News Messenger

Christiansburg

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Jason Miller named Virginia Tech Police Department's 2023 Officer of the Year

Officer Jason Miller has been named the Virginia Tech Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2023. Miller's many contributions in his eight years with the department have left a lasting mark on the Virginia Tech

A residence life resource officer (RLRO), Miller is highly engaged in the community, including work at Gobbler Nights and new student orientation, instructing Rape Aggression Defense classes, and contributing to events like the police department's annual hot dog luncheon and University Library's Cheesy Nights during finals week.

Additionally, he assists with Ringo the Patrol Pony, co-hosts the "RLRONation" radio show on WUVT, and serves as an instructor for the Virginia Tech Student

He is the team leader for the police department's

Emergency Response Team, where he contributes leadership and tactical skills. He also is a defensive tactics instructor, ensuring his colleagues are well-prepared for the challenges they may face, as well as a firearms instructor, use of force instructor, Gracie Survival Tactics instructor, active shooter instructor, Chief's Advisory Committee member, and Training Committee member.

As the liaison between the police department and the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy, Miller supports the development of new law enforcement professionals in the region. And he coordinates training events with the University of Virginia, George Mason University, Roanoke College, and regional New River Valley law

See Miller, page 3



(From left) Chief Mac Babb presents Officer Jason Miller with the Officer of the Year award.

PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Volunteer Montgomery volunteers gather on February 9th to make valentines for local veterans.

Volunteer Montgomery honors veterans with valentines

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

Volunteers from Montgomery County and the City of Radford gathered on Feb. 9 to make valentines for local veteran patients in a Volunteer Montgomery event.

"Every year, members of Volunteer Montgomery participate in the National Salute to Veteran Patients by crafting valentines for the VA Medical Center and Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem," Mandy Hayes, Volunteer Montgomery Coordinator said. "This year, 19 volunteers of all ages gathered at our office on Friday, Feb. 9 and made 490 valentines for veterans."

The valentine-making volunteers joined together at the Montgomery County office at 210 South Pepper Street, Suite D, in Christiansburg from 10-12 p.m. According to the Director of Human Services, the event has been going on for over 10 years and welcomes

volunteers of all ages.

"This worked out great as schools were out for a teacher workday, so many of our younger volunteers were able to participate as well. If folks weren't able to make it out to craft day but wanted to participate, we welcomed them to make the valentines independently and drop them off at our office prior to the ninth,

After the almost 500 valentines were completed, volunteer Taska Bailey then delivered the cards to the two locations in Salem for staff to share with the veteran patients at the facilities.

"We would like to thank Volunteer Montgomery Volunteer Taska Bailey for delivering the cards this year,"

See **Veterans**, page 2

Bell collection tells local woman's life story spanning almost a century

Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY-In Mrs. Rubye Scott's dining room stands a cabinet full of almost 300 bells, each a gift to her as tokens of love and

Each special trinket also represents a story of how Scott became such a meaningful part of their lives.

Anyone meeting Mrs. Rubye Scott would never guess her age of 95 years. She drives herself to town and does whatever she sets her mind to do. Her kind eyes and friendly smile invoke a sense of already knowing her, even though you've only met for the first time. It must be the natural teacher in her, as she lovingly speaks of the many students she taught at Blacksburg High School. Yet, there's something else unique about this lady that draws you into her gentle spirit and soft voice as she tells the story of her bell collection.

Born in Grundy, Va., as one of seven children, Scott said she was always too young or too small for everything from the very beginning. She was a premature baby and the oldest of her sisters. Grundy is a very rural, mountainous area in southwest Virginia, and her father worked at the nearby coal mine and was also a farmer. Life was hard and people had to eek out a living the best they could.

One of her prized bells, and one of the oldest, is a cowbell that once hung from the neck of her family's Jersey cow. In her Grundy community, Scott said, everyone had a cowbell on their milk cow when they would turn them out to graze together.

"When it was 5 o' clock, it was milking time, you'd go find your cow and bring it home and milk the cow," Scott said. "You found your cow by the ring; we knew the ring so we could find our cow.'

