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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, January 20, 2024

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Dialogue on Race to hold Eleventh Annual Summit

"Taking Stock and Moving On" summit set for Jan. 27

On Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, the Montgomery County Dialogue on Race, sponsored by the Community Group, will convene its eleventh annual winter summit.

This public event will be held at Christiansburg Middle School, 1205 Buffalo Dr., Christiansburg, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign-in begins at 8 a.m. with the Coffee with Cops feature beginning at 9 a.m. Light lunch will be served at noon, complements of The Community Group of Montgomery County and the New Mountain Climbers Giving Circle.

The mission of the Dialogue on Race is

to create a forum that examines racial issues articulated by the African American community in Montgomery County, and then develops and implements solutions.

To address these issues the Dialogue on Race project is organized into five issue groups—Education, Law Enforcement, Employment/Income Gap, Jim Crow/White Privilege, and Limited Presence. At this event we will take a brief look at the status of our ongoing work and discuss next steps.

The Community Group



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY GROUP

Dialogue on Race Winter Summit, Saturday, March 26, 2022 at Christiansburg Middle School attended by more than 200 community members to combat racism in the New River Valley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH

Brian Tickle, Store Manager at Lowes Companies, Inc and Ryan Martin, Executive Director and CEO of the YMCA at Virginia Tech.

The YMCA at Virginia Tech selected as one of 100 LOWE'S Hometowns projects

The YMCA AT Virginia Tech's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Resource Center is one of 100 community projects to be completed as part of Lowe's Hometowns, the company's largest-ever community impact program.

Launched in 2022, Lowe's Hometowns is a five-year, \$100 million commitment from Lowe's to rebuild and revitalize community spaces nationwide.

The Y at VT's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Community Resource Center will provide space for various activities, programs, and initiatives, such as workforce skills training, mediated classrooms for learning and certification exams, English language acquisition classes, display space for community

DEI art projects, reception space for community gatherings and social interactions, and more.

The work is in full progress and the space should be complete by the end of this month. We can't wait to share our reveal with you.

This year's Lowe's Hometowns projects were selected from 94 communities across 41 states and

Washington, D.C., and will address needs specific to each community, from housing and community centers to outdoor spaces and facilities for first responders and veterans. Each project will receive a grant from Lowe's to make physical improvements that help

See **YMCA**, page 4

Beans and Banjos Farewell Celebration back as annual event



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEANS AND BANJOS

The group Eight-Point-Star, who produced music for the public television's documentary Story of the New River, is expected to be one of many bands playing at the Beans and Banjos event.

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Beans, cornbread, and lots of local musical entertainment, who could want more!

On Jan. 27 from 6-8 p.m., the First Annual Beans and Banjos Farewell Celebration will be held at the Meadowbrook Center in Shawsville.

Many local musical groups and individuals will be providing a variety of entertainment as eventgoers enjoy a menu of bean dishes, cornbread, assorted desserts, and non-alcoholic drinks. Most of all, socializing and having fun is at the top

of the list and all are welcome to attend.

The Beans and Banjos event started at least 14 years ago and for years was a monthly event giving people an outlet in the cold winter months.

Tim Thorton, organizer of Beans and Banjos and editor of LINC Letter for many years, said that last year was meant to be the final gathering, but they had a great turnout and decided to bring it back this year.

"Basically, instead of doing it once a month, we are going to do it once a year," Thorton said.

Originally, the event

was a fundraiser for the Shawsville Ruritan Club but now donations collected at the event will support the continuing production of the LINC Letter. A full history of the event with pictures of bands from previous years can be found at www.shawsvillerruritan.wordpress.com.

Local community members volunteer to make the event a success by providing food, setting up chairs and tables, and donating their time to play music for the audience. Thorton said that there are too many to name them all but mentioned

See **Banjos**, page 4



IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXABAY

AEP issues water level update

The National Weather Service is calling for cold temperatures to continue through this coming weekend and, therefore, the potential need for Appalachian Power to increase power generation at its hydroelectric plants to maintain the reliability of the regional electric grid will correspondingly

continue. The potential for water levels to increase downstream of Claytor Dam may continue to fluctuate throughout the weekend and into the beginning of next week.

Those considering recreating on the New River downstream of Claytor Dam should

monitor AEP's website (Hydro Plant Levels & Flows (aep.com)) for additional information and follow us on the Claytor Facebook page (Claytor Hydroelectric Project | Radford VA | Facebook) for updates.

Friends of Claytor Lake

School Board discusses rotating leadership positions during reorganizational meeting

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Superintendent Dr. Bernard Bragen, Jr. began the Montgomery County School Board meeting as they reorganized leadership positions amongst the board members, including the roles of chair and vice chair.

Linwood Hudson was nominated by Laura Purcell for Montgomery County School Board Chair at the regular meeting on Jan. 9, 2024. Five members voted in favor of Hudson's nomination, with Dana Partin and Jamie Bond voting in opposition.

"I feel strongly that we need representation from members of all parts of the county and we haven't seen that in the last number of years and in fact, only twice since I've been on the Board for a long time, and I think our County deserves that," said

Bond.

Bond said she hoped to see the introduction of a rotating system of the Chair position of the Board, and she would vote no on this particular nomination.

Dana Partin also shared comments on the reason for her decision to vote no on the election of Hudson as chair.

"I think you will do a fine job if you're elected, but at the present time, I feel like when we have other more substantially experienced people that were interested in the chair that my vote is going to have to be no, but I will support you if you are elected by the majority," Partin said.

Edward Gitre addressed Hudson and the Board as well during the discussion and before the final vote.

"I've seen you act respectfully

See **Positions**, page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Jan. 20:

Bingo!

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Come out for an afternoon of bingo fun. For all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Family Movie Matinee

At the Radford Library; 11 a.m. “Ruby Gillman Teenage Kraken” from the studio that brought you Shrek. A shy adolescent learns that she comes from a fabled royal family of legendary sea krakens and that her destiny lies in the depths of the waters, which is bigger than she could have ever imagined. Rated PG; 91 minutes.

Sunday, Jan. 21:

Getting Scrappy With It

At the Blacksburg Library; 1- 3 p.m. Bring your scrapbook and get ready to put it to good use! This is a scrapbook crafting event, but also a swap and share. If you have any extra scrapbook paper, stickers, whatever, feel free to swap or share with the group. If you don't have scrapbook supplies—we've got you! Just be ready to create and get scrappy with it!

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.

Emergency Services Committee Meeting

The Christiansburg Emergency Services Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall in the Administrative Conference Room, 100 E. Main St.

Monday, Jan. 22 and Tuesday, Jan. 23:

Noise Notification: Engine Rig Testing

There will be testing runs of an M250 engine rig at the Advanced Propulsion and Power Lab located at 1670 Innovation Drive between 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. An engine running sound will last up to an hour or longer during each test run. For more information, contact Jason Doby at doby2017@vt.edu.

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 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 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.

Wednesday, Jan. 24:

Ben Duke art exhibit opens

Artist Ben Duke, Associate Professor of Art at Michigan State, will have an exhibition of his work in the Art Museum at the Covington Center on the campus of Radford University. The show is entitled A Situation of Meanings and features paintings representing two decades of art. The show will run through Friday, Feb. 23. On the final day, Duke will host a talk at 4 p.m. in Covington's Davis Performance Hall followed by a reception that will

include refreshments. Both events are open to the public without charge.

