hand out. Thanks to our Lamplighters for funding these delicious treats which are free to attendees. Santa will be on hand for

photo opportunities and will offer a festive reading. The Grove United Methodist Church Handbell Choirs will perform at 6 p.m. Following the performance there will be interactive playing. Bells will be (temporarily) provided for your musical participation. Tree lighting at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Dec. 8:

Christmas on Main in Downtown Christiansburg

Join The Town of Christiansburg starting at 5 p.m. for Christmas at the Market featuring local crafters and other vendors, followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Parade. The Tree Lighting Ceremony with the mayor will take place at Town Square at roughly 6:50 p.m., with the Christmas Parade starting at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9:

NAACP year-end meeting

The NAACP will hold its year-end meeting 9 -11:30 a.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St. See Events, page 6



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

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1800, 15.2-1813, and 15.2-2100, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed marketing and sale by the City of property commonly known as Prospect Hill in the City of Radford, Virginia, Tax Parcel Numbers 19-(1)-9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 9-(7)-Sec20-1 thru 4, 19-(7)-Sec21-1 thru 13, 19-(7)-Sec22-1 thru 8, 19-(7)-Sec22 13 & 14 containing 20.89 acres, more or less.

Copies of the proposed ordinance to approve the disposition of real property may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603 or Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED VACATION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2006 et seq., the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed vacation by the City of the unimproved portions of Oakland Avenue, Prospect Avenue, and Elmwood Street that extend into the real property commonly known as Prospect Hill in the City of Radford, Virginia, Tax Parcel Numbers 19-(1)-9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 9-(7)-Sec20-1 thru 4, 19-(7)-Sec21-1 thru 13, 19-(7)-Sec22-1 thru 8, 19-(7)-Sec22 13 & 14 containing 20.89 acres, more or less.

Copies of the proposed ordinance and preliminary sketch of the unimproved portions of Oakland Avenue, Prospect Avenue, and Elmwood Street proposed for vacation may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603 or Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1813 7TH STREET, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 12, 2013, in the original principal amount of \$94,106.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Radford City, Virginia as Instrument No. 201301075. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 8, 2024, at 2:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN RADFORD CITY, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AS DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 168, PAGE 435, ID# 1643, ID# 14 -(8)-SEC 14-2-3, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS: LOT 2 AND SOUTH 1/2 OF LOT 3, SECTION 14, PLAN H, RADFORD LAND AND IMPROVEMENT CO SHOWN ON PLAT 168, PAGE 437. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller

Legals - Montgomery County

confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-360519-1.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In Re: The Adoption of a Minor Child Under Eighteen Years of Age, to be known as SERITA DANIELLE TICKLE By: MILDRED ANNE TICKLE, FRED LEE TICKLE, JR. Petitioners ORDER Case No. CA23000019-00 ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this cause is to obtain an adoption of the minor child, Serita Danielle McLemore, by your petitioners, Mildred Anne Tickle and Fred Lee Tickle, Jr., husband and wife. An affidavit having been made and filed, pursuant to Virginia Code §8.01-316(1950), as amended, showing that the biological father, Kenneth McLemore (aka Kenneth Sturdivant), despite the exercise of due diligence on behalf of Petitioners, could not be personally served with legal process for this action and his last known address is unknown, though he is known to be residing in and around the Montgomery County, Virginia area. It is therefore ORDERED that Respondent Kenneth McLemore, appear at this Court on or before January 12, 2024 at 1:00 pm before the Montgomery County Circuit Court and do what is necessary to protect his interest thereby. And, it is further ORDERED that this Order shall be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, serving the area of Montgomery County, Virginia, the locality of father's last known whereabouts, and contemporaneously posted in a conspicuous location at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Enter this 1st day of November, 2023. Robert M. D. Turk, Judge

I ASK FOR THIS: R. Cord Hall, Esq, VSB 77637 R. CORD HALL, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, P.C. 106 S. Franklin Street, Suite B-2 Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540)381-0707 (540)381-0505-Facsimile Counsel for Petitioners

