



News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, January 13, 2024

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Town council elects new vice mayor

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Christiansburg Town Council welcomed Kim Bowman as a newly elected council member, Tiffany Couch as Clerk of Courts, and recognized reappointments to the town government and the selection of Tanya Hockett as Vice Mayor, at its Jan. 9 meeting.

Couch conducted the swearing in of Council members Samuel Bishop and Johana Hicks, who were accompanied by family and friends. Council member Kim Bowman took the oath in Dec. 2023, according to the Town Mayor Michael Barber.

Randy Wingfield was reappointed as Town Manager by the Christiansburg Town Council during Tuesday's regular meeting. Other reappointments during the meeting are listed on the agenda at www.christiansburg.org.

Henry Showalter was also recognized for his years of service to the Christiansburg Town Council serving from Sept. 1, 2008 to December 31, 2023, as well as many other areas of service in the community and in the United States Army Reserves.

During the public hearing session of the meeting, two conditional use permits (CUPs), and one street vacation were presented to the council and citizens.

The first CUP request
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PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Pat Huber, seen here at a previous graduation ceremony, has announced her plan to retire as NRCC's president in Dec. 2024.

NRCC president announces she'll retire at end of 2024

New River Community College president Dr. Pat Huber has announced plans to retire, effective at the end of Dec. 2024.

Huber assumed the role of president in July 2017 and upon retirement, will have served more than 35 years at NRCC.

She first joined the college faculty in 1988 as a part-time English instructor, teaching night classes.

Later roles included positions as a division dean and academic vice president.

Accomplishments during her tenure, which Huber described as "our" rather

than "my," have included offering high quality academic and workforce development programs, providing a nurturing environment for student growth and success, growing the ACCE program and strengthening fundraising, enjoying strong partnerships throughout the New River Valley and beyond, upgrading program equipment and facilities, and, most recently, seeing a rebound in enrollment.

Plans for selection of Huber's successor will be announced at a later date.

New River Community College

County board elects leaders for new year

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - The first Montgomery County Board of Supervisors' meeting of the new year, held Jan. 8, had a primary agenda item to reorganize the structure of the board.

This is following the recent election that resulted in two new members to the board: Derek Kitts for District B and Anthony Grafsky for District E.

April DeMotts made the first nomination of Mary Biggs for the position of Chair of Supervisors with Sara Bohn seconding the motion. Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski motioned to close the nominations, which was followed by a unanimous agreement of the supervisors.

Biggs has a long history of service with Montgomery County. She was first elected as representative for District F in 1996 and has served as chair in 2000, 2001, and 2002. Biggs also served as vice chair 2006, 2007, 2014, 2015, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

"I want to thank the Board for this opportunity, and I look at it as we're a team and we're here for the citizens and we're going to do what we do best, and that's work together and really help our county," Biggs said.

Steve Fijalkowski received the first nomination to the position of Vice



Biggs



Fijalkowski

Chair for the Board from Supervisor Todd King. Bohn seconded the motion along with motioning to close the nominations. The nomination received a unanimous vote to name Fijalkowski as the new vice chair.

According to the Montgomery County website, Fijalkowski was first elected to the Board of Supervisors for District C in 2018 and served as Chair in 2020 and 2021.

In another agenda item for the new year, Supervisors unanimously voted to

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Watson, Sutphin take new positions

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Re-elected council members Jerry Ford and Michael Sutphin and newly elected member Liam Watson took the oath of office at the beginning of the Jan. 9, 2024 Blacksburg Town Council meeting, with Michael Sutphin receiving unanimous approval for the position of vice mayor.

Susan Anderson has served as vice mayor for the past year.

"We have a real advantage with Susan Anderson because she's both a parliamentarian and a copy editor and the vice mayor," Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith said.

Susan Anderson moved to elect Michael Sutphin as the 2024 vice mayor, with Ford seconding the motion. Sutphin was unanimously elected to the role.

Among consent agenda items unanimously approved by Council, Ordinance 2038 to amend Town Code sections 14-



Blacksburg Municipal Building

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG PHOTO

200, 14-201, and 14-202, would establish a civil penalty for certain trash violations. The ordinance was introduced during the meeting and a public hearing has been scheduled for Feb. 13, 2024.

Additionally, Ordinance 2040 was introduced and will also be heard on Feb. 13 to amend Town Code section 17-315, prohibiting overcrowding in buildings.

Capital improvement programs recommended for FY 2024/2025 through

2028/2029 were presented to the council by Town Manager, Marc Verniel. The five-year plan identifies future capital projects, equipment purchases, and large operating expenditures as well as the impact on the Town's budget.

"The bulk of the projects are in the General Fund and then in the Transit Fund," Verniel said. "The bulk of the transit projects are in bus purchases to keep that system up and running."

See **Blacksburg**, page 2

Christiansburg PD issues on-line scam warning

CHRISTIANSBURG - Recently, The Christiansburg Police Department has received several reports of people being victimized by on-line scams resulting from pop-up windows that appear on personal computers.

The victim will get a pop-up window that appears to be from Microsoft and warns that their computer has been hacked and that they need to call the number in the window. When they call that number, the scammer pretends to be a Microsoft agent and tells the victim that their computer has been hacked and that their bank account information has been compromised.

The scammer then asks what banking institution the caller banks with. When they have this information, they tell the caller that they (the scammer) will contact their bank and advise them of the "hack" and that the bank will contact the victim directly with instructions on how to secure their account. A short time later the victim receives a call from "the bank", but it is actually a second scammer. This person tells the victim that their account has been compromised and that they need to immediately withdraw all the money they have in the bank and deposit it into a Bitcoin account at the nearest Bitcoin machine so their funds will be "se-

cure" while the bank tracks the security breach. Unfortunately, this Bitcoin account belongs to the scammer and once the money is deposited, it is transferred out to the scammer. At that point, the money is gone and is neither traceable nor recoverable.

Some variations of this scam include having the victim buy gift cards and providing the numbers to the "bank representative", or to transfer the money to a secure account using Venmo, Cash App, etc. Any time someone who claims to be working for a business, bank, or the government asks you to buy Bitcoin, purchase gift cards and provide the card numbers, or otherwise transfer money digitally, you should immediately suspect it is a scam. The scammer will often grow terse or angry if you question them. They may even curse or threaten you with arrest. Do not be intimidated by this. Simply hang up and contact your bank, or the institution they claim to represent, at a number you research and locate yourself. Do not use the number they provide as they usually work in teams and someone else who is also involved in the scam will answer and continue the charade.