Scott was fortunate to have parents who always wanted the best education they could get for their

NRCC presents Black History Month program



month, New River Community

College (NRCC) and the college's

Black History Committee will

sponsor a guest speaker and music program on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 3

The event will be held in 117

Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

Keynote speaker Wayne Scales, Ph.D. will present "A black man's

challenges, struggles, rewards and triumphs pursuing a stem career."

received

and master's degrees in Honors

Electrical Engineering and Applied

Mathematics from Virginia Tech

and was a Sage Graduate Fellow

while receiving his doctorate from

Cornell University in electrical

engineering and applied physics with focus in space plasma physics.

He was the first African American

rocket scientist trained at Cornell

University and amongst the first

at any Ivy League university.

Afterward, he was awarded an American Society of Engineering

Education (ASÉE) Postdoctoral

Fellowship in the Space Plasma

Physics Branch of the U.S. Naval

Research Laboratory, Washington

bachelor's

Wayne Scales, Ph.D.

Scales



Jubilee Christian Center Choir In celebration of Black History D.C. He then joined the Bradley



Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech and is currently the J. Byron Maupin Professor of Engineering and was founding Director of the Center for Space Science and Engineering Research (Space@ VT) and founding Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program in Remote Sensing. Scales was the first African American faculty member Electrical and Computer Engineering and also the first to hold an endowed professorship in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech. Scales is also an affiliate Professor in the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering.

He currently serves as Associate Vice Provost for Research and Diversity where his responsibilities supporting initiatives involving faculty development as well as research workforce development partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Historically Black Colleges

(HBCUs),

Universities



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NRCC Sharon Edwards

particularly in the area of quantum engineering. In this capacity, he is also leading the construction of the first High Frequency (HF) space weather radar facility on the continent of Africa and also developing partnerships with African universities in the area of quantum engineering and space science. He serves in leadership capacities on a number of national and international professional organizations and has received a number of awards for excellence in research, teaching, and service in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering. Musical performances will be

presented by the Jubilee Christian Center Choir and Sharon Edwards, NRCC assistant professor of health information management and administrative support technology. This free event is open to the

public. Light refreshments will be served following the program. For more information about the program, please contact Elaine Powell-Hawkins at (540) 674-3600, ext. 4478.

New River Community College



Rubye Scott stands alongside her cabinet containing her collection of almost 300 bells; special gifts collected since her childhood beginning in the late 1920s.



Scott's sister Lovis gifted her this bell after returning from a trip to England; Scott has bells from eight different countries.

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869 Blacksburg Wednesday, February 14, 2024 www.ourvalley.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Feb. 15:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Will Reed will speak on "Animals of the War Between the States". If Montgomery and/or Floyd County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-

Saturday, Feb. 17:

Community Garden planning session

At the Meadowbrook Library; $\bar{1}-3$ p.m. First meeting for people interested in a community garden in the Shawsville/ Ellison area.

Sunday, Feb. 18:

Quaker Open House

What is a Quaker? The Blacksburg Friends Meeting (Quakers) welcome all to find out at our Open House, 9:45 - 11 a.m. Join us at our Meeting house at 404 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, for a tour and question/answer period at 9:45 a.m., short open worship (with activities for children) at 10 a.m. and fellowship. Children are welcome with accompanying adult. Our underlying principles revolve around the belief that there is that of God in everyone. This leads us to promote peace, simplicity, equality, integrity, community and stewardship. For more information about the Blacksburg Friends Meeting and the event, please visit www.blacksburgfriends.org.

Sunday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 25:

Black History Month speakers

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg, will observe Black History Month each Sunday in February starting at 11 a.m. during church services. The theme "Community - Bringing Hope to a Weary World" will be shared by guest speakers: Feb. 18, 2024- Dr. Frederick Douglass Dixon; Feb. 25, 2024- Ms.

Demiah Smith. Asbury UMC regular services are each Sunday at 11 a.m. Rev. Lance Presley, Pastor. Please join us! For additional information, please call 540-382-0743.

Monday, Feb. 19:

The Dinos are coming!

Looking for a fun, family-friendly activity to enjoy together? Join us 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center for Dino Squad! Explore fossils, cast replicas and museum models of dinosaurs during this interactive, educational program. \$3/child, \$2/additional child. Adults free when accompanying a child. Register in advance online, or in-person at the door. Keyword search "Dino Squad", activity number: 201014. For more information, call 540.443.1100.

