

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

www.ourvalley.org

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Montgomery County School Board names new chair, vice chair for 2024

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Montgomery County School Board elected its 2024 chair and vice chair during the Jan. 9 school board meeting.

District A representative Linwood Hudson has been elected chair and District D representative Jamie Bond has been elected vice chair.

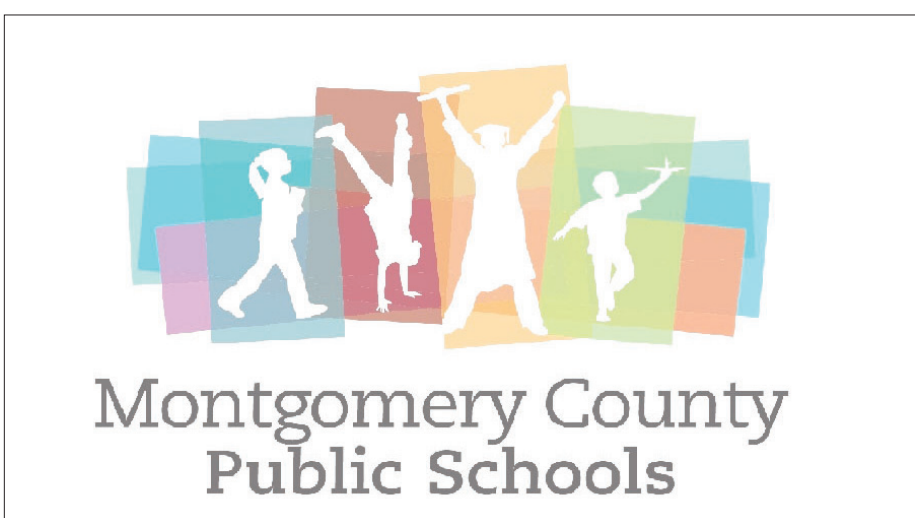
Bond has served on the Montgomery County School Board since 2005. She is a graduate of Christiansburg High School and has most recently served as the school board's liaison to the Town of Christiansburg.

Hudson has served since 2022. In 2023 he was appointed by the school board to serve on the Southwest Virginia Governor's School Committee and the Montgomery County Educational Foundation Committee.

The Jan. 9, 2024 meeting marked the first school board meeting with three new members: Ed Gitre, Laura Purcell and Derek Roundtree. Bond and Hudson will serve in these positions for one year.

Ed Gitre, Laura Purcell and Derek Roundtree. Bond and Hudson will serve in these positions for one year.

Montgomery County Public Schools



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY OF THE YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH

The University Club of VPI & SU presents a donation to the YMCA at Virginia Tech for its Meals on Main program. Pictured (left to right): George Lacy, Don Mullins, Ruth Lacy, Beth Ifju, Jim Lawrence and Ryan Martin.

University Club of VPI & SU supports YMCA's Meals On Main program

The YMCA at Virginia Tech is extremely grateful to the University Club of VPI & SU for their generous donation to our Meals On Main program. In the last months of 2023 as part of their Thanks and Giving event, members opened their hearts to support our food security efforts.

Through our Meals On Main program we distribute USDA approved meals and snacks at no cost to youth aged 1-18 years in

Blacksburg, Christiansburg and surrounding areas. Between April 2020 and April 2023 we distributed 110,471 meals and snacks to children in the NRV facing food insecurity. We have started providing freshly cooked meals at some locations using our mobile kitchen with the help of awesome volunteers.

The University Club of VPI & SU members collected \$1,395 to donate to the YMCA at Virginia

Tech meals program. Members made several comments in support of this donation, including, "It is a wonderful, worthwhile project and I was glad to be a part of it," and, "Food insecurity is a huge issue these days. We were happy to donate towards helping these kids."

On Thursday, Jan. 11 Club Vice President Don Mullins was joined

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Citizens Support Group celebrates Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Citizens Support Group celebrated Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on Jan. 9, one of the many ways the organization highlights the hard work and dedication of law enforcement professionals.

The Citizens Support Group was formed in April of 2016 as a 501-3C non-profit organization and works to support Montgomery County's police officers, but organizes support for other law enforcement officers as well.

Ken Hester is currently serving as the President of the Citizens Support Group. Fran Hester serves as Secretary. They enjoy the variety of ways the organization is able to be there to assist in events for the local officers throughout the year.

Ken Hester said they do things like, "being there for them through a life event, during training sessions by providing lunch, if there is a weather-related incident or a search and retrieval and they need help with water and support."

Additional ways that the group may support officers are in having retirement celebrations. The retiring officer can decide if they prefer a formal reception or something more casual.

Also, if an officer is hospitalized then the citizens' group provides them with a fruit basket. If married or have a child, they can also receive a gift. They are also there to offer support in very difficult times for an officer or their families such as the passing of a loved one, providing flowers and a sympathy card.

For Law Enforcement Appreciation Day this year on Jan. 9 Chick-Fil-A provided breakfast and citizen

See Law Enforcement, page 2



Chick-fil-A donated food that was presented to local law enforcement by the Citizens Support Group on Jan. 9 for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

The Sauerkraut Band is back, playing at Mountain Lake Lodge



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAUERKRAUT BAND FACEBOOK PAGE

The Sauerkraut Band has performed in the New River Valley since 1989, providing lively and authentic German band music.

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Sauerkraut Band originated in the New River Valley in 1989 and became popular playing at Oktoberfest at the Mountain Lake Lodge and other events in the area. They are back for four special performances.

The Sauerkraut Band is what is known in the United States as an Oom-pah or traditional German Band. This band typically is comprised of 12-14 people and play brass instruments with trumpets and trombones, drums, and wind instruments, to name a few. The full sound of the various musical instruments is complemented with song and of course, lively dance encouraging participation from the audience.

"Most towns would have a community band and they would play outdoors under a gazebo," Tom Williams, long-time band member said.

Ed Schwartz is the founder of the group and was previously in a military band. He collected music when he was overseas and has a German background.

"We always enjoyed playing Mountain Lake," Williams said. "Most nights we were sold out or nearly sold out. We were playing there during the filming of Dirty Dancing. There were evenings we played there, and some of the cast would come," Williams said. "We performed there until 2012, when

the hotel went in a different direction... of course, the lake had dried up at that point," Williams said.