The source of an initial breach into the victim's personal computer is gener-

See **Scam**, page 4



UPCOMING EVENTS

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>.

Sadie’s Diaries: a local history program

At the Christiansburg Library; 3- 4 p.m. Join local historian and transcriber, Kathy Calvert, as she introduces us to Sarah Eliza VanPelt Summers through her own words. This autobiographical collection recorded her daily life in Snowville, Christiansburg, and other parts of the New River Valley in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Copies of the book will be for sale for \$20, cash only.

Tuesday, Jan. 16:

Coffee Club for Adults (age 50+)

At the Radford Public Library; 10 – 11 a.m. Make new friends and reminisce with coffee and snacks from Arabica Cafe!

Thursday, Jan. 18:

City scenes, urban landscapes photo club topic

Adi Ben-Senior will present the program on photographing city scenes and urban landscapes at the Radford Photo Club meeting at 6 p.m. at the Radford

Public Library. The presentation is a follow-up of an earlier meeting on the same topic led by Michele Borgarelli. The two professional photographers have somewhat different styles and equipment preferences.

Attendees should feel free to bring a cityscape or urban landscape photo if they wish feedback and bring two photos to the February meeting to receive further critique. The photo challenge for January is black and white outdoor photography. There is also an open challenge. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com or Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com.

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly’s Italian Family Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Monday, Jan. 22:

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. 23:

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.

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.

Now through Feb. 2:

Radford Tree Collection

Christmas Tree collection has begun and will run until Feb. 2. Simply place your tree curbside and Radford Public Works will collect it.

2024 Quality Hay Production Workshop set for Feb. 3

BLACKSBURG - On Saturday, Feb. 3, Virginia Cooperative Extension will host their Quality Hay Production Workshop at the William M. Etgen Large Animal Learning Center in Blacksburg, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This program will provide livestock producers with valuable information from Dr. Kathryn Payne, Applied Forage Systems Specialist at the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Dr. John Curin, Clinical Associate Professor from the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine. Topics for the program include: Hay sampling; Understanding forage analysis reports; Harvest timing and effects on hay nutritional value; Economics of quality hay; Applying results to livestock performance: weight gain, breeding, input costs vs. nutrient values, herd health and more.

Participants will be treated to lunch along with printed educational materials. Participants will also be offered at least one free hay test per operation (dependent on participation and funds) to encourage future forage sampling and increase awareness of hay quality on their operations.

Registration is \$15 and includes lunch. To register: Contact Meredith Hoggatt, 540-382-5790, mhoggatt@vt.edu. Mail payments to: Montgomery Co. Extension Office, Attn: Meredith Hoggatt, 755 Roanoke St, STE 1G, Christiansburg, VA 24073. Checks payable to: “Treasurer-Virginia Tech.”

Virginia Cooperative Extension



PHOTO COURTESY DOWNTOWN BLACKSBURG INC.

Steppin’ Out brings thousands of people to downtown Blacksburg each summer. The annual tee-shirt design contest is now underway.

Annual tee shirt design contest is on

Celebrate 43 years of Steppin’ Out in style

BLACKSBURG - Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. is sponsoring a design competition for the Steppin’ Out 2024 commemorative t-shirt.

In addition to a \$500 prize, the artist will be profiled in event news articles, and their design will be featured on promotional posters, in advertising, and worn by fans of

Steppin’ Out all over the world.

Steppin’ Out is a summer festival sponsored by Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. held on the first weekend in August of each year. August 2 and 3, 2024 will mark the 43rd annual celebration. The activities include live music, arts and crafts booths, merchant booths, children’s art and craft ac-

tivities, displays by local nonprofit groups, the Draper Mile running race, and food for purchase from local vendors and restaurants.

The information about the contest can be found at www.blacksburgsteppinout.com. Deadline for concept sketches is Jan. 31, 2024.

Downtown Blacksburg, Inc.

Blacksburg

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Among the significant projects included in the five-year program, the design and construction of Progress Street parking garage, Draper Road Streetscape improvements, South Point Community Park, a downtown restroom facility, the Downtown Façade Program, Brush Mountain Trail System, and the capital reserve were listed in the presentation by Verniel.

Transportation projects listed Prices Fork Road-

460 Bypass Interchange, Turner Street to North Main Street Corridor Safety modifications, Clay Street sidewalk and roadway improvements, North Main Street at Givens Lane, and some bicycling right-of-way improvements as part of those planned.

Additional projects can be read in full by visiting the Town’s website at www.blacksburg.gov. Council will review the Capital Improvement plan, after considering

public’s comment from the Jan. 9 meeting, and will vote on the plan at the Jan. 23 regular Council meeting.

Liam Watson brought forth one citizen’s concern previously addressed with the town office about the downtown restroom and why it is not being constructed sooner.

Verniel said the project will be in conjunction with the Streetscape project, which will take some time to plan and complete.

Board

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keep the Board meeting on the same dates and time as it currently is designated. The Board of Supervisors currently meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, beginning at 7:15 p.m., and holds any closed meeting sessions prior to the regular meeting unless otherwise specified by the County Administrator.

Bohn made a motion to amend a rule in the Roles of Order and Parliamentary Procedures. The amendment would have increased the public address time from its current four minutes to five minutes.

According to Biggs, in the past, the public address had previously been five minutes and was reduced to four minutes in recent years. The motion did not receive a second; therefore, the public address time will remain at four minutes.

The Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct was presented to the Board, receiving another unanimous vote in agreement.

In New Business, the Board of Supervisors made many appointments to various Boards and Commissions within the New River Valley. A full list of appointments can be found at the County’s website at www.montva.com.

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Charles Chade of Blacksburg said, “I have been very impressed since moving to Blacksburg a couple of years ago with the quality of the capital improvement plan. I’ve lived a lot of places and this is in the top percentile.”

Chade added he hopes to see the bathroom facility moved forward with its construction.

“The sooner you can put a restroom in the better the community will be,” Chade said.

Pint-sized puppy does full-court press on heart research

BLACKSBURG - He may not shoot hoops like the players his Virginia Tech women's basketball coach namesake guides, but this Kenny Brooks, a five-month-old cavalier King Charles spaniel whose name the family shortens to Brooks, is dribbling his way into the hearts of researchers.

Kenny Brooks, a cavalier King Charles spaniel, shows off his game face on the court at Cassell Coliseum. As a key player in a cardiology study at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, this charming puppy is helping to unravel the mysteries of heart disease in his breed.