Saturday, February 24:

Soul food tasting event

Celebrate Black History Month and take a step back in time at the 7th annual Soul Food Sampling at historic St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall (SLOFH), where generations met to enjoy delicious food, music, and fellowship. In this spirit, you will receive generous portions of traditional soul foods at dinner table settings, learn about the history of soul food, and enjoy discussions with former New Town residents. There are three time slots for the event, each capped at 18 people: 12 - 1.45 p.m., 2 - 3.45 p.m., and 4 - 5.45 p.m. Tickets \$37 per person and available at the SLOFH Soul Food Sampling Page.

Monday, Feb. 26:

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.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF PETITIONS BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY AND APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR DETERMINING THE TREATMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CUSTOMERS' RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES FOR PURPOSES OF EACH UTILITY'S RPS PROGRAM COMPLIANCE CASE NO. PUR-2024-00010

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA"), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, *inter alia*, established a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard ("RPS") program ("RPS Program") in § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), which requires Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion") and Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") to procure and retire renewable energy certificates ("RECs") for an increasing percentage of the utility's total electric energy sold in the previous calendar year. The VCEA directed that all costs related to compliance with the mandatory RPS Program, including costs related to the retirement of RECs, shall be recovered from all retail customers as a non-bypassable charge, regardless of generation supplier, with certain limited exceptions.

Additionally, Code § 56-585.5 D requires Dominion and APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity ("RPS Filing"). In APCo's 2023 RPS Filing, two proposals were presented relating to the proper calculation of total electric energy for the prior compliance year. The first proposal was to count the RECs from Rider WWS and Rider REC towards APCo's RPS Program compliance, and the second proposal was to remove the 100 percent renewable customers' load from the calculation of "total electric energy," thereby reducing the number of RECs required for RPS compliance. In its Final Order in that proceeding, the Commission found that the issue warranted additional consideration and directed APCo and Dominion to make a filing addressing these issues and presenting specific proposals for approval, including any proposed mechanism for netting the benefits of such RECs. Specifically, the Commission determined:

On or before January 16, 2024, APCo and Dominion shall make a filing, either jointly or separately, containing the proposed treatment of RECs associated with (i) customers taking service under each [utility's] voluntary renewable tariffs [("Renewable Utility Customers")] and (ii) shopping customers purchasing 100 percent renewable energy, for purposes of RPS Program compliance [("Renewable Shopping Customers")]. Such filing shall include any associated proposal for netting the benefits of such RECs, including applicable tariff language.

On January 16, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00009, APCo submitted its petition ("APCo Petition"), which stated that the Commission should exclude the load associated with the Renewable Utility Customers and Renewable Shopping Customers from the calculation of APCo's annual RPS requirement, thereby allowing them to bypass VCEA compliance costs, if the Commission finds that approach to be permissible under current law. APCo asserts that using RECs to meet the utility's RPS requirement that have either been dedicated to one of its voluntary renewable energy riders or have been purchased by Renewable Shopping Customers is an impermissible double-counting of the RECs. Further, APCo claims that participants in voluntary renewable energy programs would effectively subsidize non-participants to meet the utility's RPS compliance requirement.

Also on January 16, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00010, Dominion submitted its petition ("Dominion Petition") (collectively with the APCo Petition, "Petitions") requesting that the Commission reconsider its decision in Case No. PUR-2020-00164, in which the Commission held that RPS Program compliance requires recognition of RPS eligible renewable sales from competitive service providers ("CSPs"). Dominion requests that the Commission instead find that the RECs of Renewable Shopping Customers cannot be used by the utility for its RPS Program compliance. Dominion further asserts that, if the Commission determines that Renewable Shopping Customer RECs may be used for a utility's RPS Program compliance, their load should be deducted from the utility's calculation of "total electric energy" and they should be excluded from paying Rider RPS. Dominion further states that if the RECs of Renewable Shopping Customers can be used for compliance, the RECs of other similarly-situated customers, specifically Renewable Utility Customers, should also be used to reduce the utility's compliance obligations.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petitions and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, consolidated the two Petitions into one case, Case No. PUR-2024-00010, and scheduled public hearings on the Petitions. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petitions shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on July 31, 2024. On or before July 24, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 31, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petitions from the Petitioners, any respondents, and the Commission Staff ("Staff").