Legals - Montgomery County

Notice of Public Hearing

Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission

Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item: CUP-23-4-Conditional Use Permit Request for multi-family use on the ground floor in the GC-General Commercial zoning district on 3.94 acres of an 8.44 acre parcel at 203 Country Club Drive SW (Tax Map No. 287-A 41A) by Balzer and Associates for Diversified Investors XIII, LLC (owner) The project site is part of what is known as the Rugby Field next to Country Club Drive. The proposed use of the property is for an age restricted (60+) apartment building. There will be a mix of 1 and 2 bedroom units for a total of 123 units with 187 bedrooms. This equates to a density of 47.46 bedrooms per acre/31.21 units per acre. In February 2022, a conditional use permit was approved for a townhome development (CUP 21-0006) on this parcel. This application includes a request that the previously approved CUP (Resolution 2-C-22) for this site be voided if this CUP request is approved. The Future Land Use (FLU) is Commercial and Mixed Use E. Residential uses are allowed in this designation subject to the standards in the GC zoning district. Persons affected by or interested in the conditional use permit request may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission will take action. Copies of the request and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

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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 December 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following request: To amend the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan by adding information concerning Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems to the Utilities chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendments include adding background information to the Current and Historical Conditions and Trends section of the Utilities chapter, and by establishing a new section 2.4 of the Utilities chapter to outline proposed goals for Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems within the County. The proposed goals to be added include: establishing a maximum of 4,500 acres of allowed acreage for the development of large-scale solar energy projects within the County, promoting shared agricultural uses within large-scale solar energy projects, considerations related to project scale and project siting, and consideration of natural resources in the approval of large-scale solar energy systems.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY 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 December 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 ENTITLED ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM USES IN THE COUNTY BY AMENDING SECTION 10-61 DEFINITIONS BY DELETING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MAJOR AND SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MINOR AS DEFINED USES AND CREATING NEW DEFINED USES SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FIVE OR LESS MEGA WATTS, SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM UTILITY SCALE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE MORE THAN FIVE MEGA WATTS AND A NEW DEFINED USE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM WHICH TEMPORARILY STORES ENERGY BEFORE GOING TO THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK; AND BY ADDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21(4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-23 (4) R-R RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 10-28 (4) GB GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (4) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (4) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT;

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PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21 (4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, AND 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT; AND BY ADDING SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, COMMUNITY AND UTILITY SCALE IN SECTION 10-48 (10) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USES; AND BY DELETING THE NO LONGER DEFINED USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, MINOR AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY RIGHT IN SECTIONS 10-21(3) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (3) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (3) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (3) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (3) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (3) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT;

AND BY DELETING THE NO LONGER DEFINED USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, MAJOR AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21 (4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (4) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (4) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. Copies of the proposed ordinance 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.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

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Craft Show from page 1

local needs and concerns. As we respond to the needs of our local community and the larger world around us, we as Lions, men and women of Lions International, seek to make a difference in the needs and cares of people around the world, close to home, and in our own

immediate area, Christiansburg, The New River Valley and the larger State of Virginia. Our motto as Lions is "We Serve!" And with the more than other 1.4 million Lions around the world, in over 200 countries, we accept the responsibility to be in service and concern for the

needs of others. We always want to thank our vendors who make the craft show possible, the shoppers and supporters who come out to the show and take home some wonderful crafts, and certainly not to miss, those businesses and groups within

the Christiansburg community who sponsor our craft show with their financial support and publicity. All in all, our Annual Christiansburg Lions Club Holiday Craft Show could not be a success without the work and help and support of so

many people, so we offer to all, our expression of appreciation and thanks for making our Annual Holiday Craft Show such a success.
Doug Kanney, Christiansburg Lions Club Member

Permit from page 1

it is proposed to extend operations at the landfill an additional six months, weather permitting. Debris will come from the Christiansburg Industrial Park and will not be opened to the public for dumping. Supervisor and Chair Sherri Blevins asked for additional information from Hopkins on the buffer surrounding

the location as well as the daily traffic to and from the landfill site. "There it would be required a 75-foot buffer around," Blevins said. "And the closest house or property would be at least 200?" "Yes, it's at least 200 feet from the property line. The closest house is

a quarter mile, if not more, away," Hopkins said. Hopkins was asked for the daily traffic rate and did not have that information at the time of the presentation; however, the traffic rate for the landfill will not increase, but could extend an additional six months

as stated in the public hearing. There were no citizens that came forward to speak during the open comment session of the public hearing. Board members voted unanimously in support of the special use permit, approving the request.

Award from page 1

News Messenger

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

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awareness to emotional health and mental health, and doing so in a way that provides a nontraditional setting for folks to participate in self-help coping strategies for things like anxiety or depression."

The program series will be held on the first and second Thursday of each month, December through February from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Space is limited so early registration is encouraged.

Shelby Wynn, a registered art therapist and licensed professional counselor will lead the sessions. Session topics include Found Poetry, Mindfulness Clay Sculpting, and Visual Music and Painting.