Owned by Dave '83 and Betsy Kohnke and their two daughters, Katie '23 and current Virginia Tech student Elise, Brooks plays a crucial role in advancing veterinary science. Betsy Kohnke said, "It's important that we contribute to research. We may not find out anything from this study, but we also might find out a lot."

This dedication is seen in their regular six-hour round trips from Richmond for echocardiograms, examining his heart for any indicators of abnormalities.

The Kohnke's previous cavalier, Frank Beamer, inspired their love for the breed and was the catalyst for their involvement in this study.

The names of both spaniels also reflect the family's enthusiasm for all things Hokie.

"The only way I could



ANDREW MANN PHOTOS FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Top, (from left) Katie, Dave, Betsy with Kenny Brooks, and Elise Kohnke. Below, the cavalier King Charles spaniel, shows his game face.

bring a cavalier into a Hokie house was to name him after a VT coach," Betsy Kohnke said.

"Katie is a fanatic basketball fan and she got us into watching the women's basketball team," she said. "And we were like, Brooks, that's a great name."

The choice of name reflects not just their love for the sport but also their admiration for the character and sportsmanship of coach Brooks, who led the Hokies to their first Final Four appearance last season.

"I wouldn't have named my dog after him if I



didn't believe he was a nice man."

Cavalier King Charles spaniels, like Brooks, are predisposed to heart conditions, particularly myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD). This

disease, characterized by the improper closure of the heart's left valve, typically affects older dogs, many of whom never develop symptoms.

However, in breeds like the cavalier King Charles

spaniel, MMVD can manifest earlier and more aggressively, potentially leading to congestive heart failure and premature death.

Mindy Quigley, clinical research coordinator, likens the heart's blood-pumping action to a room of people: "The room fills up, then the door opens, and every single person should leave. The door should close completely before a new group of people comes in. If anybody can sneak back in the door, that's when problems happen."

Researchers have ob-

served that adult cavaliers, even those yet to develop the disease, exhibit distinct differences in the shape of their mitral valves when compared to adult dogs of other breeds.

"Naturally, our question then was: Are cavaliers born with a valve that is differently shaped?" Mecciotti said. "Or do they develop these different shapes as they grow? And how does that predispose them to develop the disease compared to other breeds?"

Andrew Mann for Virginia Tech



Marketplace



Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Radford will hold a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting of Council on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm, in the City Council Chambers located in the City Administration Building, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia to receive citizen comment and input regarding the Radford Transit application for FTA F.Y.25 Operating Funds, in the amount not to exceed \$2,550,000 and Capital not to exceed \$175,000. Interested persons may appear at the aforementioned time and place to present their views and comments. Comments may also be sent to Melissa Skelton, Transit Coordinator at 10 Robertson Street, Radford VA 24141 or Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov.

Authorized by Radford City Council

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)

Legals - Montgomery County

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 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,

Legals - Montgomery County

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.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTION INFORMATION

March 5, 2024 Dual Presidential Primary

Registration Deadline: Monday, February 12, 2024

In-Person Early Voting at the MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
1546 North Franklin Street, Christiansburg, VA.
January 19 - March 1, 2024 from 8:30am - 5pm

The office will be closed for the holiday on February 19, 2024.

In addition, we will be open from 9am to 5pm Saturday, February 24, 2024 and Saturday, March 2, 2024

Note: The last day qualified voters can apply for an absentee ballot by mail: Friday, February 23, 2024 by 5:00 PM

A Ballot Drop Box will be available inside the Montgomery County Office

Legals - Montgomery County

of Elections from January 19, 2024 - March 4, 2024, during normal business hours.

The Constitution of Virginia requires that in order to be qualified to vote in the General & Primary Election you must be a citizen of the United States, be eighteen years of age on or before the next General Election, have domicile and a place of abode in Montgomery County and that you be registered in the precinct in which you reside.

An acceptable ID will be required when you vote. A voter may show either voter registration confirmation documents, valid Virginia Driver's License, valid United States Passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid employer identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

Contact the Montgomery County Office of Elections if you have any questions at 540-382-5741 or the Department of Elections at elections.virginia.gov.
Connie Viar
Director of Elections/General Registrar

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on JANUARY 22, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor'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

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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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Classified Advertising DELIVERS

Deadly home fires across U.S. underscore increased risks during winter months

In response to the deadly home fires that have occurred in the past week, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is reminding the public about the increased risk of home fires during the winter months, along with simple but critical ways to prevent them and stay safe.

According to NFPA, heating equipment is the leading cause of U.S. home fires between December and January, while cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires year-round. The third-leading cause of home fires is electrical equipment, with three in 10 electrical fires occurring between November and February. NFPA offers the following guidelines and recommendations to reduce the risk of home fires during the winter months:

Heating safety:
Make sure all heating equipment is in good working order. Heating systems and chimneys should be cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from all heating equipment, including furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters.

Always use the right kind of fuel, as specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.

Make sure space heaters are in good working order and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep.

Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a

small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

Electrical safety:
Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffeemaker, toaster, space heater, etc.) plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.

Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets.

Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers; a tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance; a discolored or warm wall outlet; a burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance; flickering or dimming lights; or sparks from an outlet.

Cooking safety:
Keep a close eye on what you're cooking; never leave cooking food unattended.

Clear the cooking area of combustible items, keeping anything that can burn.

Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

Create a "kid and pet free zone" of at least three feet around the cooking area.

Smoke alarms must be installed in all required locations and working properly.

National Fire Protection Association

Council

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was for Trustees of Blacksburg Church of Christ Missions & Cole Burch Properties, LLC, and Carter Machinery Company, Inc.

According to the agenda listed on the town's website, the applicant has requested to "allow for machinery and equipment sales, service and storage, and for a contractors equipment storage yard, and for rental of equipment commonly used by contractors, on approximately 5.81 acres located south of Roanoke Street and west of Simmons Road, S.E."

Max Wiegard, Attorney with Miles and Stockbridge Law Firm, spoke as representative for the applicant.

"We were before council in November, and at that time I told you that this was a two-step process, and the first step was our application to vacate the Alma Street right-of-way, which was I think many decades ago or several decades ago intended to connect what is the area where the VDOT park and ride is located now to Simmons," Wiegard said. "You all approved that request at that time and here we are in January with the second step in this development process and that is to request a conditional use permit authorizing Carter Machinery to operate a machinery and equipment rental business."

The facility will be primarily utilized for renting Caterpillar equipment to mostly contractors, according to Wiegard.

Hicks brought attention to Wiegard that there are some concerns from citizens that the proposed facility will produce increased noise to the surrounding community.