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Dominion Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the utility: Elaine S. Ryan, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or eryan@mcguirewoods.com. An electronic copy of the APCo Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the utility: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, Three James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Petitions from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before July 24, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Petitions by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: sce.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

On or before March 28, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling.. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Petitioners. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

On or before June 5, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff the Petitioners, and all other respondents simultaneous with its

as by which the Espindent exploited to detail it is ease. Any respondent mater, as a practical mater, in the estimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Petitioners, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, Prepared testimony and exhibits. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other

respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC

5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Petitions, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may

be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY and APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

Tuesday, Feb. 27:

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.

On-going:

2024 Blacksburg Citizens Institute

Do you want to learn more about the Town of Blacksburg? Are you a new resident, retiree, or just someone who wants to get involved in the community? Join us for the 2024 Citizens Institute to meet town staff and to learn about the functions of your local government. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from April – June 6-8 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and must be residents of the Town of Blacksburg. Space is filling up fast! To register and to learn more, contact the Community Relations Office at cro@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1090.

2024 business license reminder

Town of Blacksburg business license renewal forms for 2024 are due by Friday, March 1, 2024. Businesses are assessed an annual license tax based on prior year's annual gross receipts. Renewals not filed and paid by March 1, 2024, are subject to a 10% penalty and interest at a rate of 10% per annum. Renewal packets were mailed Jan. 2, 2024. If you have not received the packet, email businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov or call 540.961.1108.

Call for Coaches: 2024 spring season

Blacksburg Parks and Recreation is seeking coaches for the following sports during the 2024 spring season (March – July): Boys Majors baseball, ages 11-12; Boys Minors baseball, ages 9-10; Girls softball (No majors), ages 9-12; Girls coach pitch softball, ages 7-8; Coach Pitch baseball, ages 7-8. If interested, please contact Marty Gordon at 540-443-1105 or mgordon@blacksburg.gov.

Veterans from page 1



Cards are made by volunteers with materials provided by the Volunteer Montgomery group.



PHOTOS BY LORI GRAH

Special messages on the inside of the cards hope to brighten a veteran's day.

Akers, Earlene Rose Dingus

Earlene Rose Dingus Akers, 68, of Riner, passed away Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Earl Lee Mary Mullins Dingus; and a brother, Dennis Lee Dingus.

Survivors include her husband, Eddie Akers; children, Jonathan E. Akers (Christina), James A. Akers (Amanda), and Margaret E. Akers



(Joel); Alex, Jonathan,

David, Briar and April; sisters, Sheila Ànn (Walter), Gallimore Patricia Lynn Thomas, and Johnnie Belinda Lytton; and many other relatives and special

A memorial service will be held at a later date. The Akers family is in the care of Mullins

Crematory in Radford.

Funeral Home & Ebnit.

Atkins, Donald Judd

Donald Judd Atkins, 81, of Dublin, passed away Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore Judd and Virginia Covey Atkins; and brothers, Dean, David and Dennis

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Peggy McCraw Atkins; daughters, Shirl Nolen, Beth Vipperman (Billy), and Terri Grayson (Garin); special sons, Wes Nolen and Brian grandchildren, Jaxon, Chloe Chloe and Easton; siblings and their spouses, Bobby (Betsy) Atkins, Vickey (Darrell) Woodyard, Ricky (Donna) Atkins,



Carol Hall, Suzanne (Terry) Vaughan, and Sandra (Daniel) McCoy; brother in law, Jimbo (Vickey); McCraw sister-in-law, Hill (Larry); canine companion, Darla Lou; and many other special friends.

family

receive friends 1- 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Radford. Home Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Tucker LaForce officiating. Burial will Mountain follow in Cemetery Pulaski County.

Flowers appreciated, however you choose to make a donation, the family requests that contributions be made to the Newbern Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 328, Newbern, VA,

24126. The Atkins family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home Crematory in Radford.

Bayes, Bonnie Jean Mayle

Mayle Bayes, 86, of Hiwassee, passed away at home Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Derwood Howard Mayle and Jean, and Ilah Good and Ebnit Harvey; sisters, Shirley Roberts, Christine Barnes Karen Browning; her brothers, Rex and Bill