Since that time, the band has traveled around Virginia and surrounding states, including many local breweries. They are available for reservations to perform at events.

Heidi Stone, President and CEO of the Mountain Lake Lodge, is excited to see the band come back for their Winterfest event this January.

"When we rebranded in 2013, we became known for other things like weddings and such. So, we decided to bring them back. It is something people can do in the wintertime," Stone said.

Mountain Lake Lodge is offering a special package that includes performances by the Sauerkraut Band, a buffet of German cuisine, and a stay in the hotel. The band performance will be lively with lots of community engagement and authentic German dances in their traditional Bavarian-style of clothing. The dates of the events will be January 19, 20, 26, and 27.

More information about the band's music stylings with audio samples of a couple of their songs can be found on their website at www.sauerkrautband.com or on their Facebook page.

Reservations can be made at www.mtnlakelodge.com or by calling their reservation desk at 540-626-7121.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITIZENS SUPPORT GROUP STAFF

Approximately 500 Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Calendars were distributed for 2024, thanks to the hard work of the Citizens Support Group and generosity of local businesses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 17:

Frances Frederick art exhibit opening and reception

At the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation, 204 Draper Rd SW, 5:30 -7:30 p.m. Frances Frederick is the Blacksburg Regional Art Association's (BRAA) longest-tenured member, joining in 1952. Her style has changed over these years but has always been rich in color and texture and influenced by a variety of subject matter. In this exhibit, we take a look back on some of her most vibrant work, on exhibit Jan. 17 - March 13.

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 lucy.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.

Community Quilting Bee

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your supplies and join us for conversation.

Friday, Jan. 19:

Blood Drives

At the Radford Public Library and the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Give Blood. Give Life. Register online at www.redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins welcome.

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:

Virtual Author Talk with Rajiv Nagaich

On-line event hosted by the Radford Public Library; 2 – 3 p.m. Over his 20-plus years of experience in United States elder law, Rajiv has developed a step-by-step guide to retirement planning by connecting the various dots of the retirement planning process. The LifePlanning approach is a system that brings together legal, financial, and housing issues into a coordinated

effort that can work to make sure you don't end up being forced into institutionalized care, going broke, and being a burden on your family. In this enlightening and informative webinar, Rajiv explains why "retirement plan failure" happens and how you can keep it from happening to you. To avoid the hidden traps in retirement planning, register now! Register: <https://library.org/radfordlibrary>.

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesday 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 St.). 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.

Friday, Feb. 2 and Saturday, Feb. 3:

Book Sale

There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lots of selections and low prices. Come and support the Radford Library.

On-going:

Now through Feb. 2:

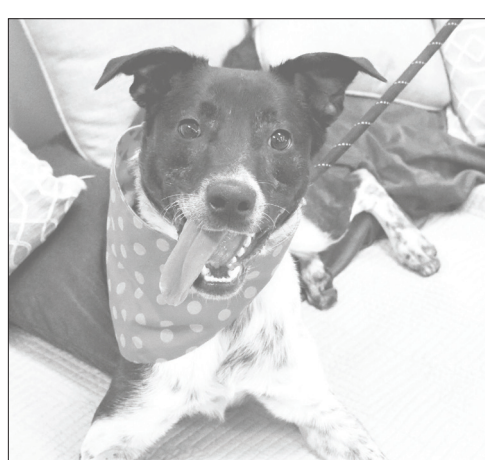
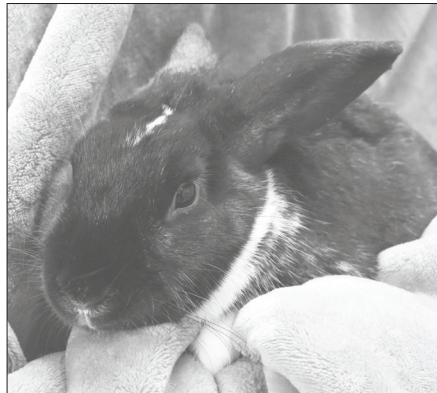
Radford Tree Collection

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

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

Juniper is known for his gentle spirit. He's a quiet guy, and he doesn't mind being carried and held. He is also litter trained. Hop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet Juniper.



Meet happy, energetic boy, Tony! He loves to run and play with toys. He will gladly sit for a yummy treat and may need refresher on doggie manners. Tony would do best in a home where he is the only dog.

Law Enforcement

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volunteers were there to deliver and give out the food.

If community members eat at Mission BBQ restaurant in Christiansburg and purchase a Hometown Hero cup, some of the proceeds will also go to local law enforcement funds.

"Sheriff Partin reached out to them. They offered to let us be one of the organizations when they do their cup effort," Hester said.

There are many other events throughout the year to bring local police officers and law enforcement families together including a spaghetti dinner around Halloween and a sit-down dinner for Christmas where they have door prizes that are donated by local businesses or purchased through fundraising by the citizens group.

"Part of that evening is also the Employee of the Year is announced for each section of the sheriff's office," Fran Hester said.

Another big event that the citizens group does each year is producing the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office calendars. Calendars are produced locally by Southern Printing but designed and organized in-house by the volunteers. Very little cost is involved so that all money can go to the officers. They have around 140-160 businesses, depending on the size of advertisements they purchase. The calendars are free for the public and approximately 400 were distributed to local businesses and the public this year.

Not only are the citizens supportive of their local law enforcement but the first responders are supportive of each other,

no matter where their jurisdiction.

Montgomery County Sheriff's office recently shared an event that happened on Jan. 13 to raise funds for a local firefighter and EMT with the Radford Fire Department who is fighting cancer.

A benefit breakfast happened on Jan. 13, with proceeds going to Jeremy Compton, firefighter and EMT with Radford Fire Department. Compton has served the public for over 15 years but has been fighting cancer since 2021. Any donations and funds raised during Saturday's event, as well as ongoing fundraising will go to Compton's cancer treatment and recovery.

The Citizens Support Group also receives some direct donations from citizens. Businesses may offer a gift card or do a calendar advertisement. Some businesses may offer a gift "in kind" for an advertisement in the calendar.

"All of the sheriff's office and police departments have good relationships, so it is good to work in an area where that is true," Fran Hester said.

To find out more information about the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office - Citizens Support Group, interested parties may visit their Facebook page. This group does not only serve the sheriff and their deputies but also other law enforcement groups in the area.