"We understand the concerns about noise, we understand the concerns about traffic," Wiegard said. "We think those are legitimate concerns and concerns to be voiced and it's why we've proposed and worked through with the Planning Commission a series of conditions . . . including limitations on use of the exit on to Simmons as well as the hours of operation limitations. However, there is a fine line between agreeing and accommodating which we're trying to do and subsequently limiting the use of the property in a way that affects operations in a material way."

James Craig of Christiansburg addressed the council on the CUP request.

"One of the things that I found kind of confusing about this whole process is, and I've been to the two meetings with

the Planning Commission, is much like today, they say well we want to operate at 7 [a.m.], even though what they had the Planning Commission approve was 7:30," Craig said.

Additionally, Craig said that the comparable facility being used in this process by Wiegard, located in Del Mar, Maryland, is much smaller than the proposed Christiansburg facility. Overall, Craig said that the noise and the traffic are his biggest concerns.

A second CUP request by HS Development II LLC & STMOB LLC was presented that would "allow for a planned housing development consisting of 114-unit apartment community on approximately 7.497 acres located at the terminus of Sunset Drive, N.E. zoned B-3 General Business," according to the agenda on Christiansburg's website.

The additional street vacation request is associated to the CUP by HS Development II LLC and is a request to "vacate a 0.151-acre portion of the existing public street and right-of-way at the southern terminus of Sunset Drive, N.E.," as stated by the agenda.

Steve Semones of Balzer and Associates, 80 College Street, Christiansburg, addressed council regarding the CUP request and answered questions from council members and Mayor Michael Barber.

Barber asked if fire response has been considered in the proposed apartment dwellings. Semones responded that fire hydrants have been placed in consideration to proximity to the apartment complex as well as fire hose lays to the furthest point of the facility.

It is not clear at this time if the rental apartments will be considered affordable housing, but Semones said that they have been in contact with VHDA. This is a possibility but is not guaranteed currently.

A town council public hearing has been set for Feb. 27, 2024, for a CUP request by Rockstep Christiansburg, LLC, to allow a carnival from April 28 through May 12, 2024 at 782 New River Road, N.W.

In budget amendments, Council members Kim Bowman, Johana Hicks, Tanya Hockett, and Casey Jenkins voted no to increasing the council's salaries. Funds were approved for the Children's Wonder Universe in a split vote. Funds were not approved for the Montgomery Museum.

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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Scam

from page 1

ally unknown. It could be malware associated with a website the person has visited. It could also result from a phishing attack where the person receives an email from an unverified source and clicks a link or attachment in the message. Remember, it is always better to use your browser to go directly to a store or business website than it is to click a link in an unsolicited email.

To reiterate, many of the scams involve overseas actors and once the money is sent, be it by Bitcoin deposit,

digital transfer or gift card number, law enforcement cannot recover that money. We urge you, please do not send money in these circumstances. Your bank will not tell you to purchase Bitcoin, and local law enforcement agencies are not going to ask you pay fines with gift cards to avoid arrest.

If you find yourself in these circumstances, please contact the police department before sending any money.

Town of Christiansburg

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Plays
7. Hymn
13. Larval frog
14. A member of the British order
16. Stomach muscle
17. Helper
19. East of NYC
20. Influential Norwegian playwright
22. School for healing
23. Of the cheekbone
25. Disco rockers The Bee _____
26. Gorged
28. Khoikhoi people
29. Payroll firm
30. A hiding place
31. Georgia rockers
33. Spanish soldier El _____
34. Deerlike water buffalo
36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period

CLUES DOWN

1. Pressed against lightly
2. Rural delivery
3. Semicircular recesses
4. Groan
5. Donation
6. Mariner
7. One who accepts
8. _____ King Cole, musician
9. Streetcar
10. Silk fabric
11. _____ route
12. Used to make plastics
13. Swampy coniferous forest
15. Angry speeches
18. A way to soak
21. One who divides
24. Deeply cuts
26. A very large body of water
27. "Raisin in the Sun" actress Ruby
30. Medicated

CLUES ACROSS

32. Single unit
35. Parasitic insect's egg
37. House pet
38. African nation
39. Saddle horses
42. Press lightly
43. One of 12 sons of Jacob
46. Cause to suffer
47. Hang 'em up
49. Breakfast dish
50. Wrongful acts
52. NASCAR driver
54. Indian dish
55. Type of giraffe
57. Selling at specially reduced prices
59. Czech city
62. "Orange is the New Black" character
66. Records electric currents
68. Chronic, progressive disease (abbr.)

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OBITUARY

Smith, James Michael

James Michael Smith, 73, of Blacksburg, died Jan. 5, 2024. He was born in York, Penn. April 29, 1950 to the late Joseph Bruce and Geraldine Elizabeth Smith.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years Linda Mae Smith; daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and David Prevette of Blacksburg; son and daughter-in-law Michael and Vanessa Smith of Winston Salem, N.C.; brothers and sisters-in-law Tim and Robin Smith, Jack and Carol Smith, and Tom and Mylicah Smith; grandchildren Isabella, Luke, Grant, Jack, Olivia, and Levi; and many nieces and nephews.

Jim was a big personality and



lived life to the fullest. His presence filled a room. He loved Jesus, his family, and his church. Always generous, he loved entertaining, he enjoyed playing the piano and was lovingly referred to as "Jimmy the Jokester" by his grandchildren. He

was an avid sports fan and loved his Orioles, Ravens, and Hokies.

We find comfort and peace knowing he is fully restored and healed in his eternal home in heaven.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2101 Shadow Lake Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to GCPC Mercy Fund. Checks can be sent to the church at the address above. Please include the following in the memo line: "Mercy Fund in honor of Jim Smith."

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news and
photos to
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@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.sttfc.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 Sonafrank, 1-336-583-4822. Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street Radford.

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Generations to Come

Read Exodus 10:1 through 12:51

Floyd looked forward to the times his grandchildren visited. They reminded him of his youth with their energy and vitality. Floyd loved telling them the stories of his childhood, especially when he told them of how he came to Christ.

God also gave Israel an important story to pass on.

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance" (Exodus 12:14).

Several times in today's reading God told the nation of Israel to share the events of the Passover with the generations that followed. Even today, people cele-

brate the Passover every year, and this reminds Israel's descendants that God delivered His people from bondage.

We too should learn from their example and pass on our experience of God's goodness to our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and any others in our spheres of influence. God wants everyone we know to come to the saving knowledge of Christ and will gladly use our testimony to point them to that relationship with Him.