Frances Frederick exhibit opening

Due to inclement weather and freezing temperatures, the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's opening reception for Frances Frederick, originally scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 17 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Jan. 24, 5:30-7:30pm. The reception will be hosted at the Alexander Black House. 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 look back on some of her most vibrant work. The exhibit will run until March 13, 2024.

Friday, Jan. 26:

Sustainability Committee Meeting

The Christiansburg Sustainability Committee will meet at 10 a.m. in the Administrative Conference Room of Town Hall, 100 E. Main St.

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.

Saturday, Feb. 3:

Southwest Virginia High School Art Show

The art of high school students from throughout Southwest Virginia will be on display at The Art Museum on Tyler (214 Tyler Ave., Radford) Feb. 3 – Feb. 17 Opening reception: Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12- 4 p.m. Saturdays.

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.

Virginia's new favorite 2024 hobby is beekeeping

As we usher in the New Year, the spotlight often shines on tried-and-true resolutions like embarking on fitness journeys, embracing a month of sobriety, or setting ambitious career milestones.

Yet, intriguing shifts are surfacing in our quest for personal growth and fulfillment. A five-year Google search analysis reveals a burgeoning curiosity for unconventional pastimes. Americans are turning towards eclectic hobbies, with searches for activities such as aquarium keeping, home brewing, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, and letterboxing climbing the charts. To gauge shifting trends in interests and hobbies for the New Year, ModestFish.com carried out a survey of 3,000 respondents to unearth which hobbies people would most like to adopt in 2024, with some interesting results.

Beekeeping

Sweet News... The most popular hobby Virginians intend on pursuing in 2024 is beekeeping. It's like being a guardian of a tiny, buzzing kingdom, where you get to don a cool suit and peek into the fascinating world of honeybees. It's not just about getting your own delicious honey (though that's a big plus!), it's also about helping these little pollinators thrive, which in turn brightens up your garden. At its core, beekeeping involves the care and management of honeybee colonies, often in man-made hives. What makes it particularly appealing is the deep connection it fosters with the natural world, allowing hobbyists to play a direct role in supporting the health and productivity of these essential pollinators. The process of inspecting hives, managing bee health, and harvesting honey provides a hands-on experience that is both educational and therapeutic.

Aquascaping or Aquarium Keeping

Aquascaping or aquarium keeping emerged as the second most popular in the Old Dominion. Aquarium keeping as a hobby involves creating and maintaining an aquatic environment for various types of fish and aquatic plants. Enthusiasts dedicate time and resources to setting up aquariums that replicate natural habitats, ensuring the right balance of water temperature, pH levels, and cleanliness. This hobby is not just about aesthetics; it also requires knowledge of the biological and chemical processes to keep the aquatic ecosystem thriving. Aquascaping, on the other hand, is the art and craft of arranging aquatic plants, as well as rocks, stones, cawework, or driftwood,

in an aesthetically pleasing manner within an aquarium—in effect, gardening under water. This practice focuses on creating a beautiful landscape or underwater scene, often inspired by terrestrial environments.

Falconry

Falconry took the third position. Falconry is like stepping into a high-flying adventure where you become teammates with the kings of the sky! It is the art and sport of training birds of prey, particularly falcons, hawks, and eagles, to hunt wild animals in their natural state and habitat. This ancient practice dates back thousands of years and has been revered as a symbol of nobility and tradition across many cultures. In falconry, the falconer develops a close bond and partnership with the bird. The process involves training the bird to respond to commands, often using a lure or bait, and to return to the falconer after hunting.

Lapidary

In fourth place among Virginians is Lapidary, which is the art of cutting and polishing stones. Imagine taking a rough, unassuming piece of rock and transforming it into a sparkling gem or an intricate piece of jewelry. This hobby is a delightful mix of geology and creativity, perfect for anyone who loves to get their hands dirty while also unleashing their inner artist. Lapidary isn't just about crafting beautiful objects; it's an adventure in discovering the hidden beauty of the natural world, one stone at a time.

Metal detecting

Metal detecting emerged as the fifth most popular. Metal detecting is the activity of using a metal detector to search for metallic objects buried underground. This hobby is popular among people of all ages and is often pursued in various environments like beaches, parks, old homesites, and historical areas. It's like being a modern-day treasure hunter, exploring and piecing together stories from the past. Metal detecting enthusiasts often form a friendly and engaging community, sharing tips, stories, and their finds.

Homebrewing

Homebrewing came in 6th place. Homebrewing, the craft of making your own beer at home, is an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable hobby for those who love creativity and experimentation in the kitchen. In homebrewing, you call the shots and the flavors! It's a playground

See [Beekeeping](#), page 8



Nancy Jo Waters

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI

Waters receives Torchbearer Ritual

The highest ritual level a Beta Sigma Phi Sorority member can qualify for was recently bestowed on Nancy Jo Waters by her Christiansburg Alpha Mu Master Chapter. The impressive candlelight ritual was conducted by Vice President Sue B. Warden, with Carolyn K. Sowers and Phyllis Durham serving as assistants.

Waters received the

Torchbearer Ritual dedicated upon years of service and study to the Chapter and her community. She pledged to Beta Sigma Phi in February 1982 and has received awards and recognitions from the sorority, including the Order of The Rose and the Silver Circle Ritual recognizing 25 active years of membership. Waters has served several terms as Chapter

President, as various chapter officers and on numerous committees. A special pin and the traditional yellow rose was presented to Waters.

A retired Long Term Care Administrator, Waters resides in Damascus with her husband, Danny.

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority

Kroontje Health Care Center achieves perfect VDH score

BLACKSBURG – The Kroontje Health Care Center (KHCC) at Warm Hearth Village received a perfect annual survey from the Virginia Department of Health in December.

The survey covers skilled and long-term nursing offerings at the Village. A remarkable achievement as the state average is currently 11.7 deficiencies per survey.

KHCC Administrator, Andy Jones joined Warm Hearth Village in June of 2023. He said four surveyors spent three days inspecting all departments in the building. There were 200 possible deficiencies in emergency preparedness, wound care observations, medication observations (resulted in 0% error rate), accurate MDS assessments, kitchen inspection and the cleanliness

of the building. Inspectors also reviewed the infection prevention program and quality assurance program, met with many residents and family members and conducted meal observations and thorough chart reviews.

“We continuously strive to provide the highest level of care,” said Jones. “Survey results mirror my staff’s dedication and this achievement was made possible

by the outstanding teamwork of all staff in all departments.”

Mary Chiles, RN, RAC-CT, and President of Chiles Healthcare Consulting said a perfect score seldom happens and there were only four deficiency-free surveys in Virginia in 2023. Health care residences at Warm Hearth are no stranger to the perfect survey but each time it happens it’s an affirmation to employees

and the organization that our mission and high standards align with expectations of our governing bodies and ultimately those we serve.

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on our campus and in the home.

Warm Hearth Village

Virginia Skyline Girl Scouts kick off 2024 cookie season

The Virginia Skyline Council has kicked off the 2024 Girl Scout Cookie season in southwest and central Virginia, the annual event in which Girl Scouts unbox their futures as young female entrepreneurs through the world’s largest entrepreneurial program for girls.

