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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, January 6, 2024

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Hospital will temporarily suspend OB services

Staffing shortages cited

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Lewis-Gale Montgomery, located in Blacksburg, has announced they will temporarily stop providing obstetric services for women due to staff shortages.

According to an announcement posted on their Women's Care page at www.hcavirginia.com, "LewisGale Hospital Montgomery has made the difficult decision to temporarily discontinue labor and delivery services, effective April 1, 2024. Recruiting full-time OB/GYNs has been challenging in recent

years, and at this time, it is in the best interest of our patients to deliver their babies at our sister facility, LewisGale Medical Center.

While we will no longer deliver babies at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, patients can receive gynecological care, as well as pre-and-postnatal care, through LewisGale Physicians Women's Health Specialists, located in Blacksburg, Virginia. Patients will receive specific information regarding their care."

This news follows the recent opening of the LewisGale Medical Center Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Salem.

Sorority supports Community Health Center of NRV

Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority presents a monetary donation to the Community Health Center of NRV. Chapter members Doris Caldwell, Carolyn K. Sowers, and Sharon Legg present the donation to Ashley Slagel-Perry, CEO of the Community Health Center.

Montgomery County Baby Shop begins its ninth year of service to community

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Montgomery County Baby Shop begins its ninth year of service to the community by providing clothing, diapers, furniture, and other baby necessities to those in need.

The Baby Shop is a non-profit, fully volunteer and donation-supported organization. This program began with a grant from Community Housing Partners (CHP), which helped the group get started for the first several months. After the funding stopped, organizers decided to keep the program running through donations.

Volunteer Joyce Bishop said, "we couldn't have done it without all those donations. We purchase some things, and diapers are really wanted, needed by our clients. We average

about 25 families a month and we average about 50 children being served per month."

Bishop said they serve income-based need children, five years of age and under, in the areas of Montgomery County and the city of Radford.

The program is a mission of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Christiansburg and the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

Clients can make an appointment to pick up items, and let volunteers know if they have specific needs that the Baby Shop can meet.

Along with Bishop, Volunteers Melinda Winslow, Lisa Bass, and Gail Pankey have and continue to work diligently to keep the program running smoothly.

"Gail Pankey came up with the idea to make appointments, and it has



worked very well," Bishop said. "Lisa Bass came up with the idea to fill out a sheet for people to pick out sizes and what they need so it is ready to pick up."

The volunteers take the applicant's forms and put together each order so that the clients can pick them up without coming inside the store. Bishop said this has greatly improved their efficiency with pickup.

"We have other very dedicated volunteers who will help pack these things on Thursday or Friday, depending on how many we have, so that when they do come in on Saturday, then we have it ready

for them to go," Bishop said. "We try to open on the third Monday of the month, so if something would happen, a lot of clients who may not have transportation on a particular day, if they missed coming by to pick up their stuff on Saturday, they can come by on Monday."

The program also offers Bibles, gently used toys, and books, which the families can also specify for the children.

"We make sure every child gets two books and a toy. Equipment for babies and small children may also be donated through the program such as

highchairs, baby beds, and things like that," Bishop said.

The Montgomery County Baby Shop accepts donations of gently used and new items as well as financial donations to purchase things of need.

Visit their Facebook page at Montgomery County VA Baby Shop for more information about the program or to contact someone about making a donation.

Additional contact information listed on the social media site provides an email address at babyshopmcva@gmail.com and a phone number of 540-382-2410.

Agape NRV receives Food Lion donation

CHRISTIANSBURG - Agape Center NRV has received \$2,200 from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation to help nourish neighbors experiencing hunger.

The Feeding the Hungry grant supports Agape Center NRV's efforts to reduce food insecurity in the New River Valley. The gift will be used to purchase additional food items, which will be distributed to clients free of charge. Donations such as this allow the organization to serve more clients in need. In addition, the grants support community feeding partners by helping neighbors increase their access to nutritious food and providing nutrition education to eliminate health risks for those experiencing food insecurity.

"In addition to this generous grant that Foodlion Feeds Charitable Foundation has awarded to Agape Center NRV, we would also like to recognize Foodlion's support of our organization over the years," said Reg Crockett of the Agape Center. "The continued support of donors such as Foodlion makes what we do possible. And those in our community, who are in need, can look to Foodlion as a major source of the assistance they receive through Agape Center NRV. On behalf of the volunteer staff of Agape Center NRV and the citizens of the New River Valley, I can say that we are all eternally grateful."

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation supports families facing food insecurity across its 10-state footprint. Established in 2001, the foundation provides support for programs and organizations. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than \$18.1 million in grants.

Agape Center NRV

Mystery plus atmosphere makes for one fun event

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Blacksburg Books is pairing up with the fine dining and cocktails restaurant called Twisted Liquid Blacksburg for a roaring-20s event individuals do not want to miss.

Mindy Quigley is the author of the "deep dish mysteries," a popular book series set in a pizzeria where murder, mayhem, and mozzarella are sure to be found. A dash of humor flavors Quigley's books as well.

According to the author's website at www.mindyquigley.com, Quigley said, "sometimes murder is a laughing matter."

Her most recent novel, titled "Public Anchovy #1,"

PROSE & PROHIBITION
01.17.24, 6PM @ TWISTED LIQUID

Join us for author Q&A, raffle, & discounted drinks, including a signature cocktail.

MINDY QUIGLEY
author of *Public Anchovy #1*

KATHARINE SCHELLMAN
author of *Last Call at the Nightingale*

books will be available for purchase courtesy of **BLACKSBURG BOOKS**

PUBLIC ANCHOVY #1
A DEEP DISH MYSTERY

MINDY QUIGLEY

IMAGES COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG BOOKS MANAGER ELEN WOODALL

Bestselling author Katharine Schellman will be at the event to talk about her new book and sign copies for readers. Mindy Quigley's bestselling mystery novel is set in a pizzeria and will be on hand for purchase at the event through Blacksburg Books.

will be part of her book discussion and available for purchase at the Prose and Prohibition event.

Manager of Blacksburg Books Ellen Woodall says that Quigley's

books are very popular as part of the "cozy mystery" genre that readers find so attractive and fun to read.

Quigley is one of two authors that will be appearing at the Prose

and Prohibition event at Twisted Liquid in downtown Blacksburg on Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.

See **Mystery**, page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Jan. 6:

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1 – 3 p.m. Looking for a fun way to kick off the new year? Join us for a jigsaw puzzle tournament to celebrate National Puzzle Month in January. Compete on teams to see who can finish their 500-piece puzzle in the least amount of time. Prizes will be awarded! For ages 10 and up. Registration is required.

Monday, Jan. 8:

Soup in Your Instant Pot

At the Meadowbrook Library; 5 – 7 p.m. Join us as we make soup in an Instant Pot! Angie Helm with Virginia Cooperative Extension will be providing samples and sharing some great prep tips to save time using your Instant Pot to prepare delicious and healthy soups during winter. Registration is required.

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, 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.

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the

second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street).

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

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. For more information, please contact 540-443-1500.