Thought for Today: God wants us to testify of our experiences as Christians to those who come after us.

Quicklook: Exodus 12:11-16

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@stmlc.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

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

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

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

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00a.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

WESLEYAN

Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org

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news and photos to
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OBITUARIES

Earls, Michael Andrew

Michael Andrew Earls, 74, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Franklin and Emma Brown Earls.

Survivors include his sons, Michael Keck of Arizona and Jason Baker of Ohio; grandsons, Jerry Kelly (Jessica) and Dominic Grinstead of Arkansas; great grandson, Ziven Wayne Kelly of Arkansas; brother and sister-in-law John Earls (Jenefer); sister and brother-in-law Nancy Robinson



(Gary); and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 15, 2024, 4 - 6 p.m. at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services with full military honors will begin at 6 p.m.

A memorial service will also be held in Akron, Ohio, at a later date.

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

Jarels, Walter Edward

Walter Edward Jarels, 89, of Blacksburg, died Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024.

He was born in Montgomery County on May 14, 1934 to the late Henry Lee and Clydia Thompson Jarels. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Frances Smith Jarels; his son, Marvin Edwards Jarels; brothers, Paul, Herman, Eugene, George, Leslie, and Marshall Jarels; and a sister, Lucille Vaught.

He was a longtime member of Sunny-side Pentecostal Holiness Church.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Louise and Jimmy Mattox, Joyce and Mike Randall, and Enola and Donald Hixon; daughter-in-law, Nadean



Jarels; grandchildren, Melissa, Kayla, Jameson, William, Melanie, Adam, Andrea, Walter, Amanda, Chris, and Kevin; 14 great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Bruce and Joyce Jarels; and sister, Kathy Hodge.

Funeral Services were conducted Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Minister Don Leonard and Pastor Gary Dunford officiating.

Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

The family received friends prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

Ford, Rebecca Emma Keys

Rebecca Emma Keys Ford, 94, of Christiansburg, passed away Jan. 6, 2024. She was born in Akron, Ohio July 5, 1929 to the late Johnson and Gracie Webb Keys.

She was a member of First Baptist Church, Blacksburg as well as Greater Mount Zion Holy Church in Christiansburg. She was also a member of the Baptist Missionary Organization, president of the garden club, multiple women's auxiliary clubs and a faithful attendant of her bible study group. She graduated from the Christiansburg Institute and was often referred to by her two nicknames, "The Silver Fox" and "Buzz".

She is survived by her sisters, Barbara Burton (Dr. Edward) of Roanoke and Estelle Hairston of Roanoke; children, Elizabeth Matthews of Tampa, Fla., Nancy Taliferro of Kissimmee, Fla. and Henry Ford, III (Nancy) of Peterstown, W.Va.; adopted children, Steve Jamison (Linda) of Columbia, S.C., Portia Morris (Paul) of Oakboro, N.C., Sylvia Bishop (Dr. Nathaniel) of Christiansburg, Terry Bradley of Fort Bragg, N.C., Mary Clare Chillis (Charles) of Christiansburg and Dottie Long (Amanda) of Virginia Beach; granddaughter, Nish



Jamison of Orlando, Fla.; grandsons, Byrant Woodson (Trudy) of Ocala, Fla., Miguel Navedo of Williamsburg, Maurice Carter (Amanda) of Austin, Texas and Michael Rule (Annie) of Peterstown, W.Va.; and great-grandchildren, Olivia Perry (Monty), Victoria

Revely, Rayshawn Navedo, Eden Woodson, Jeremy Rule, Garry Navedo, Reese Cavanaugh, Kamden Carter, and Alicia Navedo.

Also left to cherish her memory are her special friends, Ms. Louise Harvey, Mr., and Mrs. Johnny Nowlin, Mrs. Tiny Morris, Mrs. Mary Reynolds, Ms. Betty Day, Eulalia Mills, and Pauline Palmer.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Bishop Anthony Tucker officiating. Interment will follow at Southview Memorial Gardens, Blacksburg. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Greater Mount Zion Holy Church (385 Depot St NE, Christiansburg, VA 24073) or to a charity of your choice.

Lucas, Joe Morris

Joe Morris Lucas, 82, of Blacksburg, went to be with his wife and Heavenly Father Jan. 8, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Joe was born Dec. 24, 1941 to the late Harry Chapman and Ashley Armstrong Lucas, in Giles Co Virginia.

He graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1960 where he was an all-around athlete. After high school, Joe attended VPI &SU where he focused his studies on agriculture. Joe worked at Electro Tech for a few years until he was hired at the Virginia Tech Police Department. He worked through the ranks and retired as sergeant with 25 years of service. The police department was not just a profession but where he built his second family. His coworkers meant the world to him, and he looked forward to their annual reunion. Joe was a member of Price's Fork Community Church and Hunters Masonic Lodge #156.

Joe married the love of his life Wanda Wingate Lucas and they spent 58 wonderful years together. They raised three loving children, David Lucas (Pam); Timmy Lucas (Katie Reuss) and Amy Williams (Keith), all of Blacksburg. If you knew Joe, you knew that his greatest blessings were his grandchildren though, Joe Morris Lucas II, Matthew Lucas, Madelyn Williams and Tanner Williams are left to honor the man they knew as Paw Paw. Also left to cherish is memory are his siblings, Eugene Lucas, Galveston, Texas; Norma Hill, Blacksburg; Peggy Nickels (Henry) Tazewell; and Harriet Albert (Jerry) Blacksburg; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Joe's biggest accomplishments in life revolved around farming. Starting from the bottom, with just a few head of cattle, to growing Lucas Farm, known throughout the state of VA for his purebred Angus cattle. Joe was a member of the American Angus Association and the



VA BCIA. He received numerous awards throughout the years for outstanding performance of his Angus bulls. The farm is where Joe mentored many boys on how to love the land and how to become men. The lessons were not always easy, nor politically correct, but the outcomes were always the same. Even up to his passing, Joe considered each of these boys as his own.

Joe always ensured that his children and grandchildren knew the importance of helping others, a sense of duty and a hard work ethic. This is evidenced by the numerous friends and accomplishments that he made throughout his life.