Christiansburg Police Citizen Support Group has been active for many years as well and provides a lot of support to local law enforcement. Interested residents that wish to become involved in the Christiansburg group can access the membership application at www.christiansburg.org.

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club releases fall report

After having a successful fish fry season in summer of 2023, the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club continued with an active fall calendar.

In mid-September, the club held its first Open House to show community members the projects that the club is working on and answer questions about Ruritan membership. Seven new members have joined since this event.

At the October club meeting, a time capsule was buried next to the fish fry picnic shelter. It contains club and member memorabilia, photos, and other documents for a future generation of Ruritan members to uncover.

For three Fridays in October, club members and friends worked hard at the cannery in Wytheville to create 320 gallons of apple butter from 90 bushels of apples. By the end of the year, all the pints and quarts had been sold!

The next project on the list was decorating an apple-butter-themed Christmas tree in Kent Square. The tree has been taken down now, but Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. recently announced that the Ruritan tree had garnered the most community votes and was the 2023 winner.

December also saw an Eagle Scout project begin at the Slusser's Chapel picnic shelter. On a chilly and wet Saturday morning, over 20 scouts and leaders from Scouts BSA Troop 44 (Blacksburg Presbyterian Church) stained all the picnic tables, making them easier to keep clean and less likely to produce splinters. Eagle candidate Liam Means will also lead construction of some permanent

benches near where the musicians play during fish fries.

The Club held its Christmas dinner at the Village Gourmet in Warm Hearth. After a tasty meal, the executive director of Ruritan National, Sarah Kelly, installed the 2024 club officers. The president is Julie Miller, vice-president is Robin Cooley, secretary is Nola Elliott, treasurer is David Price (who was also recognized for holding this position for over 33 years), and the directors are Curtis Cox, Peter DeWeese and Ben Crawford. Nola Elliott was recognized as the club's Ruritan of the Year, and Jeananne Bame received a Lifetime Achievement plaque recognizing her innovative fundraising efforts for the scholarship program.

As 2024 begins, the Ruritan Club is excited to announce a new initiative for Montgomery County. The club is in the process of setting up the infrastructure needed to form an affiliation with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, so that all children in the county can receive a free book each month, from birth until they reach age five. It is hoped that everything will be in place to raise funds and begin to enroll children this year.

The club is running its sausage gravy and biscuit breakfasts on the second Saturday of the month through April. Check their Facebook page, MtTaborRuritan, for more information on the breakfasts and other projects.

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOUNT TABOR RURITAN CLUB

Club members at the burial of the time capsule. Jan Vaden (far right), widow of charter member, Rador Vaden, placed the first shovel of soil on the capsule.

YMCA

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by Chair of the Thanks and Giving Project Beth Ifju, and club members Ruth and George Lacy to present the check to YMCA Board Treasurer Jim Lawrence and CEO & Executive Director Ryan Martin.

"We truly appreciate the tremendous generosity of the club members and their support of our work to feed local children," said Martin. "We could not do this work without donations of time and money."

"Members of two organizations with deep traditions at Virginia Tech met this past Thursday at the house formerly owned by Lucy Lee Lancaster, one of the first five women to graduate from Tech," said Lawrence. "That notable event occurred in 1925, the same year that the Virginia Tech University Club was founded. The Lancaster House is the

home of the YMCA at Virginia Tech, currently celebrating its 150th year of service to the campus and community. Thursday's occasion was the generous donation by the University Club to the YMCA at VT to support its program fighting food insecurity in our local communities. A huge "Thank You" from the Y to the University Club!"

Interested in getting involved in our Meals On Main program? Contact Karys Blakemore, Director of Food Security Programs, at meals@vtymca.org. Donations can be made online at: <https://vtymca.org/support-the-y/> or send a check made out to The YMCA at Virginia Tech, to 403 Washington St SW., Blacksburg, VA 24060.

The YMCA at Virginia Tech

OBITUARIES

Akers, Virginia Gail Roope

Virginia Gail Roope Akers, of Dublin, passed away unexpectedly Jan. 11, 2024. Gail was born in Mercer County, W.Va. March 4, 1947.



She was preceded in death by her father, Robert (Bud) Lee Roope; her mother, Hilda Virginia Bolen Roope; infant brother, Patrick; and her love, Roy Gerberich.

Gail spent her last years at Highland Ridge Rehab and was the "go-to social butterfly."

She was employed by Pulaski County Public Schools for 20 years.

People sought her out for everything from safety pins, crafts, colored pencils or to have her alter and mend clothes.

Gail was an extremely talented craftsperson. She created and gifted many of her projects over the years to friends and family. She made everything from Barbie clothes to decorations to paintings to crochet items to jewelry.

She is survived by her only daughter, Stacy Akers Trout; her son-in-law, Jeff Trout; and only grandchild, Jessica Jayden "Wally" Trout, all of Dublin. She is further survived by two special stepdaughters, Sandy Light and Janet Gerberich; special cousins, Brenda and Tim Cochran; other cousins; her beautician,

She was known for her love of clothes, shoes, jewelry, makeup, plants, and birds.

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Gail was an advocate, counselor, supportive friend, caring mother, and loving grandmother.

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Burnett, Rachael Nicole

After a courageous and hard-fought battle, Rachael Nicole Burnett's spirit took flight from this world Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024. She was preceded in death by her father, Michael V. Burnett; and paternal grandparents, Jimmy and Mary Frances (Buggy) Burnett.



Rachael was smart, witty and had a keen sense of humor. She possessed a beautiful and magnetic smile. She seldom met a stranger and always had just one more question. Often her conversations ended with "I love you."

children who provided her with so much pride. She is survived by her precious four children, Rylie and Blake Ratliff and Holden and Jameson Farley. A treasured part of Rachael shines in each of them.

Her greatest accomplishments were her dearly loved

She is also survived by her mother, Cheryl Lomascolo; sister, Lauren Lomascolo;

Vicki Morris, that took the time to come to her at Highland Ridge; important friends and neighbors; her dear friends, Roselma Whitaker, Shelby Akers, Majorie Atkins; and her Highland Ridge family.

The family would like to thank all her caregivers and doctors for her care and their love over the years, with special thanks to Dr. Asher and Jeffrey Thompson. The family would also like to thank everyone for their continued support, love, and prayers.

The family will receive friends from 1:30 - 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 3 p.m. with Reverend Don Sizemore officiating.