During this highly anticipated time of the year, girls flex their entrepreneurial muscles and acquire important life skills like money

management, team building, public speaking and decision making. All proceeds from cookie sales stay with local councils and troops to power Girl Scouts’ amazing experiences year-round.

This year’s theme, Unbox the Future, aims to remove social barriers that often keep girls boxed in. When bold, goal-getting Girl Scouts sell a package of cookies, they’re doing much more than what’s seen at face value. Girl

Scouts do more than sell delicious treats—they’re entrepreneurial powerhouses creating a more equitable future for themselves and the world. Every box of cookies sold provides invaluable experiences for Girl Scouts such as service projects, troop travel and summer camp.

This season, cookie lovers can enjoy the full assortment of Girl Scout Cookies, including fan favorites such as Thin Mints, Samoas,

Tagalongs, Do-si-dos, and more. Also cookie supporters can enjoy newer flavors such as S’mores, Lemon-Ups, and Toffee-tastic (our gluten-free cookie).

Nationally nearly 700k girls participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program, and here at home in Virginia Skyline Council, 200+ troops participate with close to 2,000 Girl Scouts. The Girl Scout Cookie Program provides vital girl-led entrepreneurial

skills that build courage, confidence, and character. As a result, girls obtain limitless barrier-breaking futures outside the box with transferable life skills. Girl Scouts can earn a variety of badges and awards to develop valuable business skills including Cookie Business badges, Financial Literacy badges, Cookie Entrepreneur Family pins and Entrepreneur badges.

How to purchase Girl Scout cookies this season

season runs until March 18 in the Virginia Skyline Council region. Fans of Girl Scout Cookies can support Girl Scouting by purchasing cookies for \$6.00 a box in a few different ways:

If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to purchase cookies.

If you don’t know a Girl Scout, visit www.gsvsc.org/cookies to use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder to find

See Girl Scouts, page 4

Positions

from page 1

toward your colleagues and try to find compromise on positions where there was division among Board members,” Gitre said. “I think you will make an excellent chair.”

Hudson accepted the chair’s seat at the meeting and discussed the difficult changes that have been made with the school board recently.

“You know it’s a different board now. Obviously, we’ve got some new members here,” Hudson said. “We know how to get things done and work together and work in the

community and I’m honored to have the opportunity to serve as chair of this board moving forward, so thank you.”

Hudson led the members in the nomination of the vice chair. Gitre nominated Jamie Bond for the position, with all seven members voting to name Bond as the new vice chair.

“I think Jamie’s done a phenomenal job in her 20-plus years on the board. She certainly was a lifesaver for me when I started because I knew nothing and she and Mrs. Franklin both and Gunin Kiran and several others were

so good to me that have been on the board,” Partin said.

The roles of clerk and deputy clerk were also addressed by the school board during the meeting. Since the position of clerk has not been filled though, the Board moved on to appointment of deputy clerk. Tosh Osborne was appointed for a term of one year to the position with a unanimous vote of the board members.

Committee appointments were also an agenda item of the school board meeting.

Positions discussed during the meeting, in which volunteers came forward and were appointed, were Blacksburg Liaison (Purcell and Gitre) and Christiansburg Liaisons (Bond and Partin), Board of Supervisors Liaisons (Hudson and Bond), Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Voting Delegate (Partin) and VSBA Alternate (Derek Roundtree), Southwest Virginia Governors School (Hudson), and the Montgomery County Educational Foundation (Purcell and Roundtree), with all positions being filled.



Marketplace

[ourvalley.org](http://www.ourvalley.org)



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Legals - Montgomery County

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 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

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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

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

Legals - Montgomery County

Fire Tower Road (State Route 600) and Radford Road (State Route 11). The property is further identified as Tax Map 090-10 1 (Parcel ID: 170194), .483 acres, zoned Residential (R-3) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan and is further designated as Medium Density Residential in the Plum Creek Village Plan.

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

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 29, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
A. Code Amendment request by Joe Simmons, Applicant, and Jack Martin, Registered Agent, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-9 – Lighting and minimum off-street parking (a) Specific requirements by use. The request

Legals - Montgomery County

is to include additional language to the “Retail Store or personal service establishment and banks” minimum off-street parking spaces requirement to exclude non-public areas such as stock rooms and storage areas from the overall minimum parking calculation for a building. A copy of the application and the Town’s Zoning Ordinance 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.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 29, 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 Roger Woody, Registered Agent, RWW 36 LLC, Property Owner, and Denise E. LaCour, Managing Director, Denstock LLC, Applicant, to amend a previously approved Planned Housing Development (“The Verge Apartments”) from 209 multi-family residential dwelling units to 206 multi-family residential dwelling units and to change the

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proposed layout 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.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Carnival from April 28, 2024 through May 12, 2024 on the property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax Parcel 435-((A))-41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The proposed time period includes the set-up and operation of the Carnival. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, the Town’s Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.



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Girl Scouts from page 3

cookie booths in your area. Can't find a local booth? Then contact us at info@gsvsc.org and we'll find a local troop to fix that cookie craving you have!

Beginning Feb. 16, enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder

at www.girlscoutcookies.org to purchase from a local Girl Scout troop online for shipment to your door or to donate cookies to first responders and local causes.

You can also text COOKIES to

59618 to stay informed about how to purchase Girl Scout Cookies now and in the future.

Girl Scouts in grades K-12 can start their journey to fun, friendship, and new experiences by joining the world's

largest entrepreneurial organization for girls at any point in the year. Right now, girls can join for FREE: www.gsvsc.org/join.

Girl Scouts Virginia Skyline Council

Banjos from page 1

a few that have been very active in the event over the years.

"Sarah Orick and Jeff Christianson have been very active with both organizations, Carol and

Susan Carr and George Smith have also been very involved with Beans and Banjos," Thorton said.

Also in the past, square dance callers have lead

attendees in traditional square dancing.

"There is no official agenda, and we are expecting at least one square dance caller to be there, so if enough people come then we can probably talk her into it," Thorton said. "The musicians are donating their time and talent, and we've had some pretty good musicians with some that had just got back from their European tour. This time it will be an open jam."

There will be vegetarian options on the

menu as well, so come hungry.

"If you like beans, or cornbread, or bluegrass music, then come on out," Thorton said. "We operate on 'Granny Rules' with no smoking, no cussing, no drinking, and no spitting on the floor. A very family-friendly atmosphere."

The event will be held in the community center behind the Meadowbrook Library. Signs will be available off Route 460, directing people to the building.

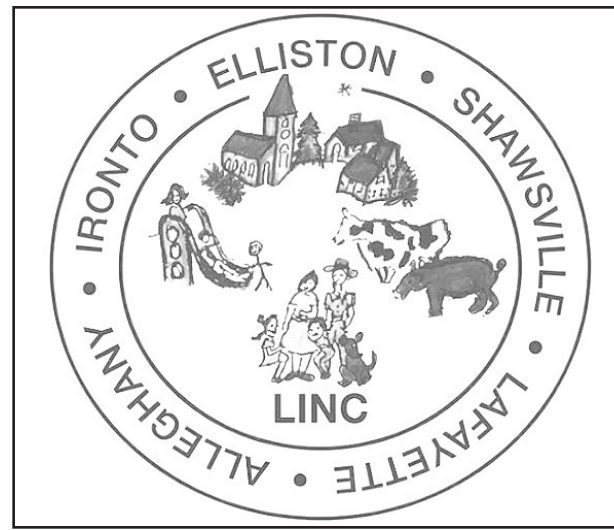


PHOTO COURTESY OF LINC LETTER

Donations raised during the event will benefit the non-profit organization LINC Letter, the publication providing information on resources in eastern Montgomery County.