The family would like to extend their deepest thank you to many people. Dr. Billy Cox, Dr. Jason Fowlkes, Dr. Feras Ghosheh, and Dr. John Patterson, for always seeing the fight and never giving up on the man with nine lives. You are more than just MDs, you have become family. The ICU and ED nurses at LewisGale Montgomery especially Ashley French, Brenda Puckett, Aaron Wiley, and Bridget Wade for their love and compassionate care that he received in his final days. Amy Woods and Lauren Dudley for ensuring that every single need was met. Cinda McCoy for being the best care giver, neighbor and adopted daughter he could ask for. Doug and Gail Williams for the countless "chores" that he asked of them.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday Jan. 13, 2024 at 11 a.m. at McCoy Funeral Home with Michael Hill and Robert Hill Jr officiating. Interment will follow in the Roselawn Memorial Garden. The family will receive friends Friday, Jan. 12, 2024 from 4-7 p.m., also at McCoy Funeral Home. If you would like to honor Joe, the family requests that donations be made to Price's Fork Community Church, 906 Mason Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Hart, Frances Marsha

Frances "Fran" Marsha Hart, 68, of Christiansburg, passed away Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024.

Fran was born in Christiansburg Aug. 2, 1955. She was preceded in death by her father, Henry G. "Bill" Hart, Jr. and mother, Anne Daingerfield Hart; brothers H. Rex Hart and W. Matt Hart; half-sister, Sydney Thomson; great nephew Caupert Hart-Pattishall; maternal grandparents, Juanita White Daingerfield and Asa Rexford Daingerfield; paternal grandparents, Elisabeth Roop Hart Bohlken and Henry G. Hart, Sr., and a special canine companion "Duff".

She is survived by a sister, Pamela "Pam" Hart King (Carl); nephews Michael "Mickey" King (Joni), Jonathan "Jon" King (Mitzi), Forrest Hart, and Michael Robertson; nieces Shannon Hart and Chandon Thomson; great nieces, Peyton King Wills (Stephen) and Parker Hart Austin (Garrett); great nephew Ashton King; great-great nieces Meredith Wills and Hallie Wills; and many cousins and close friends she "claimed" as family members. She is also survived by her current much loved, and constant special canine companion of more than 16 years, "Cooper".

After graduating from Christiansburg High School in 1973, Fran became one of the first females to be enrolled in Virginia Tech's Corp of Cadets, L Squadron. Completing her degree in Recreation in 1978, she went on to hold many Director and leadership roles at the Christiansburg Senior Center, Dinwiddie County, Va. and the City of Bedford. While in Bedford, she was instrumental with the development of the D-Day Memorial Foundation.

Upon returning to Christiansburg, Fran belonged to the Christiansburg Community Theater, was a long-standing volunteer and supporter of the



Christiansburg Head Start Program and was an advocate and supporter of the Women's Resource Center. She was a Longaberger Basket Consultant in her spare time and an avid scrapbooker. She loved to travel the United States and abroad with friends and family.

As a hospitality guide for NASBLA, she planned many trips that took her to islands such as St. Kitts, Antigua, Hawaii, and countries such as Ireland, Australia, and Egypt. She was always up for new and exciting adventures! Ron Sarver was her favorite traveling companion.

Fran loved Christiansburg. She spent countless hours organizing the CHS Alumni Return events that spanned many years. She continued her philanthropy of service to friends, family, those in need and non-profit organizations up until the time of her passing. Fran was a true scholar, avid reader and never gave up the desire to learn and retain new up-to-date information. Her goals were always to make life and living a better situation for others.

Since Fran LOVED the beach, please wear your favorite beach attire, bright colors, or a Hawaiian shirt to celebrate her wonderful life and join us 1- 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024 at The Inn at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. A time of sharing fun memories and music will begin at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her memory to the Women's Resource Center, 1217 Grove Avenue, Radford, VA 24141, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, or any non-profit organization that will serve those in need, especially children!

Fran's family and close friends and neighbors would like to thank Good Samaritan Hospice and Careosity Home Care for the wonderful care and support provided during Fran's final time with us.

Martin, Jeffery Neal

Jeffery Neal Martin, 58, of McCoy, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

He was born in Radford Nov. 1, 1965.

He was preceded in death by his father Orin Nelson Martin and sister Colletta Jo Martin. Jeff was a good mechanic helping any one in need at any time.

He is survived by his mother Jane R. Martin; wife Sandy M. Martin; daughter Kasey Jo Martin; son Jeffery Alan



Martin; Lee Albert who was just like a brother; special friend Ronnie Byrd; and numerous other family members and friends.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Chris Keene officiating.

The family will receive visitors directly after the funeral service at Community Christian Church in McCoy.

The family requests casual dress.

Ruby, Rebecca Lynn

Rebecca Lynn Ruby, 59, of Dublin, passed away Friday, Jan. 5, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gerald and Betty Haire.

She was the most independent and caring mother, and the best Grammie any granddaughter could ask for!

Survivors include her daughter, Erica Flores (Anthony); life partner, Randal Boyd; granddaughters, Isabella and Ariyanna Flores; brother, Michael Haire (Ashley); sisters, Cheryl Kehl (Dean) and Mi-



chelle Danner; and several other relatives and friends. Services will be private.

She was the best Grammie any granddaughter could want or ask for - Bella. P.S. I love you Grammie

You were my person and I'm so grateful I spent my Summers with you. I'll miss you Grammie, I love you - Anna.

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

MONTGOMERY SPORTS



KEVIN SHERMAN '92
Head Football Coach

PHOTO COURTESY FERRUM COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Radford High School alum Kevin Sherman has been named the new head coach at Ferrum College.

Radford native named new football coach at Ferrum

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalleysports.com

Ferrum College's athletic colors are black and gold, the same as Radford High School. So, when Radford alum Cleive Adams was promoted from football coach to athletic director, it seemed only natural the school's new coach would also be familiar to the black and gold.

This week, Adams introduced Kevin Sherman to replace him. Sherman comes to Ferrum from the Univer-

sity at Buffalo, where he spent the last two years as wide receivers coach. He helped the Bulls to a 7-6 record, including an appearance and win in the 2022 Camellia Bowl. Sherman is the ninth head football coach in Ferrum history since the program began in 1955.

He succeeds Adams, who served the past four years as head coach before assuming his role as Director of Athletics in December 2023. Sherman played football four

seasons under legendary Coach Hank Norton from 1987-90 and has over 30 years of coaching experience, coaching in four BCS bowl games and 11 bowl games total.

He most recently was the assistant head coach and coached the wide receivers at Murray State University. Sherman was wide receivers coach at Pittsburgh from 2015-18, and wide receivers coach at Purdue from 2013-14.

The Radford graduated from Ferrum in 1992, after serving as

the team captain of the football team and being elected as the team MVP as a senior in 1990. He was inducted into Ferrum's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Sherman also spent seven years at Virginia Tech as wide receivers coach from 2006-12.