Study: Cities on the East Coast are sinking

Major cities on the U.S. Atlantic coast are sinking, in some cases as much as five millimeters per year – a decline at the ocean’s edge that well outpaces global sea level rise, confirms new research from Virginia Tech and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Particularly hard-hit population centers such as New York City and Long Island, Baltimore, and Virginia Beach and Norfolk are seeing areas of rapid “subsidence,” or sinking land, alongside more slowly sinking or relatively stable ground, increasing the risk to roadways, runways, building foundations, rail lines, and pipelines, according to a study published today in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences.

“Continuous unmitigated subsidence on the U.S. East Coast should cause concern,” said lead author Leonard Ohenhen, a

graduate student working with Associate Professor Manoochehr Shirzaei at Virginia Tech’s Earth Observation and Innovation Lab. “This is particularly in areas with a high population and property density and a historical complacency toward infrastructure maintenance.”

Shirzaei and his research team pulled together a vast collection of data points measured by space-based radar satellites and used this highly accurate information to build digital terrain maps that show exactly where sinking landscapes present risks to the health of vital infrastructure. Using the publicly available satellite imagery, Shirzaei and Ohenhen measured millions of occurrences of land subsidence spanning multiple years. They then created some of the world’s first high resolution depictions of the land subsidence.

These groundbreaking new maps show that a large area of the East Coast is sinking at least 2 mm per year, with several areas along the mid-Atlantic coast of up to 3,700 square kilometers, or more than 1,400 square miles, sinking more than 5 mm per year, more than the current 4 mm per year global rate of sea level rise.

“We measured subsidence rates of 2 mm per year affecting more than 2 million people and 800,000 properties on the East Coast,” Shirzaei said. “We know to some extent that the land is sinking. Through this study, we highlight that sinking of the land is not an intangible threat. It affects you and I and everyone, it may be gradual, but the impacts are real.”

In several cities along the East Coast, multiple critical infrastructures such as roads, railways, airports, and levees are

affected by differing subsidence rates.

“Here, the problem is not just that the land is sinking. The problem is that the hotspots of sinking land intersect directly with population and infrastructure hubs,” said Ohenhen. “For example, significant areas of critical infrastructure in New York, including JFK and LaGuardia airports and its runways, along with the railway systems, are affected by subsidence rates exceeding 2 mm per year. The effects of these right now and into the future are potential damage to infrastructure and increased flood risks.”

The new findings appear in the open access journal PNAS Nexus. In the work “Slowly but surely: Exposure of communities and infrastructure to subsidence on the US east coast,” Virginia Tech and U.S. Geological Survey

(USGS) scientists measured how much the land along the East Coast has sunk and which areas, populations, and critical infrastructure within 100 km of the coast are at risk of land subsidence. Subsidence can undermine building foundations; damage roads, gas, and water lines; cause building collapse; and exacerbate coastal flooding – especially when paired with sea level rise caused by climate change.

“This information is needed. No one else is providing it,” said Patrick Barnard, a research geologist with the USGS and co-author of the study. “Shirzaei and his Virginia Tech team stepped into that niche with his technical expertise and is providing something extremely valuable.”

Virginia Tech

Being a courteous driver is a New Year’s resolution you can keep

RICHMOND – The holiday season has arrived and it’s time for New Year’s resolutions. This year, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) encourages drivers to include being a courteous driver in their New Year’s resolutions.

“One of the best things we can do to keep our roads safe is to remember that we share the road. Being a courteous driver isn’t just about being kind, it’s about staying safe,” said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor’s Highway Safety Representative. “Something as simple as remembering to use your turn signal, following at

a safe distance and looking out for pedestrians are easy habits to create and they can help you avoid a crash. Being a more courteous driver is a simple change that goes a long way to keep Virginias roads safe for us all.”

So far this year, there were 23,021 crashes where drivers were following too closely, 1,537 crashes involving pedestrians, 539 crashes involving cyclists and 130 crashes involving a failure to signal or improper signal. In an effort to prevent crashes, DMV shares some small changes you can make to be a safer and more courteous

driver in the new year.

Remember not to cruise in the left lane. The left lane is intended to be used for passing. Once you have passed another vehicle, please move back to the middle or right lane to keep the left lane open.

Don’t follow too closely. Always follow at a safe distance to allow yourself time to react. Use the two, three, four rule when driving on dry roads to determine the distance between you and the car in front of you.

Two seconds when traveling under 35 mph

Three seconds when traveling between 35 and 45 mph

Four seconds when traveling between 46 and 70 mph

Always use your turn signal when changing lanes. Making sure other drivers are aware of a change in your path ensures they have time to react and can help avoid a crash. Don’t forget to check your blind spots too.

Remember to share the road with pedestrians and cyclists. We share the responsibility to keep vulnerable road users safe. Be especially careful when turning at intersections and when driving in heavily populated areas.

Move over. It isn’t just courteous, it’s the law. When

you see emergency vehicles, road maintenance, motorist assistance vehicles, or vehicles on the side of the road with their hazards on, safely move over to provide space and proceed cautiously.

While planning for your holiday and new year, please note that DMV customer service centers will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1. More than 50 services are available at dmv.virginia.gov for those who need access to DMV during the closures.

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

High levels of cancer-causing radon gas detected in 25 percent of Virginia homes

RICHMOND – Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the “State of Lung Cancer” report reveals that it is detected at high levels in about 25 percent of homes in Virginia.

During January for National Radon Action Month, the American Lung Association in Virginia is urging everyone to help save lives by testing their home for radon and mitigating if high levels are detected.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas emitted from the ground. Radon is odorless, tasteless and colorless, and can enter a home through cracks in floors, basement walls, foundations and other openings. Radon can be present at high levels inside homes, schools and other buildings. Nationally, it is responsible for an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year and is the leading cause of lung cancer in people who have never smoked.

Here in Virginia, about 25% of radon test results equal or exceed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level of 4 pCi/L (picoCuries per liter of air), according to the Lung Association’s “State of Lung Cancer” report.

“Radon in homes is more common than you think. In fact, high levels of radioactive radon gas have been found

in every state but most places in the country remain untested, so this isn’t something that should be taken lightly. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States,” said Kevin Stewart, Director of Environmental Health for the Lung Association. “Testing for radon is the only way to know if the air in your home is safe. The good news is that it is easy to test. Do-it-yourself test kits are simple to use and inexpensive.”

After high levels are detected, a radon professional should install a radon mitigation system, which is easy and relatively affordable. A typical radon mitigation system consists of a vent pipe, fan and properly sealing cracks and other openings. This system collects radon gas from underneath the foundation and vents it to the outside. Contact your state radon program for a list of certified professionals in your state. Some state health departments offer financial assistance or low interest loans for radon mitigation.

Learn more about radon testing and mitigation at Lung.org/radon and take the Lung Association’s free Radon Basics course at Lung.org/Radon-Basics.

American Lung Association

Mystery

from page 1

Katharine Schellman, also a mystery writer, will be present at the event to talk about her recent book “Last Call at the Nightingale.”

The novel guides readers back in time to a speakeasy vibe of the Jazz Age, while weaving a dark tale of mystery, music, and of course, murder.

More information about Schellman’s books can be found at her website, www.katharineschellman.com.