"I am very excited to be partnering with the Montgomery Museum for the next few months," Wynn said. "Art is such an integral part of mental health – be it fine art, movement, or music – and it is inspiring to have an organization such as the museum find it important to bridge the gap in mental health awareness. I am honored to be a part of something so innovative."

For more information on this program series and to register, visit <https://montgomerymuseum.org/arttherapy>.

Jenkins also presented information on the facility's current economic status, upcoming events and capital projects during the Nov. 27 Montgomery County Board of Supervisors' meeting.

A revised mission statement and a vision for the future of the museum as a premier cultural center is a highlight for the organization.

Several art exhibits, receptions, and major community special events have brought visitors to the region as well as involving residents in the museum's offerings. At the time of the presentation, there have been 4600 visitors this year, compared to 4300 visitors in 2022, Jenkins said.

"That was our first year in the new building," Jenkins said. "That was a huge jump from 2021, when we made the transition from our old site at Peppers Street to the new building, going from 1325 to 4300 [square feet]."

The operating budget has seen continuous growth and Jenkins said the museum is hoping to see \$300,000 in their budget in 2024.

Some events to look forward to in the coming year for the museum were also shared at the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors' meeting.

The ArtsNRV Market will be happening on June 7 and 8 and brings juried artists and artisans from around the region. Heritage Day 2024 is set for the fourth Saturday in August, giving visitors and residents an opportunity to see and experience culture from the region. Cultural Crossroads will happen in Fall 2024 for the third year at the Moss Arts Center in Blacksburg, Virginia, and is a culmination of various heritage music from African American, European, and Native American beginnings that culminated in lending to Appalachian Bluegrass sounds.

Most exciting is the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts visit to the New River Valley.

"The state-of-the-art institution in Richmond will be traveling with its ginormous semi-truck, it'll park in our back parking, so it'll be quite a spectacle," Jenkins said.

Additionally, the Montgomery County Junior Appalachian Musicians program will be returning through the efforts of the Museum. School-age children from around the County will be taught four different instruments. This was a previous program that was halted by the pandemic in 2020.

It has been over a year and a

half since fundraising began for the museum, according to Jenkins. A cash amount of 1.1 million has been raised to date. In Phase 2, raising the money for an elevator and the HVAC system is now a priority.

"It's important to know that our collection, you know, that represents all of Montgomery County history is really the heartbeat of telling our story here for Montgomery County; Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Virginia Tech," Jenkins said. "If we can't properly care for those artifacts, then we can't properly tell the stories and the heritage that Montgomery County has to offer, which as we know is quite a lot."

Jenkins also shared that there are over 7,000 artifacts in their collection that need to be cared for.

Currently, the museum has raised \$225,000, but it is a very costly process to replace the HVAC system.

Montgomery County will celebrate their 250-year anniversary in 2026. With more than half of money raised for the capital projects already, a funding request was made from the County for \$100,000. Additional funds will be also requested from local town Councils in Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

In addition, Jenkins said that the Virginia Association of Museums will conduct their conference in 2025 in Montgomery County, bringing in large crowds to the area.

Supervisors spoke in support of finding a one-time fund opportunity to help in the preservation of the artifacts while looking to the future of the community.

Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski expressed that he would like to see the Towns also contribute to the preservation of history in the museum but would also be in support of a one-time allocation of monies to the museum's capital projects as laid out in the presentation.

CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS
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| 1. German rapper | river | measure | 19. Last decade of the 20th cent. |
| 4. Aries sign | 25. Baked pastry-lined dish | 2. Island in Venice | 20. A major division of geological time |
| 7. Atmosphere | 26. Basics | 3. Establish by law or with authority | 23. Causes to expand |
| 8. Send payment for | 27. Manson murder book | 4. Exuding a strong odor | 24. Ed Murrow's network |
| 10. Digs | 34. Actress May | 5. Walked leisurely | 25. Happening in quick succession |
| 12. Pathetically weak | 35. Dry white Italian wine from Verona | 6. A unit of length equal to 1760 yards | 26. They ___ |
| 13. Give a thrashing to | 36. Easily conversed | 8. Return to a useful condition | 27. Perceiver of sound |
| 15. How a witch laughed | 38. Java pepper vine | 9. CNN's Turner | 28. The last part of anything |
| 16. Being of use or service | 39. Eagle nests | 11. Young herring in Norway | 29. Top left corner key |
| 17. Lassie's breed | 40. Irish mother of gods | 12. Disengagement | 30. Opposite of quiet |
| 18. XXX Olympic site | 41. Belongs to St. Paul's architect | 14. The lion zodiac sign | 31. Knights' outer tunic |
| 21. Tax collector | 42. Soak flax | 15. Mt. Washington | 32. Made level |
| 22. Above average in size | 43. CGS work unit | 17. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.) | 33. Refutes in a legal case |
| 23. It carries genetic information | 44. Tooth caregiver | | 36. Sound of a crow |
| 24. E. central English | 1. Common detergent | | 37. In this place |

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OBITUARIES

Burnette, Betty P.