News Messenger

Established 1869

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyn@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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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YMCA from page 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH

Photographs of work in progress at the Y Center, 1000 N. Main St., Blacksburg

local organizations continue to make meaningful impact in their communities. At the core of this commitment are Lowe's red vest associates, who share a passion for giving back to their communities and provide support to every Lowe's Hometowns project.

Now in the second year of the initiative, Lowe's Hometowns invites nonprofits and community members to share stories of projects in need. Lowe's is partnering with the YMCA AT Virginia Tech, local Lowe's associates, construction pros, and impact partner Points of Light

to complete this project.

Visit Lowe.com/hometowns and follow #LoweHometowns on social media for more details on this year's projects.

YMCA at Virginia Tech

CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Point one point E of due S
 - 4. Slithered
 - 8. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.)
 - 11. Direct the steering of a ship
 - 13. Chops with irregular blows
 - 15. Plural of hilum
 - 16. Incline from vertical (geo.)
 - 17. Simple word forms
 - 18. Paddles
 - 19. Roman garment
 - 21. Meat skewers
 - 23. Ethiopia (abbr.)
 - 25. The cry made by sheep
 - 26. Beatty-Bening movie
 - 30. Concealed
 - 33. Political action committee
 - 34. High rock piles (Old English)
 - 35. Scottish County (abbr.)
 - 36. Goat and camel hair fabric
 - 37. A very large body of water
 - 38. Fabric stain
 - 39. Israeli city ___ Aviv
 - 40. Shoe's underside
 - 42. Military legal corps
 - 43. Patti Hearsf's captors
 - 44. Undecided
 - 48. ___ death do us part
 - 49. Supervises flying
 - 50. Many headed monsters
 - 54. Literary language of Pakistan
 - 57. Halo
 - 58. Hawaiian hello
 - 63. Lubricants
 - 65. Mild exclamation
 - 66. Greek fresh-water nymph
 - 67. Nickname for grandmother
 - 68. A restaurant bill
 - 69. Automaker Ransom E.
 - 70. A young man
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Schenectady County Airport
 - 2. Small water craft
 - 3. Opposite of ecto
 - 4. The woman
 - 5. Skeletal muscle
 - 6. Devoid of warmth and cordiality
 - 7. Decameter
 - 8. Italian goodbye
 - 9. Mediation council
 - 10. Impudence
 - 12. A desert in S Israel
 - 14. Japanese seaport
 - 15. Nob or goblin
 - 20. Ingested
 - 22. Swiss river
 - 24. Protects head from weather
 - 25. Lava rock
 - 26. Designer identifier
 - 27. 34470 FL
 - 28. Petrified ancient animal
 - 29. Gas used in refrigeration
 - 30. Journeys to Mecca
 - 31. Eighth month, Jewish calendar
 - 32. Small indefinite quantity
 - 33. Taps
 - 41. Extremely high frequency
 - 44. Iguanidae genus
 - 45. From the Leaning Tower's city
 - 46. Cologne
 - 47. Moses' elder brother (Bible)
 - 50. A minute amount (Scott)
 - 51. Hindu name for 4 epochs
 - 52. Faded and dull
 - 53. Radioactivity unit
 - 55. The face of a clock
 - 56. The inner forearm bone
 - 59. Tai language of the Mekong region
 - 60. Embrocate
 - 61. Possessed
 - 62. Public promotions
 - 64. Sorrowful

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of Gloria Frye

We are deeply saddened to by nature. Her appreciation for such simple pleasures served as a beautiful testament to her humble, loving character.



announce the peaceful passing of our beloved matriarch, Gloria Frye. Gloria, our guide, mentor, and friend, departed this world surrounded by the love of her family.

Gloria spent her life fully embodying the values of kindness and compassion that remained her guiding principles. She possessed a boundless spirit of philanthropy, never missing an opportunity to extend her assistance to others and teach these values to her cherished kin.

Gloria's joy was a simple walk in the park on a fine day, enjoying the peace and composure brought

humanity in everyone. Her life has been an enduring lesson in kindness, selflessness, and love.

Gloria's memory will forever remain firmly imbedded in the hearts of her well-loved family, who reflect her values and virtues

See **Obituaries**, page 6

Delaney, Richard Russell

Richard Russell Delaney, 51, of Radford, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024. He owned and operated Delaney's Kitchen.

Survivors include his children, Kendrick, Isaiah, Jackson and Xavier; parents, Michael Lewis and Vanessa Delaney Cummings; brother, Dezi "Willie" Delaney; fiancé, Amber Lane; and many other relatives and special friends.



The family will receive friends from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at the Jubilee Christian Center in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Gary Hash officiating.

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar. Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street Radford.

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

THE NIGHT SEASON

Read Psalms 62:1 through 68:35

George A. Young, a bivocational preacher in the nineteenth century, ministered mainly to rural churches while he supplemented his income as a carpenter. After many years of struggle he was able to build a home for his family with his own hands. While away from home in ministry, some who disagreed with his preaching burned his house to the ground. Shortly thereafter he wrote the hymn, "God Leads Us Along."

Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue (Psalm 66:16-17).

The Psalmist's words speak to us when we are going through life's challenges. And Pastor Young speaks to us of praising God in the night seasons of life: "Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song, in the night season and all the day long."

Like Pastor Young, we can pray and we sing in the night. Prayer plus praise equals power. Focus on God's presence and power and don't let sin cut the lines of communication.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, we are thankful that through the challenges, we can still sing praises to You.

Quicklook: Psalm 66:13-20

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: mysthomasoffice@yahoo.com. <http://www.stthomaschristiansburg.dioswva.org>

LUTHERAN

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

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

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

at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where 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 ¼-quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmcl.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

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

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

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

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

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

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

WESLEYAN

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Obituaries from page 5

in their daily lives. Her spirit lives on through their acts of kindness, understanding, and love, her greatest legacy to the world.

In this sorrowful time, we remember Gloria not with tears of grief but with endless gratitude for

having been blessed with her gentle guidance and unyielding love. She will be greatly missed, forever cherished, and never forgotten.

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

Graham, Fred

Fred Graham, 92, of Blacksburg was born in Montgomery County on Sept. 28, 1931.

He passed away, peacefully, at home on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024. Fred was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Peggy Duncan Graham; son Marvin Graham; parents Hubert and Minnie Cooper Graham, brothers Tom, Earl, Harry, and John Graham; sisters Ina Price, Clara Schnell, Ethel Neighbors, and Dolly Long.

He is survived by his son James Graham (Sharon); daughter Lori Okes (Kraig); grandchildren Danielle Okes (Wayne Myers), Tiffany Roberts (Billy), Derrick Graham (Cheyanne), Bobby "BJ" Graham (Michelle), Ashley Meyer (Daniel), and Adrienne Mullins (Ted); sister-in-law Melva Hughes; 16 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; special niece Phyllis Price and special great-niece Michelle Hairfield (Benny).