Twisted Liquid will provide a prohibition-era setting with drink specials including a signature cocktail, incredible fine dining options unique to their establishment, and a raffle.

Twisted Liquid is located at 301 South Main Street, Suite 103, Blacksburg, just down the street from Blacksburg Books.

Send
community
news and
photos to
communitynews
@ourvalley.org



The Christiansburg Run Club meets Mondays and Thursdays in front of the Christiansburg courthouse.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN CHRISTIANBURG INC.

Christiansburg Run Club blends fitness with fun, fellowship

CHRISTIANSBURG - Founded in 2019 by Jonathan Roberts, Morgan Corl, and Sara Yun from Sara's Yoga Studio in Cambria, the Christiansburg Run Club has quickly become a cornerstone of community and fitness in our town.

This inclusive, no-drop club welcomes members of all paces, featuring both walking and running groups to accommodate everyone. With a focus on staying active and fostering community bonds, the club meets every Monday and

Thursday from 6 - 7 p.m. in downtown Christiansburg in front of the courthouse. Mondays are dedicated to exploring the scenic beauty of our town through a walk, while Thursdays offer a split session for runners and walkers, culminating in a

social gathering at the local brewery, Iron Tree, for a well-deserved pint. Under the continued leadership of Jonathan and Morgan, the club invites residents to join in, from seasoned athletes to those looking to make new friends.

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this vibrant group, experience the charm of Christiansburg, and meet amazing people along the way.

Downtown Christiansburg, Inc.

Marketplace ourvalley.org

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

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID BY THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

The City of Radford will accept proposals from qualified vendors to supply and/or perform services described in the procurement package and identified as **PROCUREMENT ITEM:** New River Crossing General Construction Bid - Steel Pole and Circuit Replacement, Procurement Number 403170FE02.24. The complete procurement package is available upon request at the City of Radford Electric Department, 701 17th Street, Radford, VA 24141, by contacting Timothy Logwood, Director Electric Utilities at 540-731-3641.

Bids are due at 3:00 PM EST on February 02, 2024

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS BY THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

The City of Radford will accept proposals from qualified vendors to supply and/or perform services described in the procurement package and identified as **PROCUREMENT ITEM:** RFP for Replacement of the Trash Rake System at Little River Dam - Municipal Hydroelectric, Procurement Number 403170FE16.24. The complete procurement package is available upon request at the City of Radford Electric Department, 701 17th Street, Radford, VA 24141, by contacting Timothy Logwood, Director Electric Utilities at 540-731-3641.

Bids are due at 3:00 PM EST on February 16, 2024.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

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Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Shah Development LLC, Property Owner, and Kevin Conner, Applicant, to allow single-family dwelling, on each of two (2) vacant lots, meeting the Residential District (R-3) standards on property described as Snidow Heights Subdivision, Lot 50A and Lot 46A, located on the east and west sides of the existing dwelling addressed as 685 Liberty St., NE.; and identified as Tax Parcels 528-(2)-46A and 528-(2)-50A; Parcel IDs 160387 and 160388; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. B. Conditional Use Permit request by Last Resort, Inc., Property Owner, and Joseph L. Simmons, Applicant, to allow multiple-family dwellings (apartments) meeting the Residential District (R-3) standards on approximately 4.841 acres located on the south side of Cambria St. NW, West of the Town of Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1600 N Franklin St. NW; identified as Tax Parcels 466-(A)-8C, 466-(A)-8C2; Parcel IDs 032702, 210032; zoned General Business District B-3. There is not a proposed number of units for the development. The maximum permitted residential density is 20 dwelling units per acre. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. C. Conditional Use Permit

Legals - Montgomery County

request by Roger Woody, Registered Agent, RWW 36 LLC, Property Owner, and Denise E. LaCour, Managing Director, Denstock LLC, Applicant, to allow a Planned Housing Development of 206 multi-family residential dwelling units on approximately 18.82 acres located at the terminus of Farmview Road NE, consisting of all of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-41, Parcel ID 017576; a portion of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-36, Parcel ID 021677; all of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-37, Parcel ID 032861; a portion of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-38, Parcel ID 021678; all of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-39, Parcel ID 021679; all of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-40, Parcel ID 021680; and a portion of 436-(6)-35, Parcel ID 033701; 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 applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.



BAG

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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 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>.

MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

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>.

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

Legals - Montgomery County

amendment to the 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 & #39;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>.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DELIVERS

January is National Mental Wellness Month

We promote mental health awareness every January as National Mental Wellness Month. What better way to start the new year than with a reminder to recharge your mental health? According to WebMD, good mental health can positively affect your physical health. Being in a good mental state can keep you healthy and help prevent significant health conditions. Mental health conditions can also make dealing with a chronic illness more difficult. The mortality rate from cancer and heart disease is higher among people with depression or other mental health conditions.

Recent research by NAMI has found that as much as 46% of people who die by suicide had a known mental health condition. As much as 55% of adults with a mental illness receive no treatment, and 60% of youth with major depression also do not receive treatment. This is why it is crucial to maintain positive mental

health and treat any poor mental health conditions. Taking care of our mental health can help us control or combat some of the physical health problems directly linked to mental health conditions. Some of the most common mental health conditions are PTSD, Depression, Panic Disorder, and Eating Disorders. People who suffer from these conditions are at a higher risk of suicide than those who do not.

The CDC describes mental health as our "emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also determines how we manage stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices." The Global Wellness Institute defines mental wellness as "an internal resource that helps us think, feel, connect, and function." The Institute goes on to say that doing things that make you happy and feel good will increase your mental wellness, thus increasing your mental health. Some activities

that may improve your mental wellness include physical activities, artistic activities, volunteering, enjoying time with friends and family, eating good food, and completing personal goals. Also, getting enough sleep, developing a positive attitude, and laughing can improve your mental wellness.

The Jason Foundation, Inc. (JFI) is a resource that provides information on what to look out for if you have a friend or loved one struggling with their mental health. JFI believes that awareness and education are the first steps to the prevention of suicide. On the website, you can find valuable information on mental illness and how it can be associated with suicidal ideation. Please visit www.jasonfoundation.com and get involved in helping someone who is struggling.

*By Scott Knight
Senior Division Director
and Education Specialist at
The Jason Foundation*

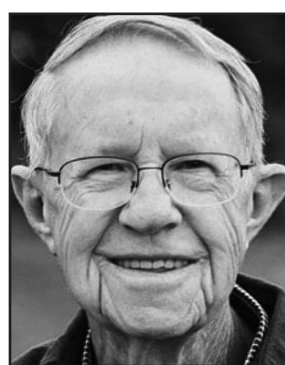
OBITUARIES

Whited, James Sidney

James Sidney Whited, 87, passed away Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, at his home in Radford surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sidney and Hazel Whited.

Survivors include his wife, Jewel Whited; daughters, Jada Burton (Chuck) and Rana Morse (Brent); grandchildren, Ty Burton (Jordan), Anna Morris (Brayden), Matthew Mays, James Morse, Tyler Morse, Clayton Morse; great granddaughters, Aly and Ryleigh Burton; and many other relatives and friends.