Betty P. Burnette, 83, of Dublin, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her husband, "Doc" Burnette; parents, Euell H. and Virginia Poff; brother, Robert Poff; and her sisters, Marjorie Faye King and Norma Jean Williams.

Survivors include her sisters, Myra P. Wray and Coleta P. Fralin; sister-in-law, Claire E. Poff; and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and special friends.



The family will host a private ceremony at a later date.

Betty's family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to all of her friends and the staff members of Highland Ridge Rehab Center for the loving care and compassion they showed to Betty.

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

Blevins, Pervis Earl

Pervis Earl Blevins, known to everyone as "Blackie," passed away from his earthly life into his eternal one on Nov. 24, 2023 at the age of 90.

Blackie was born on July 15, 1933, the fourth of 11 children to Wheeler and Edna Sluder Blevins in Shady Valley, Tenn., both of whom preceded him in death.

Blackie was a 1953 graduate of Johnson County High School, Mountain City, Tenn. After graduation, he enlisted into the US Army and served his country, in Korea, during the Korean War. He was discharged in 1955, returning home to attend East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn. After college, Blackie moved to Flint, Mich. to work in the automobile industry, but quickly learned that he missed his family and home.

On June 30, 1957, Blackie married Phyllis Forrester of Mountain City, Tenn. Blackie and Phyllis moved to Roanoke before moving to Salem,



where they bought their first home and started their family. Steve was born in the spring of 1958 and Craig in the fall of 1960. The family of four then moved to Radford before making their final home in Blacksburg. In 1976, his daughter, Beth, was born.

Blackie worked for C&P Telephone Company, Inc., from 1957, where he remained until his retirement in 1988. Blackie loved his years of retirement, where he spent most mornings on the water, fishing and afternoons, on the golf course. Blackie spent many days with good friends, on both the water and the golf course. Fishing and good friends took him all over the United States, where he brought back fish and entertained friends and family with countless fish fries. His greatest joy, both in his career and his retirement was his family and his best

See Obituaries, page 6

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

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.sttof.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

Trinity Community Church, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Blacksburg Church of Christ, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

Faith Christian Church of Christ, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

CHURCH OF GOD

New Hope Church of God, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

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

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

NO LONGER A STRANGER

Read: Ephesians 1:1 through 3:21

Being a stranger in a new setting always causes a little anxiety. There are new faces and places. There are strange smells and sounds. There are new sights. The more foreign the land, the more intense these differences seem. Having a guide, someone who is familiar with the place and who can introduce us to new people, is very helpful.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household (Ephesians 2:19).

At one time, we were all strangers to God's kingdom and to His promises. But in Christ, we find our way. He has "brought us near" when once we were "far off." It is through His blood that He has brought us into the Kingdom. Because of Him we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but we are fellow citizens in God's house.

Like a guide, Jesus is the one who has bought our passage and shown us the way. Because of Him, we can claim the status of being part of God's household.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank God for bringing you into His Kingdom.

Quicklook: Ephesians 2:11-22

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

Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

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

LUTHERAN

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

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

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A

place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, FL. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten-5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmhc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service *Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey,

Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church, 5007 Jewell Dr., Shawsville Va. Sunday morning service 11am. Pastor Tim Clyburn. 8 miles from Shawsville Rt 460, on Alleghany Spring Rd.

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. G. Lance Presley. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00am. 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

Obituaries from page 5

four-legged girl, Riley. He took Riley to countless places and she became a staple in the community, just like Blackie. Blackie's infectious smile and love of people will forever remain as part of his legacy.

In addition to his parents, Blackie is preceded in death by his oldest son, N. Steven Blevins, in 1996, and his best fishing buddy, Riley, in 2017.

Blackie is survived by his wife of 66-and-a-half years, Phyllis, of the home; his son, Craig Blevins of Blacksburg; his daughter, Beth Blevins of Lexington, N.C.; his granddaughter, Kelsey Blevins of Virginia Beach; his grandson, Tyler Blevins and wife,

Ann, along with great-granddaughter, Elena Marie of Philadelphia; and his English Springer Spaniel, Katie, who has taken excellent care of him, just where Riley left off.