During his time there, the Hokies went a combined 60-22 with seven bowl appearances, including four BCS bowl bids (2007 Orange, 2008 Orange, 2010 Orange, 2011 Sugar). Prior to Virginia Tech, Sherman spent five seasons at Wake

Forest University (wide receivers), four at Ohio (wide receivers), four at Virginia Military Institute (recruiting coordinator), one season at Methodist University (wide receivers) and one at his alma mater Ferrum College (student assistant). Adams had taken over the coaching reins in 2020 and previously served as an assistant at the school in two different stints. He also played football at Ferrum.

Sherman will assume his new role officially on Feb. 1.

Virginia sports tourism generates billions of dollars in spending

Virginia Tourism Corporation recently announced sports tourism in Virginia generated \$2.7 billion in direct spending in 2022, marking a 12% increase from 2021.

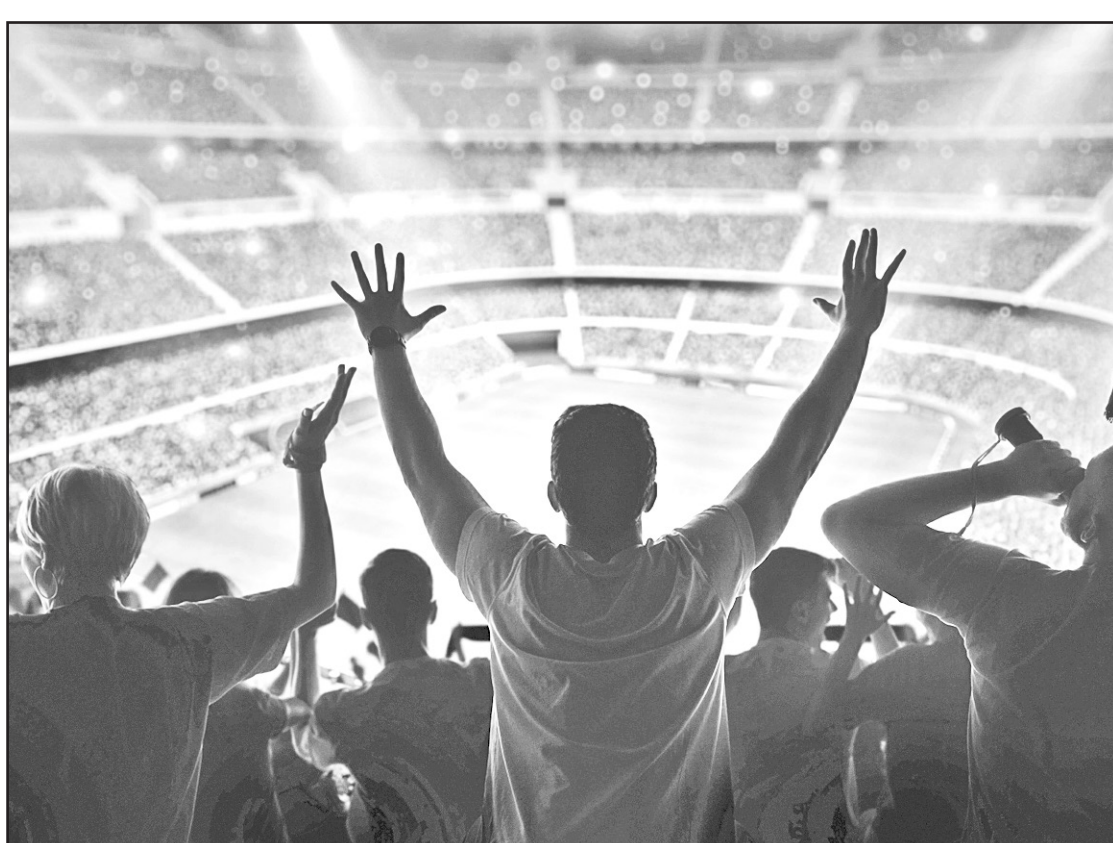
This growth was driven by 12.1 million sports travelers who participated in tournaments or attended other sports related events in Virginia as spectators.

Sports tourism in 2022 accounted for nearly 8% of Virginia's overall visitor economy, directly contributing \$2.4 billion in visitor spending. Sports-related travelers in 2022 spent \$7.3 million every day in Virginia, reflecting a substantial \$1 million increase compared to 2019. Sports tourism also employed 28,138 Virginians in 2022 and drove \$344 million in state & local tax revenues.

Among the industries impacted by travel, the largest contribution from sports tourism was towards Virginia's food and beverage sector, totaling \$713.8 million, which equates to 27% of the overall spending share.

"We are thrilled to see how sports tourism helped power Virginia's tourism recovery," said Dan Roberts, Vice President of Research & Strategy for Virginia Tourism Corporation. "These numbers show the significant impact sports tourism has on the economic growth of communities across the Commonwealth by creating job opportunities, driving development in new infrastructure and venues, increasing tax revenue, and boosting local businesses in the area."

On a regional basis, the highest concentration of total



Sports tourism also employed 28,138 Virginians in 2022 and drove \$344 million in state & local tax revenues.

sports spending is the Central and Southern Virginia region, which incorporates Richmond and Lynchburg. This region represents 32% of total sports spending—higher than other regions in the state. In 2022, the Central and Southern Virginia regions generated \$849 million in sports spending, an increase of 10% from 2021.

The Northern Virginia region, which includes the Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William areas, ranks as the second-highest region for sports spending, generating \$758 million in sports spending in 2022, an increase of 13.7% from 2021. The Coastal Virginia Region, including Virginia Beach and Williamsburg, generated \$718

million in sports spending in 2022, an increase of 8% from 2021. The Western Virginia region's sports tourism economy, which includes the Shenandoah Valley and Roanoke, generated \$355 million in sports spending in 2022, while posting the highest level of year-over-year growth from 2021, an increase of more than 25%.

"We are proud of our partners throughout the Commonwealth for their ongoing efforts to make Virginia a premier sports destination," said Danish Saadat, National Sales & Marketing Manager for Virginia Tourism Corporation and representative of Sports Virginia, the statewide collaboration of professionals from local con-

vention and visitor bureaus, sports commissions, parks and recreation departments and facilities.

In 2020, the sports tourism sector in Virginia experienced a significant decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a 38% reduction in visitation and a 47% decrease in spending. However, sports tourism played a pivotal role in Virginia's recovery from the pandemic with visitor spending fully recovering in 2021 and by 2022, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. In 2022, Virginia's sports spending exceeded 2019 levels by 17%, and sports visitation saw an 11% increase compared to 2019 levels.