James Sidney Whited was born and raised in Honaker, Va. During his younger years he worked beside his parents running their family Feed and Seed/grocery store and a restaurant, Sids Grill, in downtown Honaker. He graduated from Honaker High School in 1954. Jim continued his education by earning an Electrical Engineering degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. After graduating from VPI he began his engineering career at Radford Arsenal to work on many projects including the Honest John Missile. It was here that Dwight Farmer introduced him to Jewel Howard, his beautiful, brown-eyed, wife of 62 years. They married and traveled to St. Petersburg, Fla. where he worked for Honeywell on Missile guidance systems, started their family, and had their first daughter. After a few years in Florida they moved to Bristol, Va to be closer to his parents during his father's battle with lung cancer. During this time, he worked for Sperry Faragot designing missile detection systems. In time, they moved to Radford, where he was hired by Corwin Matthews to work for Inland Motors designing motor drive systems for Eastman Kodak and had their second daughter. Around 1970 they purchased land in Fairlawn and started Polyester Trailer Park. This mobile home park is still in operation today with tenants that are just like family. After many years and patents later with Inland Motor, he decided to branch out on his



own and created Lunsford Systems Inc., designing a Power Factor Control Unit that he would later sell to Kollmorgen.

He eventually retired from Kollmorgen and bought a crane. In typical Jim Whited fashion, he jumped into this new career as owner/operator of Whited Crane Service. This provided many good days with friend Jon Wyatt. Jon shared, "it was always a pleasure when Jim showed up to share the goings on in the neighborhood and solve my electrical problems."

Despite all the moves and career shifts, one constant in Jim's life has been his love for music. Whether it was playing bass with the "Old Pros", taking his daughters out to listen to music at local establishments, waking everyone in the house with loud music through his theater quality speakers while playing along on his guitar or trumpet, or just always humming a little tune, Jim loved music. He spent his retirement enjoying family and friends, riding his motorcycles, and feeding his deer. Many knew Jim/Daddy/Papaw for his incredible smarts and busy mind that was simply, always working. But those closest to him will also remember him for his unique humor, musical talents, and endless love for his family.

We are comforted knowing he passed peacefully surrounded by his family.

We are so thankful for the good people and special family that have traveled this journey with us. We would like to thank two precious and loving caregivers that God sent our way, Teresa Smith and Afton Parker, "thank you" will never be enough.

The family will receive friends 12 - 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Rev. Duane Minnick officiating. Entombment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin.

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

Wingo, Carolyn Sue Howard

Carolyn Sue Howard Wingo, 72, of Blacksburg, passed into Jesus' waiting arms Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harvey and Dorothy Howard; and brothers, Emory Howard and David Howard. Carol was a 1971 graduate of Blacksburg High School. She worked at Poly-Scientific (Moog) for 35 years and had many special friends. She was known as the queen of genealogy for many years.

She is survived by her husband, Donnie Wingo; sons Michael Hypes (Tina), Jason Wingo (April), and Duane Wingo (Karen); grandchildren Kimber Wingo, Michael Hypes, Sydney Wingo, River Wingo, Colt Wingo, MaKenzie King,



and Abi, Ana, Chase Martin; sister, Darlene Shaver; brother, Delmer Howard; and special friend, Kathy Snidow.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024 at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Pastor Richard Gilbert and Pastor Leon Alley officiating. Interment will be held privately in the Wingo Family Cemetery.

The family will receive friends Saturday 10-11 a.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to your favorite charity in her memory.

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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CROSSWORD

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	37					38			39	40
41					42			43		44
45				46			47	48		
49			50	51			52			53
54							55		56	
	57							58		

- CLUES ACROSS
- ___ Dhabi, Arabian capital
 - Invests in little enterprises
 - Stalk of a moss capsule
 - Beach material
 - Maneuver in a game
 - A castrated male chicken
 - Write bad checks
 - Sewer inhabitants
 - Farewell (Spanish)
 - Player makes 3 goals in one game
 - Greek rainbow goddess
 - Tax collector
 - Make unhappy
 - Hygienic
 - Double-reed instrument
 - Beetle Bailey's dog
 - Fee, ___, foe, fum
 - One dish meal
 - Goatlike antelope
 - Consumed food
 - Peels
 - Emerald Isle
 - Duties helpful to others
 - Fragments of cloth
 - Frozen water
 - Spanish river
 - Stated an inquiry
 - Laid-back California county
 - Fearless and daring
 - Sound after its source has stopped
 - Blackboard rock
 - A domed or vaulted recess
 - Six (Spanish)
 - French city
 - Herringlike clupeid fish
 - Oriental sauce
- CLUES DOWN
- Requests
 - Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan
 - Up to the time of
 - Common ankle injury
 - Tedium
 - 9th Greek letter
 - Abnormal closed body sac
 - One who obtains pleasure from other's pain
 - Long narrative heroic poem
 - Possessed by force
 - Autonomic nervous system
 - Treats with contempt
 - Bears
 - Before
 - Light ringing sound
 - Blends of soul and calypso
 - Fall off in intensity
 - Gives medicine
 - Gross receipts
 - Square measures
 - Ablaze
 - Incapable of flexibility
 - Bears, sheep or goats
 - An open skin infection
 - Effeminate
 - Competed in a speed test
 - Supplies with air
 - Short stays
 - Sown a lawn
 - 60 min. units (abbr.)
 - Second largest Oklahoma city
 - Fence picket
 - 2nd largest Algerian port city
 - Camel or goat fabrics
 - 19th Hebrew letter
 - Frosts
 - 17th state
 - Inquisitorial
 - Manuscripts (abbr.)

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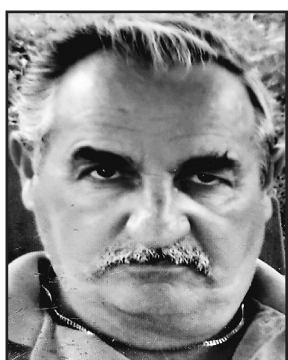
OBITUARIES

Atkins, Dennis Dehart

Dennis Dehart Atkins, 79, of Dublin, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce Minton Atkins; parents, Theodore Judd and Virginia Covey Atkins; and brothers, Dean and David Atkins.

Survivors include his special sister, Melissa "Missy" Elkins; special nephew, T.J. Wirt; nephew, Ben Wirt; siblings and their spouses, Carol Hall, Bobby (Betsy) Atkins, Suzanne (Terry) Vaughan, Sandra (Daniel) McCoy, Vickie (Darrell) Woodyard, Ricky (Donna) Atkins, and Donald (Peggy) Atkins; and many other



special friends.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m.

Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery in Pulaski County.

Missy and T.J. would like to extend her thanks to Medi Hospice and Andy and Angie Huff for the care that they provided Dennis.

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

Birchfield, Robert Boyd

Robert Boyd Birchfield, 83, of Christiansburg, passed away Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. He was born Feb. 10, 1940, to the late Homer Birchfield and Gertie Moore Birchfield.