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

grandmother, Esther Hart and grandfather, Joel (Emily) Hart, who will hold her close in their hearts forever. She is also loved and remembered by a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members and friends.

The family received friends Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services followed with Rev. Robert Morris officiating. Interment followed in the Appalachian Conference Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Ridpath, Rebecca Mayhew

Rebecca Mayhew Ridpath, 85, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.



She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Benny Cameron Ridpath; father, Allen Snow Mayhew; and her mother Mattie Lee Hancock Mayhew.

other's thoughts and feelings. She loved to cook and host many family gatherings. She enjoyed reading, shopping, traveling and her special treats of vanilla ice cream, nabs and Diet Cokes.

Becky was a loving wife, mother, sister, and grandmother. She graduated from Martinsville High School in 1956 and Radford College in 1960 with her bachelor's degree and 1973 with her master's degree. She had a 46-year teaching career at New River Community College and was a beloved instructor and mentor for hundreds of students throughout her career. She served students as the Phi Beta Lambda advisor and a member of the Academic Standards, Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee.

She is survived by her three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Lisa of Radford, Greg and Liza of Mount Pleasant, S.C., and Mark and Mimi of Powell, Ohio; sister, Nancy Mayhew Moss (Ric); and brother, Larry Edward Mayhew. She was blessed with six wonderful grandchildren, Maddie Decker (Justin), Marlee Barboza (Patrick), Nick Ridpath, Miller Ridpath, Abby Ridpath and Merritt Ridpath.

She was a member of First Baptist Church Radford for 50 years and served on various committees. She had a very generous spirit and showed empathy and genuine regard for

The family would like to especially thank all of Becky's family

and friends, as well as the many caregivers who provided care, love, and support during her illness.

The family will receive friends Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, 10 a.m. to noon at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Third Avenue and Downey Street in Radford with Dr. Paul Lane, Reverend Todd Millsaps and Rev. Diana White officiating. The interment will follow at Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Rebecca "Becky" Ridpath scholarship fund at New River Community College. Contributions may be made online (www.nr.edu/giveonline) or by mail (New River Community College, Educational Foundation, 5251 College Drive, Dublin VA 24084). Please reference "Becky Ridpath" on your gift.

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

Lusk, Lois Jasperson

Lois Jasperson Lusk, 83, passed away Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at her home in Radford. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Lois was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Alice Jasperson; husband, Paul Duane Lusk; and son, Paul David Lusk.



Survivors include her sons, Richard D. Lusk, Howard M. Lusk (Dana), and Craig P. Lusk (Mary); six grandchildren and one great grandchild; siblings,

Boyd Jasperson, Jane Carlson, and Milo Jasperson; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Radford. Services will begin at 1 p.m. with Bishop Gary Samples officiating. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the American Cancer Society.

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

Broyles, Donald Wayne

Donald Wayne Broyles, of Christiansburg, passed away peacefully Jan. 5, 2023, surrounded by his family.



Born Jan. 25, 1959, Donnie spent 40-plus years in the parts department at auto dealerships in the NRV and Roanoke. Outside of work, he loved spending time with his family and cherished being a grandfather. Donnie also enjoyed golfing, fishing, and could be found on Sundays in the fall, in his recliner watching the NFL.

Donnie is survived by his loving wife,

Belinda Broyles; son, Cory (Evan) Broyles of Bernardsville, N.J.; daughter, Brittany (Andrew) Harris of Floyd; grandchildren, Harper and Hallie Harris; grandchild, Baby Broyles coming February 2024; and sister, Joan Vinson,

of Christiansburg. Donnie was preceded in death by his father and mother, Garnett "Doc" and Evelyn "Sis" Broyles; brother, Eugene Broyles; sister, Phyllis Broyles Rhodes.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the St. Jude's Children Research Hospital in memory of Donnie. Visitation and memorial service will be held at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg Jan. 17, 2024. Visitation will be held from 2-4 p.m. and the memorial service will be held immediately after.

Brumfield, Richard George

Richard George Brumfield, 70, of Christiansburg, died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024 at the New River Valley Medical Center. He was born in Montgomery County July 25, 1953 to the late Perry

George and Nina Carter Brumfield. He was preceded in death by his wife, Debra J. Brumfield.

He is survived by his daughter, Samantha Brumfield; stepdaughter, Donetta Sifford and many

nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Jan. 15, 2024 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Keith Graves officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the service.

Goodyear, David Clement

David Clement Goodyear, a resident of Blacksburg and Christiansburg for the past 40 years, passed away Jan. 10, 2024, at the age of 88.



He is preceded in death by his father, George E. Goodyear of Wilmington, Del. David was also preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Janice Claire Goodyear. They were married in 1959 in St. Paul's Catholic Church, Clifton, N.J. David served two years in the Army with Honorable discharge. He attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, N.J., and earned his bachelor's degree in finance. He was employed at a prestigious accounting firm in Manhattan, N.Y.,

and traveled all over the world.

He and his wife moved to Blacksburg in 1984. He worked for 15 years at Virginia Tech as Director of Internal Audit and retired in 2000. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Blacksburg. He loved this job and the Hokies football team. He also continued his education at Virginia Tech and earned his master's degree in accounting. David

had a love for his dogs, sports, Lionel Trains, and fine wine. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law Jon and Veronica Goodyear, of Pembroke, Va.; a daughter, Megan Goodyear Blatz, and grandchildren Jack Blatz and Sarah Shockley, all of Laurel, Del.; and a son, Eric Goodyear of Christiansburg.

Final arrangements are being handled by McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg. There will be a casual memorial and celebration of life gathering at "Bull and Bones" on Main St. in Blacksburg on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at 1 p.m. In lieu of any flowers please make donations to the Rotary Club in David's name.

Wheeler, Shirley Hatcher

Shirley Hatcher Wheeler, 82, passed away at her home in Dublin Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024.



She retired from Kollmorgen and a member of Belleview Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, James L. and Dolly Mae Hatcher; and brothers, Basel Lee and J. David Hatcher.

Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Donald Wheeler, Sr.; daughter and son-in-law, Donna W. and James, Jr., Caldwell; son and daughter-in-law, Donald, Jr. and Rebecca Wheeler;

grandchildren, Ethan Caldwell, Travis A. Wheeler, Wheeler H. Caldwell, Hannah Wheeler, and Haley Wheeler Osborne (Tony); great granddaughter, Nella Belle Osborne; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at the funeral home with Rev. Larry Mann and Rev. Sebert Rorrer officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to either Belview Church or Dublin Lions Club.