To further speed recovery,

Virginia Tourism Corporation utilized \$1 million of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support a Sports Marketing Incentive Program. The funds were used for event incentives and marketing promotions targeted specifically at attracting new sports tournaments and competitions to spur economic activity and travel across the Commonwealth.

Virginia Tourism Corporation collaborated with Tourism Economics to conduct this comprehensive impact study. For the purposes of this study, sports tourism includes only adult and youth amateur tournaments and collegiate tournaments featuring participants or spectators traveling more than 50 miles or staying overnight away from home. The study excludes all collegiate regular season games or other professional sports including minor league or mid-level professional games, as well as general recreation.

The economic impact of sports tourism was estimated using the regional Input-Output (I-O) model based on a customized IMPLAN model for Virginia, which also subdivided the Commonwealth into four regional areas for further measurement. Attendance data for sports events was gathered directly from Virginia's local sports tourism partners by Tourism Economics and applied into the analysis. Additionally, visitor profile data from Longwoods International visitor volumes and expenditures for travelers to Virginia participating in sports tourism were key inputs into the study.

Virginia Tourism Office

VIRGINIA TECH SPORTS

Tech stars Amoore, Kitley on watch list

The Los Angeles Athletic Club announced the John R. Wooden Award presented by Principal® Midseason Top 25 Watch List today on ESPN2. Chosen by a poll of national college basketball experts based on their performances during the 2023-24 season thus far, the list is comprised of 25 student-athletes who are front-runners for the sport's most prestigious honor.

Virginia Tech is one six schools to have two or more athletes appear on the list.

Elizabeth Kitley, a three time All-American and two-time ACC Player of the Year, is the reigning ACC Player of the Week after posting two games with 27 points and 12 rebounds. She hit the game-winner Sunday as the Hokies handed the NC State Wolfpack their first loss of the season.

Georgia Amoore averages 17.4 points per game and 7.5 assists which ranks top five in the nation. The Aussie has scored 20 or more in all three of the Hokies' ACC victories this season.

The 25 athletes are:
 Georgia Amoore (Virginia Tech)
 Lauren Betts (UCLA)
 Cameron Brink# (Stanford)
 Paige Bueckers** (Connecticut)
 Kamilla Cardoso (South Carolina)
 Caitlin Clark* (Iowa)
 Aaliyah Edwards (Connecticut)
 Rori Harmon (Texas)
 Hannah Hidalgo (Notre Dame)
 Mackenzie Holmes# (Indiana)
 Elizabeth Kitley (Virginia Tech)
 Ta'Niya Latson (Florida State)

Ayoka Lee (Kansas State)
 Cotie McMahon (Ohio State)
 Aneesah Morrow (LSU)
 Te-Hina Paopao (South Carolina)
 Alissa Pili (Utah)
 Sedona Prince (TCU)
 Angel Reese (LSU)
 Kiki Rice (UCLA)
 Saniya Rivers (N.C. State)
 Jacy Sheldon (Ohio State)
 Jaylyn Sherrod (Colorado)
 JuJu Watkins (USC)
 Mikaylah Williams (LSU)



The duo of Sean Pedulla (pictured) and Tyler Nickel combined for 56 points in 87-72 victory on Wednesday night.

PHOTO COURTESY VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

Career night for Pedulla, Nickel in win over Tigers

Career-high scoring efforts from Sean Pedulla and Tyler Nickel propelled Virginia Tech to an 87-72 triumph over No. 21 Clemson on Wednesday night. Virginia Tech's 39 bench points to Clemson's 13 were key in the victory. Tech (10-5, 2-2) also held the lead for 37 of the game's 40 total minutes. Sean Pedulla led all scorers with a career-high

32 points on 6-for-10 shooting from long range and an 8-for-8 effort from the foul line. Tyler Nickel joined Pedulla in double figures with a career-high 24 points on 5-for-7 shooting from 3-point range and an 8-of-11 effort from the field. Mekhi Long also put in a season-high scoring outing with eight points. Pedulla and MJ Collins had seven assists apiece.

Ian Schefflin led four Tigers (11-4, 1-3) in double figures with 15 points. The win marked Tech's first ranked win of the season and the Hokies' sixth ranked win inside Cassell Coliseum in their last seven tries. Sean Pedulla opened the scoring for the Hokies with a 3-pointer just over a minute in. Lynn Kidd followed with two baskets of his own. After missing their first shot, Tech hit four straight to go up 9-6. Back-to-back baskets from Robbie Beran and another Pedulla 3-pointer put the Hokies up 17-9. Brandon Rechsteiner's first basket, a layup,

gave Tech a 23-17 lead with around 10 minutes remaining in the half. Pedulla's fourth 3-pointer gave him 19 first-half points. The Hokies took a 53-44 lead into the half. Both teams were scorching hot from the field in the first half, Clemson shooting 55% and Tech shooting 65%. Two baskets each from Pedulla and Kidd opened the second-half scoring for Tech. Beran's second 3-pointer of the game earned the Hokies a 65-53 lead with 16 minutes to go. Another Pedulla 3-pointer gave him his sixth on the game to put the Hokies up 63-54 with a little under 12 minutes

to go. Pedulla's layup and free throw put him at a career high 28 points. Long's layup put the Hokies back up six. Back-to-back jump shots from Nickel stretched the lead to nine at 75-66. Five minutes remained in the contest. Three free throws from Nickel added to his career high with 24 points and boosted the Tech lead to 10. Beran followed with another 3-pointer to make the lead 11. Mylajael Poteat put an exclamation point on the game with a dunk. Tech defeated Clemson 87-72.

Notes The Hokies are now 8-0 at Cassell Coliseum this season. The 8-0 start at home marked the second straight year the Hokies have opened the season at this mark. The win tonight was a bounce back for the Hokies, losing both games to Clemson last season. Tech is now 9-4 in the last 13 games against Clemson. After being injured on a loose ball, Hunter Cattoor sat from the 11:50 mark in the first half on. He was scoreless for the first time this season. After tying a career high of 26 at Florida State Saturday, Sean Pedulla improved that number tonight. On 9-16 shooting from the field, Pedulla poured in 32 points. He also grabbed a career-high four steals. Tyler Nickel, stepping up in the absence of Cattoor, also set career highs tonight. Nickel poured in 24 points on five 3-point field goals. Tech shot 13-24 (54%) from 3-point range.

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Virginia Tech Athletics

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