Besides his parents, he is also preceded in death by his son, Weston Dale Birchfield and brother, James Thomas "Tom" Birchfield.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Karen Kimbrell Birchfield; son Matthew Boyd Birchfield and his wife Katherine Kraker Birchfield; grandchildren Erin Marie Birchfield, Nathaniel Dale Birchfield, and Amanda Kraker Chrisley; siblings Constance "Connie" Howard, Wilburn "Wig" Birchfield, Gloria Birchfield Walton, Janice Birchfield Hollandsworth, Verlin Lee Birchfield,

Homer "Rocky" Birchfield, and Paul Franklin Birchfield; and 23 nieces and nephews.

Robert was a retired Lt. Commander of the US Navy; he was also a manager, consultant and entrepreneur for many years. He was a wonderful husband, dad, grandpop, brother, uncle, friend, and much, much more.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and nature, as well as working on and around his farm. But, most importantly he enjoyed his family and spending time with them. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of Robert's life will be held Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

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.sphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street Radford.

Montgomery County
WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

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@stmcl.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 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

OBITUARIES

Early, Linda McPherson

Linda McPherson Early, 81, of Christiansburg, died Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, at Lewis Gale Medical Center.

She was born in Montgomery County on July 23, 1942, to the late John Hampton and Perlee Mae Sarver McPherson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Junior Early.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Connie and Alan Wilburn, Dianna and James McDaniel, and Roberta and Randy Harris; grandchildren, Robert (Tammy) Wilburn, Matthew



(Tara) Reynolds, and Toby Early; great-grandchildren, Lane and Wade Reynolds; brother and sister-in-law, June and Doris McPherson; sisters and brothers-in-law, Helen Smith, Louise and Thomas Mayo, and Mary Flannery; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Keith Graves officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The family received friends before the service.

Hand, Gail Leigh

Gail Leigh Hand, 68, passed away Friday, Dec 29, 2023, at her home in Dublin.

She was an employee of Radford Orthopedics. Gail was preceded in death by her parents, Charles Kenneth Hand and Elizabeth "Betty" Walsh; and daughter, Rae Leigh Nester.

Survivors include her daughter, Charla Michelle; grandchildren, Karleigh Jo Delph, Rebekah Leigh Richardson

(Jimmy), and Jeremy Michael Dodson; great grandchildren, Elizah Rae Amsel, Kennedy Elleighse Richardson, and Emersyn Rae Taylor; brother, Kenneth Alan Hand (Kathy); and many other relatives and friends.

Per her request, there will be no funeral services.

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

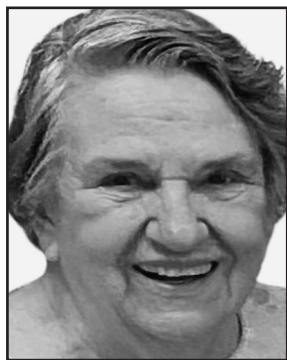
Jannuzi, Barbara

Barbara Jannuzi passed away Dec. 20, 2023, at the age of 88 after a brief illness. Devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, she inspired those around her with her passion for justice, her courage, and her optimism even in the face of daunting challenges.

Born in Passaic, N.J. June 5, 1935, Barbara was the daughter of pastor and educator Buell Gordon Gallagher and June Sampson Gallagher. The Gallaghers were pioneers in the civil rights movement and passed their passion for justice and equal rights on to their daughters. Barbara and her older sister Maryel grew up in Talladega Alabama, Berkeley California, and Washington D.C., following their father's movements as President of Talladega College, professor and pastor at the Pacific School of Religion, and Truman Administration official with responsibility for higher education policy. Barbara was an accomplished pianist as a young adult. She graduated valedictorian from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington D.C. before attending Swarthmore College, where she earned a degree in Political Science with Honors in 1957.

Barbara married Frank Tomasson Jannuzi of Nutley, N.J. in Riverside Church, New York City, on Sept. 15, 1957. Barbara's father, an ordained Congregationalist Minister and then the President of City College, conducted the ceremony. After marrying, the couple lived first in London before working in East Africa, San Francisco, and India.

Departing India in 1968, the Jannuzis and their two sons, Buell and Frank, settled in Austin, Texas, where Barbara was an active member of the Tarrytown community, leading a Cub Scout den and serving as a reading tutor in public schools. She became a successful life



insurance agent with Prudential Insurance Company, earning the prestigious Chartered Life Underwriter designation. Dr. Jannuzi taught development economics for 30 years at the University of Texas.

Barbara spent countless hours nurturing her sons and chauffeuring them to various activities around town – piano lessons, swim competitions, boy scout meetings, canoeing trips, and marching band practices. Summers were marked by long road trips to visit grandparents in New York and Massachusetts which turned into traveling seminars on American history and geography.

The couple moved to Blacksburg in 1998, settling "next door" to Barbara's sister and her husband, Dr. Sidney Herman. The two couples were inseparable, traveling often to Europe, with Greece and Italy being favorite destinations.

As much joy as Barbara derived from her immediate family, she treasured even more the arrival of four grandchildren – Brighthouse and Barnes (sons of Buell and his wife, Alison Lowell) and Zoe and Camille (daughters of Frank and his wife, Jennifer Martin). She loved spending holidays with them, playing card games, telling stories, sharing good books, watching fantasy movies, and listening to music. Barbara drafted elaborate annual Christmas day messages, written in code, making them ever more difficult to decipher as the grandchildren grew and their powers of deduction increased.

Preceded in death by her sister Maryel and brother-in-law Sidney, Barbara is survived by her husband, two sons and their wives, four grandchildren, three nephews and a niece. Her memory lives on in the hearts of all who loved her.

Smith, Edgar William

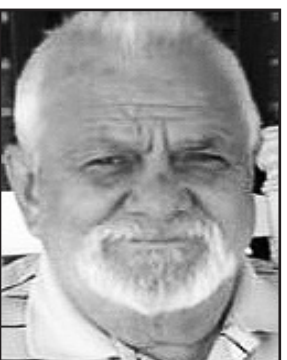
Edgar "Sonny" William Smith, 81, of Dublin, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023.

Born April 10, 1942, to the late Otto and Helen Smith of Dublin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Audna Smith McCoy of Roanoke, and Evelyn Smith of Dublin.

Sonny spent 60-plus years driving a truck and he excelled and enjoyed his chosen profession. He was fun loving and a friend to so many. He was funny and witty and could drive anything with wheels.

He loved going to the beach for bike week and being with his friends and family. He also loved messing with his old tractor. He loved his kids and was a proud PawPaw.



Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 37 years, Wanda Smith of Dublin; his daughters, Tami Smith of Dublin and Tina Smith of Dublin; sons, Anthony "Tony" Smith of Dublin, and Tim (Ashley) Smith of Pulaski; stepson, Rusty Carroll of Radford; grandchildren Taylor Carroll, Chase Carroll, Jaxon Smith and Londyn Smith; brother, John Smith of Dublin; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Pastor Marcus Harrison officiating.

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

Kinzer, Loretta

Loretta Kinzer, 77, of Christiansburg, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, in Roanoke.

Loretta was born July 2, 1946, to Lucille and James Kinzer of Fries. She was a caring soul who noticed the small things that made a big difference. As a child, she saved her lunch money to buy tires for an old bicycle so that she and her little sister Diana both had a bike to ride. Loretta was blessed with a green thumb and always knew the tricks for growing more tomatoes or how to transplant flowers. She loved watching The Twilight Zone! She was a wizard with her sewing machine. Her knack for creating special something with fabric and thread that always fit the recipient was nothing short of magical. If she knew you liked horses, she would make you curtains or a bedspread with a beautiful horse-covered fabric.