Fred enlisted in the United States Army in 1953 at the very end of the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1955 with the rank of

corporal. He was not drafted as two of his brothers were already serving but he chose to enlist to serve his country. He always told everyone joining the Army was the best decision he ever made. He learned many valuable lessons and passed them along to his children.

He worked as an electrician for several years and then went to work for Radford Army Ammunition Plant as a pipe insulator. He retired from there in 1984. He enjoyed playing guitar and singing. He played music with several different gospel groups. He last attended Fairview Community Church. He was a very dedicated Christian and spent most of his last days reading the bible and listening to "preaching" as he called it on TV.

A funeral service was conducted Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Jimmy Lee Price officiating.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial contributions to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



Long, Barbara Gayle

Barbara Gayle Long, of Pulaski, born July 24, 1937, died Jan. 16, 2024.

Gayle was preceded in death by her parents, I.D. and Sarah Long. She is survived by her cousins, Kirsten (Dave) Davis, Rob (Wendy) Rea, Curtis (Marian) Rea, and Wayne (Lynn) Dowd. Gayle is also survived by many friends who have long considered her to be part of their families.

Born in South Carolina, Gayle moved with her parents to Pulaski County in 1941. After graduating from Pulaski High School in 1955, she worked in the local mills before going to work in the Pulaski County Commissioner of Revenue's office, where she retired as a deputy commissioner after forty-four years of service. During her lifetime, Gayle enjoyed many years of ballroom and square dancing with local dance

groups. She was a faithful member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Pulaski, where she was active in many aspects of congregational life. Gayle was especially proud of her years of work with the Pulaski County Relay for Life. Gayle will be remembered for her kindness, her generosity, and her great sense of humor.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Pulaski, with the Rev. Jessica Darty officiating. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church (2 Fifth St. NW, Pulaski, VA, 24301) or the American Cancer Society.

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



Scott, Herbert Dean

Herbert Dean Scott, 83, passed away Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at his home in Radford.

He was a U. S. Air Force veteran and retired from the Radford Army Ammunitions Plant. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Lewis, Jr. and Elizabeth Agnes Reed Scott; and his wife, Linda Scott.

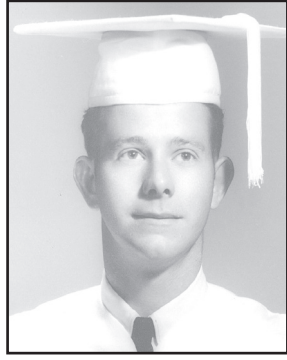
Survivors include his sister, Darlene Nelson; brother, Harvey Scott (Mary); nephews, Kevin Thompson (Laura), James Thompson (Tab), and Woody Nelson (Jennifer); and many other

relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Medi-Home Hospice caregivers Josie, Amy and Cody, and nurse Wanda Smith.

The family will receive friends 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services will follow in West View Cemetery with Rev. Robert Morris officiating.

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



Simpson, Gertrude Thomas

Gertrude Thomas Simpson, 93, of Dublin, (formerly of Belspring) passed away at her home Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024. Gertrude was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother (MawMaw).

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Maude Thomas; husband of 58 years, Thomas William Simpson; son, Thomas William Simpson, Jr.; and grandson, Brian Simpson; and

siblings, Thelma Foss, Mary Jane Heldreth, and Frank Thomas, Jr.

Survivors include daughters, Sandra Joseph and Jackie Payne; five grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-granddaughter; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Intrepid Hospice staff for their care and compassion.

Graveside services were held Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at West View Cemetery in Radford with Rev. Marcus Harrison officiating.

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

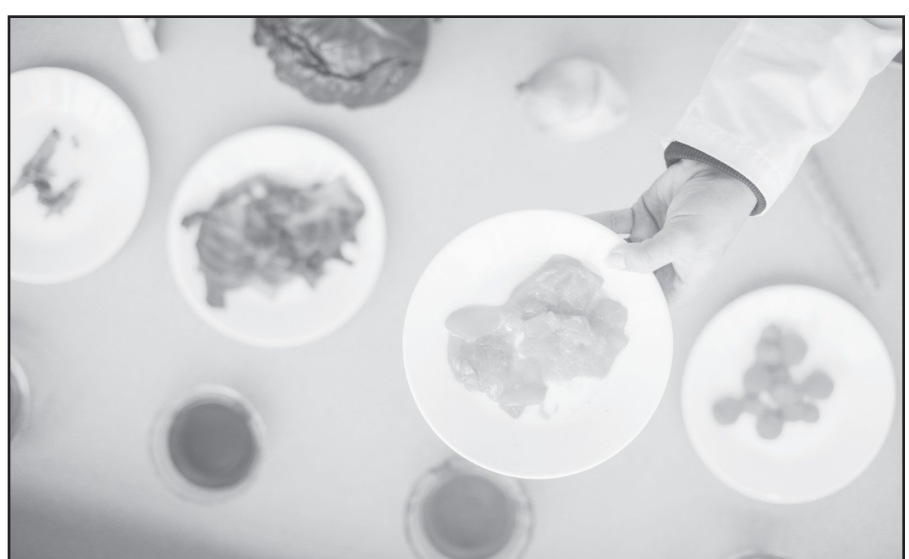


PHOTO BY SAM DEAN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Researchers at Virginia Tech are studying the effects and implications of the changing food spending patterns on the profitability and welfare of farmers, food processors, and consumers.

Researchers receive USDA grant to study changing food spending patterns

After a long day, there's the age-old question of do we eat out or stay in?

Over the last decade, that answer has increasingly shifted to eating out.

In that timeframe, households have increasingly spent more money on food outside of the home than what's spent on eating at home. In that same time, the farmer's share of the food dollar eaten outside of the home has declined while the share of food eaten at home has increased.

With a more than \$550,000 grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, researchers George Davis and Anubhab Gupta, in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, are studying the effects of the changing food spending patterns on the profitability and welfare of farmers, food processors, and consumers, or welfare through the United States' food supply chain.

"Our project aims to look at the changing profitability and welfare effects in the food supply

chain while recognizing that the effects will depend on the underlying market structure and consumer socioeconomic, demographic, and environmental factors," said George Davis, professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics and project lead.

The research team has four objectives:

Look at how the difference between retail food prices and farm prices have changed over time as spending on food at home and food away from home has changed.

Determine to what extent consumers have benefitted from the change in eating food at home versus food away from home.

Consider what role the degree of competition within the food supply chain has affected profitability and welfare for the farmer, processors, and consumers as food spending patterns have changed.

Consider how alternative policies affecting food at home and food away from home spending will affect profitability and welfare

throughout the food supply chain.

The project will combine well-established research areas that have not been joined before to understand important policy-relevant questions regarding price and quantity relationships, market structure, and welfare distribution throughout the associated market.

To achieve the objectives, the team will utilize public-use consumer expenditure survey microdata from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, NBER-CES Manufacturing Industry Database, and estimates from the literature.

"Our integrated framework will answer important policy and scenario questions related to socioeconomic and demographic profile of consumers, COVID-19, Ukraine war, etc. on welfare distribution throughout the food supply chain, while extending our knowledge on the four strands of literature and a unique way of integrating them," Davis said.