A Celebration of Blackie's remarkable life was held Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at Blacksburg Christian Church with Rev. Gary McCoy and Rev. J.B. Beane officiating. The family received friends after the service in the fellowship hall. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests contributions be made to Blacksburg Christian Church, where Blackie and his family have been members since coming to Blacksburg.

Carden, Donna Raye

Donna Raye Carden (nee a sister-in-law, nephews and nieces, Martin) went home to the Kingdom of Heaven on Nov. 24, 2023, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Donna was born in Pembroke, Va. on March 15, 1947, to Nellie and Watson Martin. The family moved to Blacksburg when Donna was nine years old. Donna Carden graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1965. She then went to work for Blacksburg Laundromat for two years before meeting and marrying James W. Carden in 1967. James and Donna moved to Christiansburg in 1970 and Donna then worked for the Imperial Reading Factory on Roanoke Street for 20-plus years. The family moved to the Belview area of Route 114 in 1979.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband, James W. Carden in May 2017 after 49 years of marriage. She was an active member of the Original Pentecostal Holiness Church in Pulaski, Va. for the last 15 years.

She is survived by two children,



and a bonus son, and seven grandchildren. Her sister-in-law, Jean Horton, lives near Chattanooga, Tenn. Her son, Donald W. Carden and his wife, Carolyn Carden, live in Chesterfield, Va. with four grandchildren (Patrick, Liam, Zachary and Cadence Carden). Her oldest grandchild,

Kristi N. DeNovo (nee Carden) and her husband Anton live in Sydney, Australia. Her daughter, Melissa "Missy" Carden and her partner Anthony Albert, live in Christiansburg with two other grandchildren, Renay and Peyton Albert. She is also survived by a bonus son, Timothy "Tim" Leake, who lives in Fairlawn.

Donna's family will accept visitors 4- 6 p.m. at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford (120 West Main St.) on Monday, Dec. 4. The funeral ceremony will be held Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

Trail, Curtis Dean

Curtis Dean Trail, 61, of Pulaski, passed away Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon and Almeda Trail; and sister, Vickie Sands.

Survivors include his brothers and sisters-in-law, Michael Trail and

Kathryn, and Dennis Trail and Janet; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services will be held at a later date.

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

Tips to avoid charity scams during the holidays



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS VIA VIRGINIA TECH

Be careful with on-line scams during the holidays, says Virginia Tech cybercrime expert Katalin Parti.

For many people, the holiday season is a time to give back. It's also the time of year when scammers ramp up their efforts to take advantage of your goodwill to steal your hard-earned money.

Virginia Tech cybercrime expert Katalin Parti explains that charity scammers typically impersonate other successful charities. "They may call you using a local phone number," says Parti. "That tactic can give you a false sense of security."

Once they get you on the line, it's time for the scammer to make their pitch. "It will be a good one. It will tug at your heart-strings," says Parti. "But listen closely

because they will never actually specify how they will help. They may even claim that you've donated before and ask you to do it again."

Parti recommends keeping the following in mind when giving this holiday season:

Do your research. Use the IRS tax-exempt organization search tool or a watchdog like Charity Watch to get more information and learn if the charity is credible. Google also works.

Pay close attention to the charity name and website. False charities like to mimic other popular charities. If it seems too close in name to another, it might not

be real.

Keep track of your donations. Even if you accidentally donate to a scammer, you need to ensure that the donation isn't recurring.

Don't give away all your personal information. Of course, it's normal to provide your card information, but don't do the same with your Social Security number or bank account number.

Don't make a cash donation. Unless you're certain about a charity's credibility, don't give away cash, gift cards, or cryptocurrency.

Margaret Ashburn for

Virginia Tech

Ceremonies from page 1

by cancer with the ceremonies, we can bring greater awareness to the cause and continue fighting for a cure," said Daniel Haller, the Relay for Life Event Leader.

"The Trees of Hope are a symbol of our dedication to honor loved ones while fighting for a cure," said Linda Howell, Relay for Life representative. "The money we raise throughout the year is used to improve the lives of people with cancer. Funds are used for research, patient support, awareness, and advocacy. Research brings new

treatment options which moves us one step closer to a cancer free world."