She had a way of making little things seem grand. She told the most amazing stories about simple things. In her later years, she had a knack for making you feel seen and loved without saying a word. She was always willing to extend a helping hand whether you needed a loan, essential goods, a place to stay for a few nights, or a home-cooked meal. She loved to champion others in their pursuits. She would cheer you on at a volleyball game, learn to play tennis so she could hit balls with you, give you a standing ovation at a dance recital, or even muck out your horse's stall. Loretta showed up for people.

Loretta held Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Radford University. She was a gifted teacher in the public schools for many years. She even taught her nephew Allen Shawn in grade six. She then decided to shift her career to RU.



At RU, she worked in leadership roles in both human resources and career services. In her 20-plus years at RU, it was the community that she loved to serve. She excitedly told stories about the students she helped find their dream jobs. Whether volunteering for Meals on Wheels, leading a Girl Scout troop, serving on the

board of the juvenile detention center, or mentoring international students at RU, her smile and can-do attitude were infectious. Loretta was delighted to spend time with her grandchildren, and she was very proud of their achievements.

She is survived by her daughter, Marcy Criner; son-in-law, Martin Kikegawa; daughter, Emily Mann; son-in-law, Brian Mann; and her greatest joy her grandchildren, Cassidy, Andrew, and Dylan Mann; her sister, Diana Bond; her brother-in-law, Roger Bond; her brother, Allen Kinzer; and sister-in-law, Wilma Kinzer. And numerous nephews and a niece. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Lucille Kinzer; and oldest brother, James Elwood Kinzer.

A Celebration of Loretta's Life was held in the Highlander Room at the Dedmon Center in Radford Thursday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Marcy couldn't have cared for Loretta for the past two-and-a-half years without the incredible support from the following two organizations. The love and support they provided was immeasurable.

In memoriam gifts are requested for: The Engagement Center for Creative Aging at Virginia Tech <https://ads.hdfs.vt.edu/giving> and Pulaski Adult Day Service: facebook.com/pulaskiadultdayservice/

The Kinzer family are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Stiner, Linda Elizabeth Sayers

The vivacious Linda Elizabeth Sayers Stiner passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on Dec. 29, 2023 at her home in Radford, Virginia.

Linda Elizabeth Sayers was born on Sept. 4, 1941 in Galax, Va. to Ruth Elizabeth Cornett and Maynard Hastin Sayers. The dark-haired, dark-eyed cutie had a difficult early life when her father passed away when she was only four, leaving her mother and her younger brothers (Maynard and Dennis) to make their way. But Linda persisted and thrived and met life with spirit and a smile.

Her childhood and high school days in Fairlawn included sled runs, sock-hops, and dates at the local Fairlawn Hobnob drive-in. Linda was the Cheerleader Captain, the Homecoming Queen, and held a position as Treasurer-Secretary on the Student Council. If there was a group, she was a part of it and usually one of the leaders. She didn't travel far for college, attending Radford University and graduating in 1963 with a BA in Education.

Her professional life was diverse, but there was always a focus on service and helping others. She taught school in Virginia and South Carolina. She was a social worker in rural South Carolina, a training coordinator for those fighting addiction in Texas, and a director of student services for underserved Native Americans in New Mexico. She volunteered for the United Way, the National Association on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, her children's schools, and the many churches she attended and worshipped in throughout her life.

Linda was a wonderful combination of sweet, beautiful, and sassy. She could sing, dance, and beat most men in golf. Golf was one of her passions and sport of choice, and she loved playing with friends and family with her 5-foot-nothing frame and her lifetime two holes-in-one. She was a natural at tennis and even played for a women's softball league for a while.

She married Robert "Bobby" Bruce in 1963, and they had two children, Shannon and Rob. Linda and Bobby parted ways in 1984 and remained friends. She then married William "Bill" Stiner, and their adventures took her to New Mexico, Texas, Tennessee, and eventually back home to Radford, Virginia. Bill passed away in 2009, and Linda spent the next ten years focused on caring for her mother.

Lulu, as she became known, doted on her children and embraced and supported them throughout her life. She was a children's accomplishment hoarder, which her daughter and son discovered after she passed. Report cards, terrible artwork, little league and ballet pictures and programs, and nonsensical stories and schoolwork. All of them were fabulous and important to Lulu. Her pride in her



children extended to her grandchildren (Jake, Finn, and Lily) and she attended their extracurricular activities as much as possible and celebrated their high school achievements and college pathways.

In 2021, Linda met Jeffrey Doran. The young-at-heart couple took winding roads through life to meet randomly at their favorite restaurant, Preston's, and they were married in May 2022. When Linda found love again at age 80, she and Jeff threw a wedding bash like they were twenty-five years old, complete with drinks, dancing, and a daring reception entry to Metallica's "Enter Sandman." That was Linda Lulu. She wanted to rock and for everyone to have a good time. She and Jeff spent their short but meaningful time together laughing, traveling, visiting family, dining with friends, volunteering, and watching the sunset on the New River with a glass of Pinot Noir. Maybe two glasses.

On every birthday, holiday, and event, you could expect a card and thoughtful hand-written note from Lulu. The notes were dramatic, loving, and downright sappy, and it was often mentioned that she missed her calling as a writer for Hallmark movies. She meant every mushy, loving word.

She was, without a doubt, the straw that stirred the drink at gatherings, parties, and events, and her sweet nature and smile impacted family, friends, and strangers who were soon to be friends. If you're reading this, raise a glass, and smile, and do a little dance. That's what she would have wanted.

Surviving family members include her husband, Jeff Doran of Radford; brothers and sisters-in-law, Maynard and Sharon Sayers of Southern Pines, NC, and Dennis and Anne Sayers of HighPoint, NC; children, Shannon Bruce Stosser (Jeff) and Robert Bruce Jr (Gretchen); stepchildren, Kim Coman (Chip), Seanna Carter (Chad), Evan Stiner (Kristen), Shannon Danz (Joe), Tricia Johnson (Josh); and grandchildren, Jake Bruce, Finn Bruce, and Lily Bruce.

Visitation with the family will take place on Thursday, Jan. 4, 1 – 3 p.m. at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, 120 W. Main St, Radford, VA 24141. A light reception will follow at Preston's Restaurant, 8400 River Course Dr, Radford, VA. Memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 27, at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 135 4th Street NW, Pulaski, VA 24301. A Celebration of Life will follow at Preston's Restaurant.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in honor of Linda Stiner to the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, 1217 Grove Ave, Radford, VA 24141, <https://www.wrcnrv.org/>.

Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford is handling arrangements.

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

We're left scratching our heads after bowl season



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

The debate over this season's bowl game continues even after most have been played. While there might not be a real solution, there are ways to fix this idea of "opting" out.

First, we know the money trail is what is driving the bus when it comes to college football. So, maybe we find a way to use what is being given to us.