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

Researchers use music to grow student interest in technical fields

Virginia Tech researchers are leveraging sound, music, and creative technologies to spark an interest in wave physics among secondary school students and recent high school graduates.

"I have never had a student who wasn't interested in music," said Marc Eaton, lead technical education teacher at Eastern Montgomery High School. "Some students are already interested in engineering and physics and some aren't so much, but when you add the music, every student's interest is piqued."

For more than a year, Eaton has been bringing his classes to participate in the Building a Workforce for Wave Physics program that is a joint effort between Virginia Tech's School of Performing Arts and the Virginia Tech National Security Institute and is hosted by the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology.

"It's a unique experience for them too," Eaton said. "Some of the students will learn about wave physics a little bit in their physics or earth science classes, but I think the program does kind of put meaning to the kind of stuff that doesn't seem to have meaning in the classroom."

Led by Bradley Davis, assistant director of the Spectrum Dominance Division of the Virginia Tech National Security Institute, and Ivica Bukvik, a professor in the School of Performing Arts, the program reaches hundreds of students each year.

Waves result from monumental events that cause physical changes in the world. Wave physics studies these phenomena, and it is a particularly important field of study for those working in the defense field.

Created out of a three-year grant from the Department of Navy STEM Education and Workforce Program administered by the Office of Naval Research, the program shows students a series of demonstrations on topics such as spectral filtering harmonics, frequency modulation, and voice modulation, using songs from popular artists like Shakira, Pitbull, and T-Pain.

By exploring the interactive modules, students uncover key questions and, through collaborative discovery guided by the instructor, seek answers. The students are then able to use tools to practice what they have learned.

"It's hands on for them," said Justin Kerobo, a doctoral student in human-centered design and a researcher working on the project. "After our demonstrations, they get to play around with the tools to change what their favorite song sounds like or change their own voice so they sound like their favorite Pixar character."

The students end their sessions by taking a survey about their experience that Kerobo said is moving the program forward.

"They're learning from us but we also have to learn from them," Kerobo said. "The point of this program is to get students interested in wave physics, so we have to take their experience into account. What did they understand or not understand? What did they like and what did they think was boring?"

With a growing shortage of national defense personnel with expertise in wave physics, Virginia Tech researchers hope the project will grow interest in the field of wave physics among students, and eventually grow the national defense workforce.

Lindsey Haugh for Virginia Tech



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Justin Kerobo (at center), a doctoral student in human-centered design and researcher, works on the Building a Workforce for Wave Physics program.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Burnop named state broadcaster of the year

Mike Burnop, the Virginia Tech football and men's basketball color analyst on the Virginia Tech Sports Network radio broadcasts, was named Tuesday as the 2023 Virginia Sportscaster of the Year in a vote held among the statewide members in the National Sports Media Association.

The award marked the second NSMA award for the former Virginia Tech football player and longtime color analyst, following him earning the honor in 2019. Burnop has served as the color analyst for Tech football games since 1983 when he and former Tech play-by-play broadcaster Jeff Charles teamed for broadcasts. In 1996, Burnop started working as the color analyst for Tech men's basketball games, joining then play-by-play announcer Bill Roth. Today, Burnop and Roth handle radio broadcasts of

Tech football games, while he joins Zach Mackey for men's basketball games for the Hokies.

"I am honored to be the recipient of this award," Burnop said. "We have some of the best writers and broadcasters in the country residing in Virginia, so to be recognized among them is truly humbling.

"I also appreciate our team at Learfield IMG College whom I've worked with over the years - Zach [Mackey], Laze [Jon Laaser], Billy [Roth], Andrew Allegretta and Jeff Charles. And of course, all the great coaches, players, administrators here at Virginia Tech and the fans who listen to us every game. It's been so much fun to watch Virginia Tech Athletics grow since I played, and I'm excited to have been a small part of it."

A record-setting tight end, Burnop



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Longtime Virginia Tech football and men's basketball radio analyst Mike Burnop has won a state broadcaster of the year for second time in his legendary career.

played at Tech from 1970-72. He was inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 2000.

Burnop and other state and national winners will be honored at an awards

weekend held in the summer in North Carolina.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Tech Lab addresses Mahomes incident

About everyone has now seen the holes in the football helmet belonging to Kansas City Chief quarterback Patrick Mahomes. The top of the helmet was shattered after a hit from a tackler. Equipment officials said the below zero temperatures lent a hand in the incident, but at no time was Mahomes at danger.

Once he got to the sidelines, staff replaced his helmet with another. But that is where they ran into another problem. The second helmet was so cold it was hard to stretch onto Mahomes' head.

But it was the questions that surrounded the original incident that had lots of people scratching their heads.

The helmet's manufacturer, Certor Sports, which makes the VICIS ZERO2 helmet, said the headgear served its intended purpose despite cracking.

"While outer shell damage is not ideal, the ZERO2 helmet did its job of protecting Patrick Mahomes during a head-to-head impact

during unprecedented cold temperatures," VICIS said in a statement released on X. "The exclusive multi-layer technology employed in the VICIS ZERO2 helmet model utilizes a deformable outer shell, RFLX impact absorption layer, followed by a stiff inner shell. This design approach is similar to the crumple zone of modern cars, effectively absorbing and dispersing impact forces at the point of contact.

"Extreme conditions like those experienced in Saturday evening's NFL playoff game are bound to test the limits of even the highest performing products."

The Virginia Tech Helmet Lab has studied many of the helmets used in the NFL, college and high school. Barry Miller is the director of outreach and business development for the Tech Lab. He said Tuesday that it is unusual for a football helmet to crack a shell.

"But we've had occurrences

here in the lab and we generally test at ambient temperature," he said.

National media has reached out to the VT group after the Mahomes incident. Again, Miller said it is unusual for a helmet shell to crack, but if you asked a football equipment room manager you may find a different answer as they see tons of helmets with plenty of impacts.

Football helmets need to meet a NOCSAE standard in order to be legally sold, but they typically don't use a cold weather test.

The VICIS ZERO2 uses a proprietary multilayer technology that creates a "deformable outer shell," the company said, and that is wrapped around a stiffer inner shell. The design is similar to that of car bumpers, which might appear to be inexpensive plastic at first glance but are in fact engineered to absorb and disperse energy at the point of impact.

The ZERO2 line, which

includes specific models for linemen and quarterbacks, held the top five spots in testing this season by the NFL and NFLPA. The helmets also ranked highly in independent evaluations at Virginia Tech.

The ZERO2 is the number three ranked helmet on Tech's testing list.

VICIS was founded in 2017 and quickly became a venture-capital darling, raising more than \$85 million from current and former NFL players that included Aaron Rodgers, Russell Wilson and Jerry Rice. And with a focus on innovation, the company produced helmets that ranked No. 1 in NFL and NFLPA testing from 2017-19.

But the company struggled to compete with established manufacturers Riddell and Schutt, and that took a toll on its finances. Co-founder and CEO Dave Marver resigned in November 2019, the company's board of directors voted to place it in receivership the following month, and

more than 100 employees were laid off in an attempt to avoid bankruptcy.

The Associated Press reports Innovatus Capital Partners bought the assets of VICIS in 2020 and it was incorporated into Certor Sports, which also produces the Schutt brand of helmets and TUCCI, which produces wood and metal baseball bats.