All are welcome to join this community event. To make a difference in the fight against cancer, please make a donation through the QR code and click on "I just want to support Relay" and / or join us by volunteering. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/montgomeryva or follow our Facebook page Relay For Life of Montgomery County, VA.

Submitted by Linda Howell

Events from page 3

St., Christiansburg. Douglas Asante will speak about Ghana and the slave trade.

Monday, Dec. 11:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, Dec. 12:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgpeh Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the

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

Sunday, Dec. 17:

Luminary display

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

On-going:

Radford "Candyland" Parade registration

Radford's Holiday Parade, themed "Candyland", will take place on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023 at 7 p.m. Line-up begins at 6 p.m. The parade route will line-up on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center. To register, complete the form at www.radford.gov and return it to: Radford Parks and Recreation, Attention: Donna Wolfe, 200 George St., Radford.

Blacksburg stormwater utility credit application deadline

Deadline for Stormwater Utility Credit Applications is Jan. 1, 2024. If you are located within the Town of Blacksburg and have a stormwater management facility on your site, you may qualify for a credit on your

monthly stormwater utility fee. Go to www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to know more. Stormwater management facilities are typically ponds (either dry ponds/dry detention basins or wet retention basins). Other types include underground storage structures (usually located under parking lots in commercial areas), vegetated areas like bio-retentions, and mechanical filters that remove oil and sediment from stormwater runoff. Questions, contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

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.

Eligibility applications for Christmas Store 2023

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

2023 Real Estate Taxes

TOWN OF Blacksburg

Due: December 5, 2023

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

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

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

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS



Clara McMahon makes a catch during Blacksburg High School's 2023 River Ridge District win over Christiansburg.



Blacksburg Lindsey Polan is developing into one of the area's top hitters.

FILE PHOTOS

Bruins to play softball in college

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@mainstreetnews.com

Two more softball players from Blacksburg High School have announced plans to play at the next level.

This comes on the heels of two committing to Carson Newman earlier in the week.

Clara McMahon and Lindsey Polan hope to continue their careers at schools in southwest Virginia with at least one being very close to home.

Polan is a senior and chose UVA-Wise because of the coaching staff.

"They were extremely nice and helpful during my recruitment," she said. "They just got a brand new turf field and new weight room. I also chose the school because of the location it is very rural and what I'm used to as I grew up on a farm.

She plans to play first, third or catch at Wise. Surprisingly, Polan only started playing softball in 2019, but since then things have taken off including

being one of the tops in the country in several categories.

Her maximum distance she has hit has been 272 ft and the average exit velocity is 77 and my max is 82 miles per hour.

McMahon, who is a junior, chose Radford University.

"I have always wanted to play at the D1 level and Radford is 100% the place for me. The campus is gorgeous and the perfect size. It is also 30 minutes from home which is great because I wanted to stay close to home," she said earlier this week.

When talking about the coaching staff, she feels they will push her to be the best player and person I can be.

"On my visit, I got to eat lunch with the team and got to see the relationships that the players have made together, that is another reason why I knew Radford was where I wanted to go. One of Radford Softball's main goals is student before athlete, and that was a huge green flag for me. I just cannot wait to continue my softball and educational career at Radford

University."

McMahon, who is a junior, hopes to pitch at RU as her speed on the mound has already reached 64 miles per hour.

As a sophomore, she had a .647 WHIP mark with 24 strikeouts in 17 innings with only one earned run. At the plate, McMahon had a .327 batting average, .925 on base percentage, two homeruns and 13 RBI's in 18 games as Blacksburg was the 2023 Ridge River District champs.

During that span, she pitched a no hitter with 11 strikeouts while hitting a homerun.

This past summer as a member of the Maroon Crush Fastpitch travel team, McMahon pitched 33.1 innings with 64 strikeouts and a 1.52 ERA, holding opponents to a .216 batting average.

Polan plans to major in elementary education so she can give back to the community.

At the moment, McMahon hopes to gain a Bachelors in Biology and minor in teaching as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Eight Hokies earn All-ACC honors

Virginia Tech football's Bhayshul Tuten and Antwaun Powell-Ryland were named to the 2023 All-ACC Second Team, while Dorian Strong and Tucker Holloway earned Third Team accolades, the ACC announced Monday evening.

Tuten was recognized as an all-purpose player and Powell-Ryland was named on the defensive team.

Strong was named to the defensive team while Holloway was selected as a specialist. Five Hokies also received honorable mentions, a group that includes tight end Dae'Quan Wright, defensive lineman Norell Pollard, linebacker Keli Lawson, kicker John Love and Tuten as a running back.