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

McPherson, Shirley Wass

Shirley Wass McPherson, 87, of Blacksburg, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024 at English Meadows. She was born in a small village in England on Oct. 8, 1936. At 16 years old, she met her future husband, Malcolm J. McPherson, and they had 50 glorious years together. In 1981, they moved with their children to California and then later to Virginia in 1991.



Shirley believed that being of service to others is a lifelong commitment. She volunteered for various organizations as well as being a dedicated member of her church, OSLC of Christiansburg. She, along with others, started the Crafty Ladies and enjoyed the fellowship of others as they made and provided crafts to benefit various charities in

the NRV. She also volunteered at MCEAP and the Christmas Store for many years. Shirley cherished her family and nothing made her more happy than providing Sunday dinners where family came together to eat and spend time together.

Shirley is preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Mary Hannah Wass, her husband, Malcolm J. McPherson, her siblings Ashley, Geoff, Graham, Joan, Audrey and Kathleen and her son in law J.

Wayne Garst.

She is survived by her children, Malcolm S. McPherson and Alison D. Garst; grandchildren, Malcolm J McPherson, Vickie (Matt) Foy, Connor York, Emily (John) Tedesco and Katie (Autumn) Garst; numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews; special niece, Heather McPherson and great great nephew Jacob Pegg, along with all of the Garst family that she cared for as her own.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 11a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Neal Turner officiating. Interment will follow at Memorial Gardens in Blacksburg. The family received friends Tuesday, Jan. 16 at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive, Blacksburg.

OPINION

Looking back over the four stages of a law career

Evans "Buddy" King
Columnist

As I near the end of a legal career that now spans over four decades (all at the same firm, pretty much unheard of these days), I have concluded that there are four stages or phases of the experience.

First, there is the "whippersnapper" stage. This is when you first get out of law school, when you start your career, hopefully a path to partnership if you are in private practice, when you still like to talk about the law at cocktail parties and lunch, when some like to throw their weight around with store clerks and auto mechanics by telling

them "I'm a lawyer!" (Like you're going to take them to court for \$39.99 for a bad muffler job). I hope I didn't do that; not a trait I admire.

It's not a term you hear much these days, but I remember my dad using it. I heard him occasionally refer to someone as a "whippersnapper." Not an insult, more of a way of referring to an incomplete canvas. If you look it up, it means "young, presumptuous, inexperienced, overconfident." Pretty apt term for many of us coming out of law school, but when you join an established, institutional firm like I did, with many much older and truly iconic lawyers, you soon get the "overconfident" kicked out of you. It

didn't take me long to realize that not only was I not the smartest person in the room, I couldn't even find the hallway that led to the room!

Another part of the "whippersnapper" stage is that you tend to hold on to some insecurities from law school days. You still harbor deep resentment for those on the other side of you in an argument - if you don't shake this characteristic at some point, it can be detrimental to your career, not to mention your personal relationships. In West Virginia, we lawyers in private practice like to say, "you never know who will be judge someday." In larger markets, you might never again run into someone you called an "\$%#^&" in practice

- in West Virginia they might be on the bench in your county for the next 30 years. The main takeaway from the "Whippersnapper Period" is "don't burn bridges."

The second phase of the legal career is the "Young Gun" stage. This occurs five to seven years after you are in practice and lasts until there are newer and more lethal weapons around than you. I capitalize "Young Gun" because in my mind the term originated from magazines put out under that title (usually by regional or statewide newspapers) to sell ads and to have

See **Law**, page 8

Ballard looking forward to legislative session

The Virginia General Assembly is now in session, and soon the House and Senate will begin considering legislation in earnest. With a new General Assembly comes the potential for new committee assignments; committees of course being the legislative bodies that deal with most of the deliberation on bills before they reach the House floor. Last Wednesday, I was named by the Speaker of the House to the following committees: Courts of Justice, Counties, Cities and Towns, and Labor and Commerce. Labor and Commerce is a new assignment for me, and it considers consequential matters from energy policy to the minimum wage. I'm excited about my assignments, and I'm ready to start the real work of analyzing and debating hundreds of bills in detail.

Legislation that we'll see in the 2024 legislative session has begun to be made publicly viewable, and I'm disappointed to report that the new Democratic majority seems intent on making overreaches like they did in 2020 and 2021. Instead of focusing on solving the real problems that Virginians face, they instead continue down the path of introducing policies and themes that are more at home in Washington, DC than we are accustomed to in Richmond.

While Democrats are busy appeasing the more extreme elements of their base by making energy more expensive, Republicans remain focused on making life more affordable for every Virginian. You and I know that the cost of energy continues to rise, and along with inflation, renewable energy mandates from the state do nothing to relieve the pressure typical Virginia families are feeling. Rather than relax these mandates and accept a realistic approach toward renewables, House Democrats feel emboldened to move toward mandatory "Green New Deal" style policies that will only make life more expensive. That includes their continued insistence on an electric-vehicle mandate - which our infrastructure is not currently equipped to handle.

I'm equally perplexed to see the introduction of legislation that would reduce penalties for gangs involved in organized "smash and grab" style shoplifting, like we have seen in San Francisco, California. Soft-on-crime policies against brazen criminal acts only emboldens criminals and will undoubtedly hurt our business climate. This used to be considered common-sense, which is something that seems to be getting in shorter supply.

Part of being in the minority party is holding the majority accountable. There will be many instances this session in which Democrats and Republicans work together toward common goals, but that does not mean that Republicans should comprise our core values. We can be fair while standing firm on policies that make our communities safer, and we should not let special interests ram "green energy" policies through the legislature without fully vetting their practicality and impact on Virginia families. As my committee work begins, I look forward to reviewing all legislation before me with a discerning eye.

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

Del. Jason Ballard

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$46 a year in Montgomery County, \$55 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$59 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

Average Virginia gas prices 24-cents a gallon lower than last year

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.91/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 5.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 24.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.0 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.89 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$0.32/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$3.67/g. The lowest price in the state

yesterday was \$0.32/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$3.67/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 0.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.04/g today. The national

See **Gas**, page 8

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Know your seller when shopping online

One key to shopping online is reading the fine print, including who you're actually buying from. While we often think of giant online retailers like Amazon, Walmart and Target as a store they can be more like a mall or flea market where you are buying products from a variety of sellers. However, some of those sellers are more reputable than others.