VICIS has continued to innovate when it comes to helmet design. A few years ago, the company relaunched the ZERO2 platform of helmets that Mahomes was wearing, and introduced the TRENCH, a helmet designed specifically for linemen.

"VICIS helmets are extensively tested in high-impact conditions across a range of temperatures," the company said. "We are committed to continuing our development of the safest helmets in football and working with our partners in the NFL and other organizations to constantly gain knowledge and continuously advance protective technology."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLLEGIATE RUGBY ALL-STARS

Local players play in National Collegiate Rugby Championship

Several local collegiate rugby athletes earned the privilege of participating in the National Collegiate Rugby Championship in Austin, Texas Jan. 6-7, 2024. The Mid-Atlantic team consisted of athletes from Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Those athletes included Zane Rupe (Radford High School graduate) of Emory & Henry College, and from Virginia Tech: Hunter Dsnsei, Brandon Eng, Matthew Heulsman, and Lucas Bichy. Teams from across the country were divided into eight regions with Great Lakes claiming the championship.

Sports notes: Lady Highs sixth in preseason poll

Three-time defending Big South women's tennis champion Charleston Southern University has been unanimously voted the preseason favorite in the annual Big South Conference preseason poll by the league's head coaches, the conference office announced Thursday. The Buccaneers received all six first-place votes and 36 points to win the conference in 2024. In addition, CSU junior Noa Boyd (Silver Spring, Md.) was voted the first-ever Women's Tennis Preseason Player of the Year.

Charleston Southern, which is 20-1 in conference matches since 2020, earned the top spot for the third consecutive year. UNC Asheville, the 2023 regular-season champion, was second in the preseason ranking with 29 points. Presbyterian College was third in the poll with 22 points, ahead of fourth-place Gardner-Webb (19 points). Longwood placed fifth in the poll with 11 points, while Radford landed in the sixth and final spot with nine points.

On the men's side of the court, Radford University is picked to finish fourth.

For the first time, Gardner-Webb University was voted

the preseason favorite in the annual Big South Conference men's tennis preseason poll by the league's head coaches, the conference office announced Thursday. In addition, GWU senior Eduardo Dias (Parana, Brazil) was voted the first-ever Men's Tennis Preseason Player of the Year.

The Runnin' Bulldogs, who went 16-7 overall last year and was a co-regular-season champion with their 4-1 Big South record, earned the top spot in the 2024 poll with 24 points and four first-place votes. Defending men's tennis champion Presbyterian College was second in the preseason ranking with 19 points and collected the remaining first-place vote. UNC Asheville finished third in the balloting with 15 points, while Radford landed in the fourth spot with 11 points. Longwood rounded out the predicted order of finish in fifth with six points.

High Point coach recognized

HighPoint University's Men's Basketball Head Coach Alan Huss has been named a 'mid-season' recipient for

the 2024 Joe B. Hall National Coach of the Year award.

"Alan Huss has quickly turned the page to a new chapter in High Point University basketball," said Angela Lento, Vice President College Insider. "It's been impressive to watch how Coach Huss has changed the mindset of the program since arriving last March. He has put together an elite roster, which will challenge for High Point's first-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament."

The Joe B. Hall award is presented annually to the top first-year head coach in Division I college basketball. The award will be announced and presented to the final winner in Phoenix, Arizona at the site of the Men's Division I NCAA National Championship.

Since taking over in March of 2023, coach Huss has already guided the program to multiple milestones. Finishing up the non-conference schedule, the Panthers currently hold a record of 11-4 which is the best non-conference record in program history. High Point boasts an 8-0 record inside the Qubein Center, which is the first undefeated home non-conference season in program history since

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Q&A Preview with RU Director of Track and Field

Radford University Director of Track and Field and Cross Country, Shelli Sayers, took the moment to sit down and give an insight of the team's preparation for the upcoming 2024 Track & Field schedule.

Last season, numerous Highlanders found themselves achieving personal bests as well as some adding their name to Radford's record book such as Dezmaia Carter, Raichelle Cornelius, Rachel Millirons, Jaslyne Robinson, Sophomore Sophie Magson, and Senior Chloe Wellings, earned a podium finish at the 2023 Big South Indoor Championships. With all these women returning, Sayers had a lot of positive notes on the team and her excitement for the upcoming season.

Q: What are your overall thoughts and feelings headed into the 2024 season?

A: We are very excited. A majority of the team that scored is returning so it feels like we have maximized our potential. I am looking forward to seeing the next step and moving forward throughout the season with this team of incredible young women.

Q: How do you feel after your opening meet at Liberty?

A: Good. It was hard because the whole team was not together due to the overlap of cross country we did not have our distance team so we were not at full strength. However, I feel confident where we started and know there is room for improvement in certain areas.

Q: What motivates the team and the coaches?

A: The team motivates each other by being there for one another. When one person does well, it sparks the team. They feed off each other, especially being such a young team. They are also on a mission to prove themselves. Everybody counts out Radford because we are solely a women's program so our mission is to always put people in the way. What motivates me is I am a competitive person. I have high expectations not about places and times, rather how the team represents themselves and the program. As a mother of two girls, they are great role models for my daughters. I want to be the best coach for them because they are putting their heart and soul into this program.

Q: What has surprised you the most about your team this season?

A: That is a really good question... I think it is still to be determined. Right

now, I am pleasantly surprised seeing how the younger women are stepping into leadership roles. We do not have the traditional captains, especially with a young team, so it is nice to see how so many of them are stepping up. I definitely look forward to seeing this season unfold.

Q: What was your reaction to our third place vote in the Big South preseason poll?

A: I was honestly surprised to see us third. It is going to be a challenge to achieve this, but we do have the athletes and mentality to be a third place team. They don't back down from any challenge. As a group we have talked about what it will take to achieve third place as well as the goals we need to achieve to put us in a good place.

Q: How are you feeling after a successful cross country season regarding the overlap of those athletes?

A: I am very impressed with the way the women ran all year. Overall, when you go back and look at the season you can pick out pretty incredible moments such as so many women putting their name in the history book. This is overall one of the best teams that has come into the program. We are in an excellent spot.

Everybody ran faster which leads us to believe they will take that step forward on the track as well.

Q: How does this team compare to previous seasons?

A: They are younger than most. However, there are some upperclassmen who can lead the way. A majority of the team is now seasoned and fired up and ready to come back. They also now understand the conference and what makes a successful season.

Q: Where do you see the most progress on and off the track?

A: Off the track, these women are consistently awesome in the classroom. Academics are now an important piece. The expectations not only come from the coaches, but the student athletes have high expectations for themselves. On the track, distance has taken a step forward. They are progressing in the mental sense, the communication between athlete and coaches is constant and they are more willing to talk about all parts of being a successful student athlete.

The women return to action this Friday and Saturday (Jan 19-20) at Liberty's 4th Annual Brant Tolsma Invitational.

Radford University Athletics

Radford University volleyball student-athlete Meredith Page testifies before U.S. House of Representatives

Page to share testimony during "NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes' Dealmaking Rights" hearing

RADFORD - Meredith Page, a member of the Radford University women's volleyball team, joined two other NCAA Division I student-athletes and association president Charlie Baker in testimony before the United States House Energy and Commerce Committee's Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee for a hearing titled "NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes' Dealmaking Rights" on Thursday, Jan. 18 in Washington, D.C.