Tuten (5'11", 205) led Tech in all-purpose yardage, totaling 1,436 yards in 12 games. His explosiveness was quite an asset, as the North Carolina A&T transfer returned two kickoffs for touchdowns, one for 99 yards against Florida State and the other for 94 yards in the regular season finale versus Virginia. He is one of two Power Five kick returners who co-lead the nation in touchdowns, ranking third nationally in average kick return yardage (30.6). Among Tuten's 16 kick returns this season, eight have qualified as explosive plays totaling 20 yards or more, including returns of 99, 94, 50 and 35 yards. The

Paulsboro, New Jersey native is also the Hokies' rushing leader with 727 yards on the ground and eight touchdowns. Tuten's versatility was consistently on display as he hauled in 25 receptions for 220 yards and two scores.

Powell-Ryland (6'3", 244), commonly referred to as APR, may have a new nickname as the 'Mayor of Sacksburg'. The Florida transfer recorded 9.5 sacks, the most by a Tech player since 2014. As a new addition to Tech's defensive front, the junior was very disruptive, leading the team in tackles for loss (13.5), forced fumbles (3) and quarterback hurries (7). APR amassed 39 tackles in the regular season and registered four sacks against Wake Forest, the most in a Tech game since 1995.

Strong (6'0", 182) primarily held down the boundary cornerback role for Tech's secondary and finished with a career-high 80.4 defensive grade, according to Pro Football Focus (PFF). He is just the second FBS cornerback since 2014 with 300+ coverage snaps that has given up less than 10 receptions and less than 100 yards receiving. Strong has given up just 9 receptions for 83 yards on 340 coverage snaps. The redshirt junior snagged three interceptions for 28 yards. He also led the Hokies in pass breakups with eight. Strong

totaled 21 tackles on the year and assisted on a TFL.

Holloway (6'2", 185) brought big play ability to the table as a punt returner, leading the Hokies with 258 return yards on 19 attempts. The Andrews, North Carolina native returned two punts for more than 50 yards. The first went for 66 yards in the season opener versus Old Dominion, and the latter against Syracuse for 57 yards. Holloway ranks eighth in the country, first in the ACC in average yards per return (13.6). The sophomore wideout also recorded his first offensive touchdown against Virginia on a 33-yard rush.

Wright led the Hokies tight end room in both receptions (28) and receiving yards (366), both third highest on the team. Pollard racked up 7.5 tackles for loss on the interior, four of which were sacks and 23 total tackles in 12 starts. Lawson led the defense in tackles with a career-high 77 while recording 1.5 sacks, six passes defended and a forced fumble. Handling full-time field goal duties, Love connected on 20 of 22 attempts, including a season-long 47 yards at Virginia. The redshirt freshman was a perfect 39 of 39 on PATs and tallied 99 points on the season.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Using sports analytics to get ahead of the game

The Introduction to Sports Analytics course debuted this fall to prepare students for the more advanced Sports Analytics Statistical Research course. Both are equipping students with the knowledge to be successful in sports and in any number of other careers.

Arguably, no one understands the intersection between sports and analytics better than Kenneth Massey.

The 47-year-old Virginia Tech alumnus developed a college football ratings model that played a large role in determining the two participants in the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) national title game every year for 14 consecutive years from 1999-2013. The Massey Ratings were one of six computer rankings used by the BCS and thrust this mathematics whiz to the forefront of college football conversations every fall.

He became a well-known name among passionate fan bases — many of whom were more than willing to voice their opinions of him and his colleagues.

"We were the villains," Massey said with a smile. "The bad guys."

Massey, who earned his master's degree from the Department of Mathematics within the College of Science in 1999, said that to students during a Q&A session in Sierra Merkes' Introduction to Sports Analytics course held Nov. 3 in one of Hutcheson Hall's quaint classrooms. The approximately 20 students in the course asked numerous questions of Massey, who told of his career journey and relayed other scholarly advice to a group interested in numbers, analytics, and in the case of many, sports.

The Introduction to Sports Analytics course made its debut this fall. Not to be confused with the major in sports media and analytics, this three-credit course resides within the Department of Statistics in the College of Science. Its curriculum uses sports to introduce students to data and data collection methods, visualization techniques, game performance statistics, inferential statistics, and predictive modeling techniques for sports data.

Taught by Merkes, a former Radford University women's soccer player who recently earned her doctoral degree in statistics from Virginia Tech, the course serves a precursor to a more advanced Sports Analytics Statistical Research class taught by Paul Sabin '19, who received his doctoral degree in statistics from Virginia Tech and is well-known in data analytics circles for his work with ESPN.