The idea of the NIL in college athletics helps the student-athlete, but it needs to have some penalties written into the contract. If an athlete, in this main case a football player, does receive NIL benefits then they must also face some punishments for leaving school early, jumping into the transfer portal and opting out of a bowl game.

The "contract," which each athlete signs, must have similar points to ponder. These include penalties for all of the above.

There can no longer be athletes jumping around to a bunch of different schools because they do not like their playing time. If they do, there needs some type of penalty. This also means if you leave early for the NFL and the professional ranks, then you will face some type of penalty.

College sports and football in general needs to be reigned in. Now is the time for that to happen, but there lies a bigger problem.

Bowl sponsors and the games themselves must also step up to the plate and realize money talks, meaning players need to be paid to appear and in most cases when the bowl game.

The idea of paying players would be similar to the old NFL Pro Bowl and Super Bowl reward system,

Then there comes the organization itself.

College football and the NCAA, no longer co-exist. Thus, two things must happen.

College football needs a commissioner that has some control over matters affecting the sport.

There has to be football-only conferences, thus eliminating the problems associated with other sports.

While college football would drive each school's athletic budget, the division of football and other sports would keep the budget for all other sports more in line to what it needs to be.

This means, for example, the Virginia Tech wrestling team and/or baseball team would be jet-setting to the west coast. Football could, but the rest of the athletic department would not have to absorb that large amount of travel expense and would not take the student-athletes out of the classroom for a long-extended time.

This cannot wait. This cannot continue. A 12-team playoff will not change anything this coming football season. The administrative items have to be done, simply put.

The key is that athletic directors must be brave enough to bring the issue up. We need real leaders in this area of athletics and sooner than later.



PHOTO COURTESY VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech brought home the trophy this past week from Coach Brent Pry's first ever bowl game.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE APPALACHIAN LEAGUE

The 2024 Appalachian League season will feature an expanded postseason schedule.

Pulaski River Turtles release schedule

A new season of Pulaski River Turtles baseball is slated to begin Tuesday, June 4, on the road against the newest member of the Appalachian League, the Tri-State baseball organization located on the campus of Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va.

Opening Night at Calfee Park is scheduled for Friday, June 7, against the Bluefield Ridge Runners, featuring a dazzling post-game fireworks display.

The 2024 Pulaski River Turtles schedule includes 24 home games, with 11 home games in June and 13 home games in July, with the regular season finale scheduled for Wednesday, July 31. In total, the 2024 schedule boasts 48 dates.

All home games will begin at 7 p.m. with the exception of Sunday contests, which will move up to a 5:30 p.m. start time in 2024. A collection of promotional nights will accentuate the action-packed schedule, headlined by the return of Agriculture Night, Saddle-Up Sunday and Circus Night.

Information on season ticket packages, box seating and individual game tickets for the 2024 season is forthcoming.

2024 will mark Pulaski's 58th season fielding teams in the Appalachian League. The Pulaski River Turtles enjoyed a successful 2021 campaign in the league's first season of collegiate wood-bat play, compiling a regular-season record of

32-22 and earning the East Division championship. The Greeneville Flyboys edged the River Turtles, 9-8, to earn the 2021 Appalachian League championship. The River Turtles followed up their maiden season with a solid second-place finish in the East Division in 2022. Pulaski has an overall record of 71-80 entering its fourth season of collegiate wood-bat play.

Calfee Park opened in 1935 and was renovated for the organization's first season under the ownership of the Shelor Motor Mile in 2015. The organization is celebrating its 57th season in the Appalachian League in 2023. Pulaski teams have a combined all-time record of 252-207 (248-199 regular season) in the Appalachian League, and boast five league championships: 1948, 1969, 1986, 1991 and 2013.

The Appalachian League announced that the 2024 season will feature an expanded postseason schedule. The league will add an additional playoff round to be played before the Championship Game for the first time since the Appy League's first season as a collegiate wood-bat league in 2021.

Under the new playoff format, the team with the best winning percentage in each division will host the team in its division with the second-best winning percentage. The winners will meet in Championship Game.

2024 River Turtles home dates include:

- June 7-9: Bluefield |
- July 2-3: Bristol
- June 18-19: Kingsport
- July 6-7: Burlington
- June 20-21: Greeneville
- July 11-12: Bristol
- June 25-26: Johnson City
- July 13-14: Tri-State
- June 29-30: Danville
- July 18-19: Elizabethton
- July 29-31: Tri-State

The Championship Game is rotated by division each year. In even-numbered years, the East Division hosts the game, while in odd-numbered years, the West Division hosts.

"After gathering feedback and listening to our fans, we are extremely excited about the expanded playoff format for the 2024 season," said Appalachian League Executive Director Brian Graham. "It's going to create even more competition to an already

super competitive league and generate the kind of fun and excitement our fans deserve."

The 2024 Appalachian League regular season starts with Opening Day on June 4 and concludes July 31. The newly created divisional round will be played Aug. 1 with the Championship being played two days later on Aug. 3.

Pulaski River Turtles and Appalachian League

Sports notes: Soccer camp at Radford University, High GPA

CB Soccer Academy will be holding a College I.D. Camp on Sunday, Jan. 28 at Radford University's Cupp Stadium. "This camp will be a great opportunity for all aspiring college players to experience a Division 1 training environment for the day," said head coach Chris Barrett. "Campers will be exposed to Division 1 level training sessions while being able to get a feel for our beautiful campus and first-class soccer facilities. Campers will also have ample time to interact with current Radford players to learn from their experiences as well." The camp is open to male soccer players ages 14 and above, and will have a \$150 registration fee.

RU Athletics tops GPA

The 298 student-athletes that make up Radford University Athletics earned an overall department grade point average (GPA) of 3.49 during the Fall 2023 semester to, once again, affirm the Highlanders' commitment to academic excellence. Fifteen of Radford's 16 athletics programs earned a 3.0 GPA or better, with 84% percent of all student-athletes earning a 3.0+ GPA as well. The Highlanders

also boasted 67% of all student-athletes earning a 3.4+ GPA and 25% reaching a perfect 4.0 GPA. "We are so proud of the work that our student-athletes put into their academics here at Radford," said Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Services [Allison McCoy](#). "The grades earned this fall continue to show a steadfast commitment to reaching the high bar we have set for ourselves in the classroom." The softball program, led by Head Coach [Alisa Tasler](#), led all programs with a combined 3.81 GPA. Eleven out of 23 softball student-athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA. Radford's tennis program led all men's teams with a 3.59 GPA while the men's golf team was just behind them with a 3.49 GPA of their own.

Big South Sasser Cup standings

The Big South Conference revealed a first look at the 2023-24 Sasser Cup standings on Wednesday, with the Radford Highlanders checking in at third overall, averaging 6.20 points. In the women's all-sports

standings Radford is currently in second place averaging 7.17 points thanks to high finishes by women's soccer (10.0), women's cross country (7.0). For the men's all-sports standings, Radford currently sits in fifth averaging 4.75 points led by men's cross country's (6.0) strong finish at the conference championships. Radford women's soccer became the departments' highest point-earner thanks to a second consecutive and ninth overall Big South Championship. The women's and men's cross country programs also had another great fall season to contribute to the Highlanders' standing. The women's cross country team placed third at the Big South Championship while the men's cross country team crossed the finish line in fourth. The Sasser Cup Trophy is named for former Big South Commissioner Buddy Sasser (1989-96) and is awarded to the Big South member institution with the most successful year athletically, based on an average points system. Points are awarded for both regular-season and tournament finishes in each of the League's 19 championships, and the average of the combined

total is used to determine the overall point allocation in the respective sport.