Page, a native of Murfreesboro, Tenn., is an outside hitter who has played in 12 career matches for the Highlanders. She was sidelined during the 2023 season with an injury and redshirted to retain her junior eligibility for fall 2024. Page is working towards a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degree in Management.

Page is in her second year as the president of Radford's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), a leadership group of student-athletes representing all 16 sports at Radford University. SAAC serves as a conduit of communication among student-athletes, coaches and athletic administrators on issues to improve the student-athlete experience and promote growth and education through sports participation.

Joining Page in Thursday's testimony was Baker, Missouri Valley Conference Commissioner Jeff Jackson, Dr. Victoria Jackson, Associate Clinical Professor



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Meredith Page

of History at Arizona State University, UCLA reserve quarterback Chase Griffin and Michigan softball catcher Keke Tholl.

Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee Chair Gus Bilirakis (R-Florida) led Thursday's hearing. Bilirakis has proposed the FAIR College Sports Act, which seeks to govern how student-athletes receive compensation for Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals.

Radford University

Beekeeping

from page 2

for the taste buds, where every batch is an exciting experiment. And the best part? Sharing your bubbly creations with friends and family, watching their faces light up with that first sip.

Other popular hobbies for Virginians in 2024 are:

Lockpicking

Lockpicking is the ultimate puzzle-solving adventure that lets you become a real-life locksmith magician! It's a thrilling blend of dexterity and brainpower that rewards patience and precision. The satisfaction of that satisfying click as the lock surrenders has been described as a high like no other.

Mushroom Cultivation

Mushroom cultivation is the art of turning spores into savory delights in your own space. Whether you're a foodie or just love a delicious challenge, it's a magical mix of science and culinary creativity.

Glass Blowing

Glass blowing is the mesmerizing art of transforming molten glass into intricate, one-of-a-kind creations through skilled manipulation.

Geocaching

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity that combines elements of treasure hunting and exploration. Participants use a GPS receiver or mobile device to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches," at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world. Each cache, often a small waterproof box, contains a logbook for finders to sign and sometimes trinkets for trading.

Bookbinding

Bookbinding is the timeless art of turning stacks of loose pages into beautifully crafted, hand-bound books. It's like sculpting stories into tangible works of art.

Letterboxing

Letterboxing is a thrilling treasure hunt that combines outdoor adventure with

puzzle-solving. Armed with clues and a sense of curiosity, you'll embark on quests to discover secret letterboxes tucked away in scenic spots.

Radio controlled vehicles

Radio-controlled (RC) vehicles as a hobby involve building, operating, and sometimes racing miniature vehicles that are controlled remotely. These vehicles can include a wide variety of types, such as cars, trucks, drones, airplanes, helicopters, and boats. Hobbyists often invest time and money into purchasing and customizing their RC vehicles, upgrading components like the motor, battery, and chassis to improve performance and durability.

Blacksmithing

Blacksmithing is the sizzling art of forging metal into masterpieces. Whether you're crafting jewelry or powerful blades, it's a captivating blend of skill and art, where you make sparks fly and creativity flow.

Model Railroading

Model railroading is like being the station manager of your own tiny trains, creating scenic landscapes and watching them come to life. Whether you're a history buff or an artistic soul, this hobby blends creativity with precision.

"As we step into 2024, we're seeing a remarkable shift towards alternative hobbies that reflect a blend of creativity, sustainability, and technology. People are embracing pastimes that reconnect them with nature, enhance their skills, and bring joy through hands-on engagement. From the precision of beekeeping to the artistry of aquascaping, these hobbies offer a counterbalance to our digital lives, promising enrichment and a sense of community in the most unexpected of pursuits" says Katherine Morgan of ModestFish.com.

Modest Fish

Notes

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becoming Division I in 1999.

In the Panthers home opener, the team earned Coach Huss' first win and did it in recordbreaking fashion. As a team, HPU knocked down 21 three-pointers, breaking the previous single-game three-point record of 15, which was set in 2007, 2011 and 2012. High Point also tied a program record, 61

rebounds in the 105-51 win over St. Andrews.

Ranking 18th nationally in scoring offense, averaging 85.5 points per game, High Point recorded the second most points scored in a single game in program history with the 122-73 win over Mount Olive.

High Point finished as the runner-up at the Gulf Coast Showcase in Estero, Florida after coming up short in overtime against Hofstra University, 97-92.

High Point is ranked No. 19 in the latest Mid-Major Top 25 poll.

Worley SEC gymnast of week

Fifth-year senior Raena Worley has been named Southeastern Conference Co-Gymnast of the Week, the conference announced on Tuesday. She shares the weekly honor with Alabama's Luisa Blanco.

Worley spent her first Friday Night Heights of the 2024 meet slate by securing the 22nd All-Around title of her career following a cumulative 39.650.

The Christiansburg native began her night at No. 12 Auburn on the uneven bars where she earned a 9.925 from the judges. The high score topped the event to give Worley her 10th individual win on the event. In the second rotation of the evening, Worley vaulted her way to a 9.875 to tie for second overall. Her solid balance beam performance earned a 9.900 to tie her for second on that apparatus as well.

Tech, Sox partnership

The Salem Red Sox are teaming up with the Virginia Tech School of Communication for the fourth consecutive year ahead of the 2024 baseball season to broadcast all 2024 Red Sox home games. Giovanni Heater and Carter Hill will be the voices of the Salem Red Sox ahead of Opening Day set for Friday, April 5. Games will air on streaming services and MiLB.com.

Heater is currently a Junior at Virginia Tech, studying Sports, Media, and Analytics. This will be

his second year as a broadcaster for the Salem Red Sox.

Hill is currently a junior at Virginia Tech in the Sports Media and Analytics (SMA) program. A lifelong sports fan, Carter grew up just down the road from the school's campus, graduating locally from Blacksburg High School in May 2021. He has been heavily involved in the SMA program ever since arriving his freshman year, broadcasting seven different sports and covering football and men's basketball for 3304 Sports, the student sports media program at Virginia Tech, where he currently serves as a co-editor-in-chief. In addition, Carter also is currently a broadcast associate for Virginia Tech softball, where he calls games on behalf of the program on the Virginia Tech Sports Network from Learfield.

Teck Club LAX #1

Virginia Tech, the 2023 MCLA Division I national runner up, inherits the top spot in the USA Lacrosse MCLA Division I Preseason Top 20 after Concordia, the 2023 national champion, departed for the NCAA Division II ranks.

The Hokies finished 2023 15-4 and return senior attackman Aidan Smith, the USA Lacrosse MCLA Division I Preseason Player of the Year. The catalyst for the Hokies' run to the national championship game, Smith is a two-time first-team All-American and the reigning MCLA Player of the Year. The Potomac Falls, Va., product scored 58 goals and dished 35 assists last spring and has 195 career points.

A smattering of championship hopefuls follow the Hokies. Utah Valley, which finished seventh in the final coaches' poll in 2023, is No. 2. Georgia Tech, last year's fifth-place finisher in the final poll, is No. 3. Liberty and Chapman round out the top five and Nos. 4 and 5, respectively, the same spots in which they finished 2023.

Staff report

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