Criminals use these websites to resell stolen products or items that either don't work or contain dangerous chemicals. One easy way to protect yourself is to make sure you are buying directly from the retailer that runs the website. You can usually find the seller's name on the product page near the button for buying the item.

Shipping times and return policies are another sign of who you are buying from as products from the branded retailer will often ship faster and have a clear return policy.

As of the third quarter of 2023, online shopping scams were the second highest category of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission, and 51% of those reporting lost a combined \$308 million. The actual losses are likely far higher since fraud is significantly under-reported. Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

AARP Virginia

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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CLUES ACROSS
1. Correct code
6. Foundation
9. A pulpy condition
13. Venezuelan river
14. Orange-red chalcid
15. The shallowest Great
16. Floating ice mountain
17. Japanese cervids
18. Special Interest Groups
19. Divertimentos
21. Indian wet nurses
22. Flatfishes
23. Haitian currency (abbr.)
24. Southeast
25. One point N of due W
28. 10 decibels
29. Wild oxes of SE Asia
31. Ancient Greek City of SW Italy
33. A passing glancing blow
36. Marriage announce-

CLUES DOWN
1. Strikes lightly
2. Fencing sword
3. Hooked pericarp
4. Entreats
5. Edison's Corp.
6. Cooks in an oven
7. Amounts of time
8. Tooth caregiver
9. Spellbind
10. Solo opera piece
11. Audible exhales
12. Siddhartha author
14. Coach's game area
17. Gross revenue
20. Toff
21. 1896 Italian defeat (alt. sp.)
23. Auto fuel
25. A woven structure
26. Reveal a secret
27. Hawaiian geese

ment
38. Tandoor bread
39. Mag. ____: Time
41. Portended
44. Alicante's 7th city
45. Gulf of, in the Aegean
46. Strike
48. Hill (Celtic)
49. Stuart Little's author
White
51. Male sheep
52. Indian dresses
54. Pears
56. Tardy arriver
60. Smudge of ink
61. Youngsters
62. About aviation
63. Small ornamental ladies' bag
64. Unreturnable serves
65. Fante and Twi peoples
66. Round shape
67. Of she

68. Beard lichen genus
29. Brings into being
30. Displaced liquid
32. Frigid Zone
34. Newsman Rather
35. Prefix for inside
37. Short-billed rails
40. Sensory receptor
42. Egyptian temple ____
Ombo
43. Challenges
47. Photograph (slang)
49. Declined gradually
50. Tilapia nilotica
52. One-edge sword
53. Wets
55. Small coins (French)
56. Twine together
57. The middle point
58. Sea eagle
59. Activist Parks
61. Humbug
65. Atomic #79

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Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION

January 19, 2024 at 4:00pm
by Bank of Botetourt
At 5462 Lee Hwy, Troutville
In Branch parking lot 2017 GMC Acadia Mileage: 94,034
For information contact: Bank of Botetourt
Danielle at 540-591-5035
Marla at 540-591-5056
Vehicle Sold As Is
Other vehicles also may be sold if repossessions occur prior to sale. All announcements made date of sale supersede printed advertisement. Bank of Botetourt reserves the right to accept or decline any offer.
Not responsible for injury.

For Sale - Firewood

FIREWOOD
Mixed Hardwood.
Call 540-784-3436 or 540-581-4183. Delivery in Botetourt only.

Help Wanted - General

WANTED Models

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

Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. **CWF220000276**
BOTETOURT COUNTY Circuit Court, 5 W. MAIN STREET, FINCASTLE, VA 24090 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* ESTATE OF WILMA C. TODD, DECEASED
The object of this suit is to: SHOW CAUSE AGAINST PAYMENT AND DELIVERY OF ESTATE TO PARTIES ENTITLED. It is ORDERED that Upon the motion of Atlantic Union Bank, Executor of the Estate of Wilma C. Todd, deceased, (the "Estate") pursuant to Va. Code Section 64.2-556, for an order to show cause against distribution of the Estate. It appearing to the court that the necessary reports of the accounts of the Estate and of the debts and demands against the Estate have been filed with the Court, and at least six months have elapsed since the qualification of the Executor, it is accordingly ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the Estate of Wilma C. Todd, deceased, do appear at 11:00 A.M. on the 31st day of January, 2024 in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County, 1 West Main Street #120, Fincastle, Virginia 24090 and show cause, if any the can, against payment and delivery of the Estate to the parties entitled thereto, without requirement of refunding bonds.
1-5-2024
Joel R. Branscom, Circuit Court Judge.

JANUARY 8, 2024
Leslianne Smith, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER SALE OF 101 DRY BRANCH ROAD, BUCHANAN, VIRGINIA, 24066

Pursuant to a Decree of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, made and entered into November 29, 2023 in Case No. 23CL23-00036100, styled Janis P. Barrett (Plaintiff) v. Cherokee Rose Eubank (Defendant), I will, on Friday, January 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the front door of the Courthouse of Botetourt County Virginia, located in its new temporary quarters, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real estate: 101 Dry Branch Road, Buchanan, Virginia, 24066, being 2.56 acres in the Buchanan Magisterial District, Tax Map #53-4, property ID#99013634. A more accurate description can be procured as shown on a plat attached to Deed Book 128 at page 123 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia.

Legals - Botetourt County

Terms of Sale Cash (10% on the day of sale with the remainder at closing within 60 days).
For further information, apply to Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner, 2721 Brambleton Avenue, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia, 24015, office telephone number: (540)772-7848, cell phone number: (540) 797-4065.

I, Tommy Joe Williams, hereby certify that I have given bond, with surety, as required by the Decree.

Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner

I, Tommy Moore, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, hereby certify that Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner, has given bond, as required by the Decree with Surety approved by the Court.