"We decided to create this class so that we could get more kids into sports analytics and hopefully get them into

statistics, so that maybe they declare that as a major," Merkes said. "We're hoping that students use this class as a focal point. Statistics is very applied. We can apply it to things we love. For a lot of students, that's sports."

Merkes' course features a blend of students pursuing a variety of majors, many with a common interest — a passion for sports. Yet they can apply the concepts, theories, and approaches they learn in these two sports analytics courses to most fields of study.

Many students dream of pursuing a career in sports analytics with a professional sports team, and certainly analytics affects every part of a sports business. Examples include in-game strategy, social media engagement, and return on investment from merchandise sales and marketing deals. Decisions on these examples revolve around data and numbers.

But the sports job market is extremely competitive, leading Merkes to encourage her students to be flexible with their career aspirations.

"The big question my students are asking is, 'How do I get into the field of sports analytics?'" Merkes said. "It's a small industry. To get in there, you need connections. You want to blend your passions, but it's hard because, for one team, there might be only two or three analysts, depending on the sport. So it's very hard to get in and be noticed. A lot of it is networking. But the growth for analytics in general is much bigger."

Massey echoed those sentiments. Despite his name recognition and despite helping a couple of Major League Baseball teams several years ago, he never pursued a career in sports, preferring instead to maintain his Massey Ratings website as a hobby rather than a career. He has even expanded his ratings to sports such as soccer, hockey, volleyball, and handball.

In 2005, he joined the faculty at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee, and today, he works there as a data analyst while also teaching math courses.

"I would advise students not to intentionally restrict their career path to sports," Massey said. "Try to get working knowledge of other industries as well and have a general understanding of math and statistics and analytics that you can apply to a variety of problems."

"I do know it's a pretty competitive field to get a job with a professional team. Some people can do it, and if you think those opportunities are there, then that's great. Do like I did and start a hobby website where people can find your work, so you have a portfolio

See Analytics, page 8

Blacksburg girls down Radford on the court



Blacksburg's Kailyn Brawley shoots over Radford defender Lauren Owens on a Monday night game at Blacksburg. The senior scored seven points in the Bruins first game of the season.



Blacksburg's Charlotte Ellis stretches for a rebound against Radford.



Blacksburg junior guard Brynn Ferguson led the way with 20 points in 64-28 win over Radford on Monday night. Ferguson had 4 three-pointers in the contest.



First year Blacksburg coach Joseph Reid congratulates his team after a season-opening win over Radford.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



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PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Dean's Body Shop team named co-ed tournament winners

Dean's Body Shop's sponsored team recently won the Blacksburg Recreation Department's Fall Co-ed softball tournament.

Analytics from page 7

that people can see what you've done. But the great thing about math is that it can be applied in a lot of different domains."

Isabella Shaher heard the message. The junior from Centreville, Virginia, is pursuing a degree in computational modeling and data analytics, known more commonly by its acronym CMDA, and dreams of working for her favorite NFL team, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"That's a big dream of mine, but more realistically, I'll probably be a data analyst," Shaher

said. "If it's for a sports team, that would be fantastic, but if it ends up taking me down another route, like insurance, for example, that would be great as well. Being a CMDA major, everything is generalized, which I think is cool. You get to do a bit of everything. You should always dream big, but realistic."

Shaher and two of her classmates are having some fun and gaining real-world experience at the same time by working on a project with the Virginia Tech volleyball team,

with the goal of helping the team improve. Merkes requires the group to give a presentation to the class toward the end of the semester.

"They're Division I, and it's just a big opportunity," Shaher said. "I was very excited about it."

While pursuing her doctoral degree, Merkes worked with computer scientists, engineers, and even the Virginia Tech softball team on various projects. That's a big reason why she half-jokingly insists that every student pursue a degree in statistics or computational modeling and data analytics.

Data drives today's world, and those with the ability to organize it efficiently and effectively will be in high demand. The Introduction to Sports Analytics and Sports Analytics Statistical Research courses were designed in part to help meet that demand.


"You get to play in everyone's area, and I think that is so cool," Merkes said. "I just want to keep exposing that to the students. Whatever your passion is, I promise you somehow stats is related. You have to analyze data, forecast, understand how the data is working, and if I can get students to realize that stats is important, and it applies to all these different fields, then I'm doing my job and hopefully more kids will come to our classes."


*Jimmy Robertson,
Virginia Tech Athletics*

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