Highlanders honored

The United Soccer Coaches announced their Division I women's all-regional teams this week and two Highlanders were featured on the all-southeast region including [Alexeis Kirnos](#) and [Helena Willson](#). The duo are the first Highlanders to appear on the list since 2019 when Nelia Perez, Gabi Paupst and Kayla Thomas earned the honor. Kirnos, who was named to the second team all-southeast, appears on the list for the first time in her career. After an impressive conclusion to her Highlander career highlighted by her third Big South Tournament championship, the first Highlander to ever do so, Kirnos picks up one more award for her trophy case. The graduate was excellent once again for the Highlanders with four goals and six assists, both totals second-most on the squad. At the end of the season she was named to the Big South's first team

all-conference. The Woodbridge native finishes her career with 17 goals, 21 assists and seven game-winners in 74 career starts. Willson, who was named to the third team all-southeast, appears on the list for the first time in her career. The senior campaign was more of the same for Willson, excellence. At the beginning of the season she was named the preseason Defensive Player of the Year for the Big South and lived fully up to those expectations by winning the end-of-the-year award by the same name.

She led the Highlanders' defensive back line starting in all 20 matches totaling 1,741 minutes finishing the year with three goals and an assist. Willson played the full 90 minutes in 17 of 20 games helping the Highlanders' defense total seven shutouts and held the top-seeded Clemson scoreless for 55 minutes in the NCAA Tournament First Round. A total of 33 players were named to this year's All-Southeast regional teams featuring some of the greatest players currently playing in collegiate soccer.

Staff report

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Big South tournament tickets now available

Tickets for the 2024 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships March 6-10 at the Qubein Center on the campus of High Point University are now on sale through HPU's ticket office as well as online at www.BigSouthSports.com/Tickets.

Full ticket booklets covering all 16 games over nine sessions feature courtside seating (\$650) and reserved seating (\$160).

Separate men's and women's booklets for the respective eight games and five sessions will cost \$350 (courtside) and \$80 (reserved). The men's and women's champion receives the Big South's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Starting Feb. 5, single-session tickets and group tickets will begin, and feature courtside seats for \$75, reserved seats for \$20, and groups of 15+ for \$15. Student tickets will cost \$5 and will be available day of game only with a valid ID from a Big South member institution.

A single-session will be comprised of two games, while the March 10 Championship games will be individual sessions. For more information on the 2024 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships, including printable brackets, US Army ROTC Education Day, and much more, visit www.BigSouthSports.com/HoopsChamps24.

Big South Conference



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER



Wrestlers compete in Bobcat Brawl

Above, Radford's Taven Williams turns his opponent's back toward the mat and went on to win with a pin in the 157-pound class. Lord Botetourt claimed the team competition in Wednesday's event with host-Radford in second. Left, senior 190-pounder Dawson Martin tilts his foe from Lord Botetourt and later won by pin for the Bobcats. Below, In the 215-pound weight class, senior Charlie Davis held his opponent down for near-fall points and went on to pin his opponent.



Wednesday, March 6 (First Round - two games/one session)
6 p.m. - Women's No. 8 seed vs. No. 9 seed
8 p.m. - Men's No. 8 seed vs. No. 9 seed
Thursday, March 7 (Women's Quarterfinals - four games/two sessions)
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - US Army ROTC Big South High School Education Day
11:30 a.m. - No. 1 seed vs. 8/9 Winner
2 p.m. - No. 4 seed vs. No. 5 seed
6 p.m. - No. 2 seed vs. No. 7 seed
8 p.m. - No. 3 seed vs. No. 6 seed
Friday, March 8 (Men's Quarterfinals - four games/two sessions)
12 p.m. - No. 1 seed vs. 8/9 Winner
2 p.m. - No. 4 seed vs. No. 5 seed
6 p.m. - No. 2 seed vs. No. 7 seed
8 p.m. - No. 3 seed vs. No. 6 seed
Saturday, March 9 (Semifinals - four games/two sessions)
12 p.m. - Men's Semifinal Game 1
2 p.m. - Men's Semifinal Game 2
6 p.m. - Women's Semifinal Game 1
8 p.m. - Women's Semifinal Game 2
Sunday, March 10 (Finals - two games/two sessions)
12 p.m. - Men's Championship Game
6 p.m. - Women's Championship Game

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

H	A	E	T	S	A	S	S						
C	A	N	N	O	T	R	O	G	U	E	S		
O	Z	U	R	I	A	M	A	D	E	I	R	A	
P	A	L	M	S	S	U	N	D	A	Y	C	U	L
T	R	E	E	O	A	R	S	I	M	P			
D	K	R		D	I	E	T	A	D	S			
S	A	S	H	E	S	S	A	F	E				
T	A	I	S	S	O	O	T						
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C	H	A	D					M	E	A	D		

Send community news and photos to community news @ourvalley.org

Outdoor Report: Tom's Creek stocking; CWD found

The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has announced that the stocked trout section of Tom's Creek in Montgomery County will now be designated as a "no fall stocking" trout water. As a result of this change, Tom's Creek will not be stocked until January each year and will receive a total of four stockings between Jan. 1 and May 15.

According to the VDWR, The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has recently confirmed the presence of chronic

wasting disease (CWD) in an adult male deer legally harvested near Dugspur, in Carroll County. This marks the first confirmed case of CWD in Carroll County, although the county is already included in Disease Management Area 3 (DMA3) due to previous detections in neighboring counties.

The deer in question was brought to a taxidermist in October 2023, and DWR obtained the sample shortly thereafter as part of the Department's proactive CWD surveillance efforts. After

confirmatory testing at a separate lab and verification of the exact location of harvest, DWR has arranged for additional sample collection from the general area. No regulatory changes will be implemented until the conclusion of the 2023-2024 deer hunting season.

As a reminder, whole carcasses and high-risk tissues from deer harvested in Carroll County may not be transported outside of DMA3 boundaries. Hunters in Carroll County can choose to

have their deer tested for CWD at no cost by bringing the head to a CWD drop site or a participating meat processor in DMA3. Refrigerator locations and participating processors can be found through the new interactive testing map or in this DMA3 drop site list.

For additional information about hunting in DMA3, please visit: [What You Need To Know About Hunting in Disease Management Area 3](#).

CWD has been confirmed in at least 32 U.S. states, three Canadian provinces, northern Europe, and South Korea. In North America, this incurable disease is found in deer, elk, and moose. It is a slow-acting and progressive neurologic disease that ultimately results in the death of the animal. The disease-causing agent, known as a prion, is spread through the urine, feces, and saliva of infected animals. Infected animals may not exhibit any symptoms of CWD for 16 months to two years after exposure. Clinical signs of CWD may include staggering, abnormal posture, lowered head, drooling,

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

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