Tommy Moore, Clerk Botetourt County Circuit Court

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 - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of T J Real Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1236 West Main Street (Tax Map # 141 – 1 – 4) from HBD Highway Business District to CBD Community Business District.
2. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two family dwelling on the property located at 301 Carey Avenue, (Tax Map # 74-2-6.1).
3. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 416 Electric Road (Tax Map # 150-3-1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.
4. Consider the request of Virginia Baptist Children's Home (dba HopeTree Family Services), property owner, for rezoning the properties located at 1000 block Red Lane and a portion of 860 Mount Vernon Lane (Tax Map #'s 41-1-1, 41-1-2, 41-1-3, 41-1-4, 41-1-5, 41-1-6, and a portion of 44-3-10) from RSF Residential Single Family to PUD Planned Unit District.

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

Copies of the proposed

Legals - City of Salem

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Appeals (Building) of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-38 Code of City of Salem, Virginia, on January 24, 2024, at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting and hearing shall be to determine if certain structures are dangerous to the inhabitants of the City and whether such structures should be ordered to be repaired or demolished. The structures are located as follows:

- (1) Dilapidated structure located at 602 Goodwin Avenue, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map#201-10-2); and
- (2) Dilapidated structure located at 336 Schrader Street, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map #115-1-4).

All parties in interest at the public hearing will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why action by the City and Board to remedy a potentially dangerous situation should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Building Official's Office, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375-3036) THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM BY Troy D. Loving, Building Official

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on January 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, voted to continue the public hearing of the following item.

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

This item will be heard at the February 14, 2024, 7:00 P.M. meeting of the Planning Commission. This meeting will also be held at the Salem Civic Center.

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

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

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

Legals - Craig County

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that allows the continued release of treated wastewater into a water body in Craig County, Virginia.

Legals - Craig County

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: January 17 to February 19, 2024

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations.

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Craig-New Castle Public Service Authority (PSA); PO Box 128, New Castle, VA 24127; VA0064599
FACILITY NAME AND ADDRESS: Craig - New Castle Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP); 370 Commerce Ave., New Castle

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The PSA has applied for reissuance of a permit for the WWTP in Craig County, Virginia. The applicant proposes to continue to release treated sewage wastewater at a rate of 175,000 gallons-per-day into a water body. Sludge from the treatment process will be stabilized, dewatered, and transported to Roanoke Valley Resource Authority for ultimate disposal in a sanitary landfill. The facility proposes to release the treated wastewaters into Craig Creek in Craig County in the James River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: organic matter, solids, physical & chemical properties, nutrients, inorganics, and bacteria.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing on the draft permit by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ must receive hand-delivery and postal mail by close of business and email and fax comments by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Susan Edwards; Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem, VA 24153; E-mail: Susan.Edwards@deq.virginia.gov; Phone: 540-562-6700.

Legals - Montgomery County

BWW# VA-360283-2 TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 105 ASTER LANE, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 27, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$190,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2007011289

The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on February 23, 2024, at 3:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and

Legals - Montgomery County

more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING IN THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, BEING DESCRIBED AS LOT 99, PHASE V, NEW RIVER VILLAGE, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "PLAT FOR MICHAELW. AND SHANNON M. HARDWICK OF LOT NO. 99, PHASE V, NEW RIVER VILLAGE, IN THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA" TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-362029-1.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. **CL230020118-00**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* MELISSA JANE MCPHERSON v. JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBI MAZUR

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 130 HELM DRIVE, ELLISTON, VA 24087.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated November 26, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$77,284.21 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2005014678 . The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on February 23, 2024, at 3:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND IN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF VA, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN BOOK 973 PAGE 241 ID# 59-A-6-5, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 5, MINOR SUBDIVISION FOR E AND V ENTERPRISE, FILED IN PLAT BOOK 973 AT PAGE 243, RECORDED 08/29/1997.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's

Legals - Montgomery County

deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-362029-1.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. **CL230020118-00**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* MELISSA JANE MCPHERSON v. JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBI MAZUR

STATEWIDE ADS

Legals - Montgomery County

The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBI MAZUR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 8, 2024.

JANUARY 5, 2024
K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE
TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

Legals - Roanoke County

ABC NOTICE

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Local gymnasts compete at this weekend's Rockstar event



Christiansburg's Brooklyn Proccacio finished second in Saturday's Rockstar Invitational Level 10.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Walking across a beam that is roughly four inches wide, 16.5 feet long that is four feet off the ground would be tough for anyone, but gymnasts at the top level make it look easy as they literally dance across it during a three-to-four-minute routine.

Christiansburg High School student Brooklyn Proccacio made it look easy, bringing the crowd to their feet. Saturday, the 15-year-old scored a 9.450 on the beam during the Level 10 competition (one of the highest in the sport) at the 16th Annual Rockstar Invitational at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. She would receive silver in the event.

This past year, she participated in the Eastern Nationals and Regionals where she finished seventh. She also finished fourth in the Beam at state competition. On Saturday, onlooking judges called her a "rising star."

Proccacio is one of the local athletes, who discovered there was no gymnastics at her high school, thus she turned to Virginia Techniques, a Christiansburg gym that has turned out its share of successful gymnasts.

Over 1,100 athletes competed in this week's competition, and according to Virginia Technique's Cheryl Johnson which hosts the event, the numbers have continued to grow almost every year.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Brooklyn Proccacio is congratulated by Coach Cheryl Johnson after taking one of the top spots in the beam competition during Saturday's Rockstar competition at the Christiansburg Recreation Center.

"Participation in gymnastics continues to rise," she said.

The Christiansburg gym listed 110 of its own participants with 21 gyms being represented this weekend from five different states. A similar event is slated to be held later this year.

Proccacio was one of those Virginia Techniques representatives and follows in the footsteps of six previous gymnasts that are all participating at the next level in college including University of Kentucky All-American Rae Worley.

"I was never at the gym when she coached or participated, but I know some of the others," Proccacio said.

The teenager recently attended camp at the University of North Carolina where her interest was peaked even more.

"I want to be a gymnast at the next level," she said after the Rockstar Invitational on Sunday. She is leaning toward UNC.

Her mother says Brooklyn was doing cartwheels at the age of four so relatives told her you have to get her into gymnastics. The rest seems to be history as she has fell in love with the sports and practices five times a week.

She also participates in the floor exercise, bars and vault, but the beam is her favorite.

Proccacio admits she has fallen off the beam several times in practice and competition, but she just gets right back up and climbs back on the beam.

She is scheduled to participate in state and regional competition later this year.

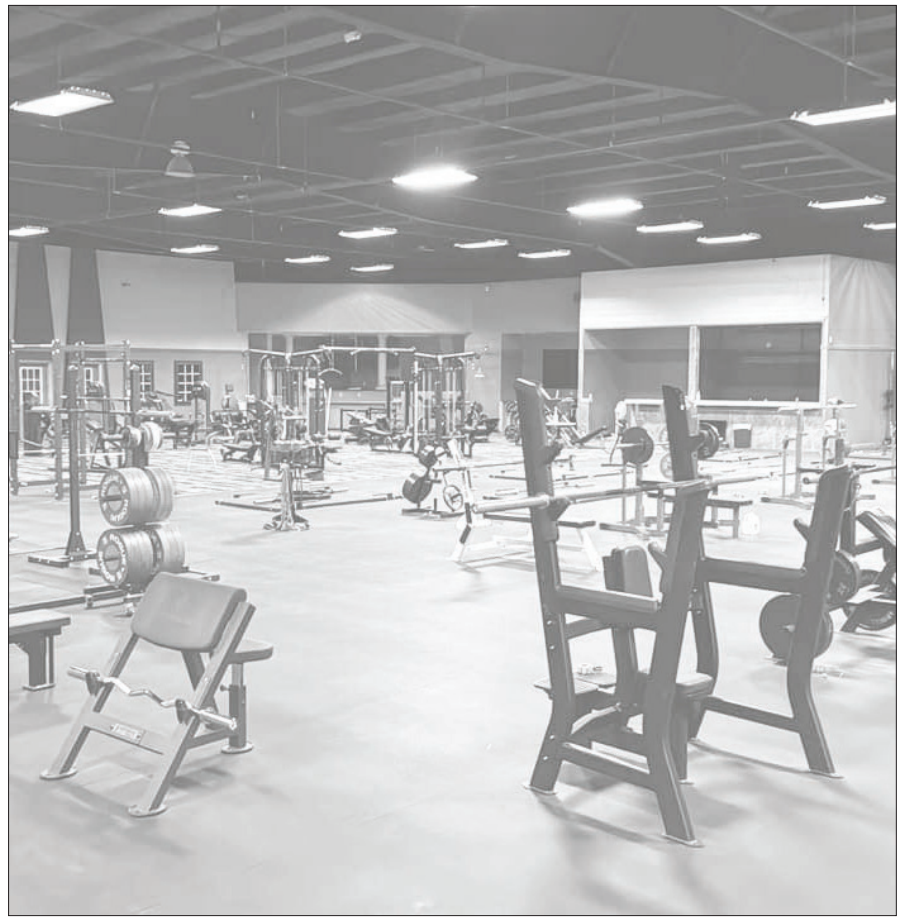


PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

A former trampoline park has been transformed into a 12,000 sq. ft. powerlifting gym in Christiansburg.

New weight club opens in Christiansburg

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Weightlifters in the New River Valley have a new place to call home. Very Good Gym has opened at a former trampoline park/skating rink at 200 Midway Plaza in Christiansburg.

Virginia Tech Spencer Wilhelm felt there was a need, and he jumped at the opportunity, opening this past September. They took over a 12,000 square ft. facility, which had previously been home to a trampoline park.

"We had to do some work to the floor, but for the most part, it works perfectly for a powerlifting gym," Wilhelm said.

The powerlifting aspect seems to have caught on as membership is starting to soar. There are no current plans to avert from the power lifting aspect.

"There are some cardio pieces of equipment, but we are built just for lifting," said Wilhelm graduated from Virginia Tech in 2019 with a Masters in Nutrition and has been involved in powerlifting for a number of years.

The biggest attraction is the fact users have access to the new gym 24/7.

Currently, there are no personal trainers available, but Wilhelm is considering for the future.

Already, people are scratching their head over the unique name of the gym. Wilhelm said a friend came up with the idea and it sort of just stuck when he kept saying it over and over.

Already, the facility has attracted a national super weightlifting event for later this spring. The World Raw Power Federation WRPF has announced the 2024 BlueRidge Beat Down (Tested) at the at Very Good Gym in Christiansburg on March 23.

Registration is now open, and you can secure your spot by visiting the event section at the link on the gym's webpage: verygoodgym.org.

"We feel honored to host an event of this stature and hope to have more in the future," Wilhelm said.

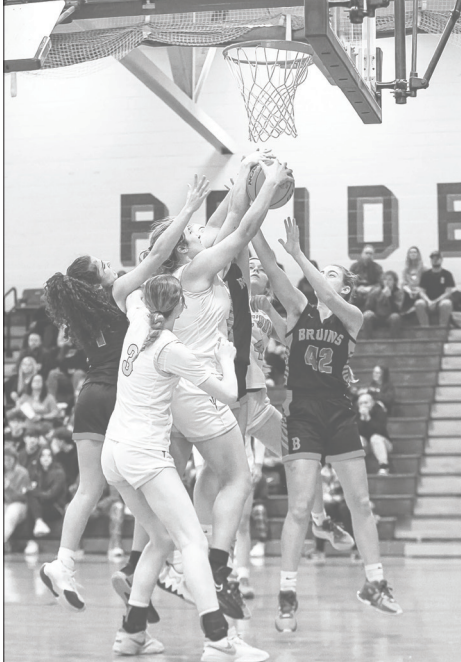
The gym hopes to have as many as four more events by the end of the year.

Very Good Gym has monthly rates with a 20 percent discount for 'heroes', which include military and those in the EMS, fire and/or police sector.

Blacksburg girls take battle of burgers



Katy Hoover (left) gets double-teamed by Blacksburg's Brynn Ferguson (center) and Charlotte Ellis (right) during the cross-county teams contest this past week. Blacksburg would take the 39-34 win. Hoover led Christiansburg with 16 points.



McKenzie Harris snags a contested rebound among a sea of Demons and Bruins.



Kailyn Brawley takes off with the ball for the Bruins up court. She led Blacksburg with 11 points.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Christiansburg girls first, boys seventh in indoor meet



Christiansburg High School's Leila Haley placed first in the girls 55 Meter at this past week's East Coast Elite indoor meet at Roanoke College.



Donovan Richardson placed third for the Blue Demons and achieved a personal best with a jump of 6.5 meters.



Christiansburg's Summer Hamlin finished first place in the 1,000 meters.



Sophomore Jenna Saia took the girls pole vault competition with a 2.13-meter mark.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