She was born in Saginaw, Michigan on Dec. 5, 1957. Bonnie married Tom Bayes in St. Louis, Michigan in 1955 and he has been a devoted husband throughout their 68 years together. She did many

things over the course of her lifetime including being a church secretary, station manager, telephone operator, welder, babysitter and certified nursing assistant. She enjoyed singing in the church choir and with the Sweet Adelines, being a girl scout leader, crocheting, gardening, canning and loving her dogs. Survivors include

her husband, Thomas Bayes; son, Tom Bayes; daughter and son-in-law, Kim Marcotte (Paul); six grandchildren; 16 greatgrandchildren; her loving dogs, Buddy and Mollie; sisters, Beveryly Hopkins

(Chuck) and Linda Snyder; brothers, Roger Mayle Darrell (Joyce), Mayle (Brenda), Terry Ebnit (Joy), and Butch Alward; several nieces and nephews; and numerous other family members and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff of Medi Hospice for their excellent care. Special shoutout to Kimberly, Kayla, Robbie,

Daniel and Baily. Per her request, no services will be held at this

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

Warf, Betty Louise Agee

Betty Warf, 85, of Fairlawn, passed away Friday, Feb. 9, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Glenwood, Sr. and Margaret Agee; her husband, Luis Warf; sisters, Lois Rash and Ruth Agee; and her brother, Glenwood, Jr.

Survivors include her son and daughter-inlaw, Jeff Warf (Michele); granddaughter, Brittany Štassin (Kevin); sister, Jean Long; niece, Ann Phipps; and many other



relatives special and friends.

received The family Tuesday, friends Feb. 13, 2024, at the

Mullins Funeral Home Radford. Funeral services followed with Rev. Darlene Marshall officiating. Burial followed in Highland Memory Gardens in

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Morgan's Chapel UMC, 6540 New River Rd.,

Fairlawn, VA 24141.
The Warf family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

ETS 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.

Say hello to Lola. This sweet, shy gal is ready to head home to enjoy the great indoors. Once comfortable, she enjoys affection and quiet time. Lola may have some leftover holiday weight and will need some help shedding a few pounds. In the meantime, there's a lot of cat to love!





Daphne is no mystery. She's a happy, energetic younger dog! She enjoys treats as rewards and occasionally likes to play with tennis balls. Her new human may need to refresh her on good doggie manners. Daphne lived with another dog in a previous home and got along well. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her.

Miller from page 1

"Officer Miller's commitment to excellence and tireless efforts in enhancing our department's capabilities the safety and well-being of the entire make him truly deserving of the 2023 Officer of the Year award. His dedication to both community engagement and professional development sets a standard for others to follow," said

Chief of Police Mac Babb. Miller previous earned a 2022 commendation letter from Babb for extraordinary service and rendering critical aid as well as the department's Lifesaving Award in 2016, both of which show his commitment to going above and beyond the call of duty.

"Officer Miller's impact on the department is immeasurable, and his dedication to community engagement sets a standard for excellence," police

Sgt. Micah Pasquarell said. "Officer Miller continually exceeds

Virginia Tech community," added Threat Assessment Team Coordinator Caroline Newell.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award," Miller said. "It is truly extraordinary to be acknowledged by both my colleagues and superiors for what I consider part of my daily responsibilities," Miller said. appreciate the support of a department that enables me to serve both the community and our organization. Recognizing that the success of the department is a collaborative endeavor, I am grateful to play a part in our shared mission of ensuring safety and security for the Virginia Tech community."

Virginia Tech

Business REVIEW

Time to Brag

YOUR story - YOUR employees - YOUR message in our Business Review Edition on February 28-29 Write your own story & advertisement with pictures of your staff and/or business - Deadline February 21st

TO ADVERTISE, Call Wendi Craig (276) 340-2445 advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

LEGAL NOTICE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS

Real estate tax relief programs are available to County citizens who are age 65 and over as of Jan. 1, 2024 or who are totally and permanently disabled. You must own and live in the home (including mobile homes) for which relief is requested.

TAX RELIEF RANGES FROM

40% - 100%

DEPENDING ON TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Total Household Income Limit \$68,000

Total Net Worth Limit \$200,000

For applications and additional information contact the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office

Brenda Winkle, Commissioner of the Revenue winklebh@montgomerycountyva.gov

540-394-2120 ext. 54042 755 Roanoke St. Suite 1A Christiansburg, VA 24073

Information is available online at MONTVA.COM

DEADLINES:

FOR REPEAT FILERS March 1, 2024 FOR FIRST TIME FILERS December 31, 2024

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

New River Valley HOME Consortium and Town of Blacksburg **2024 Annual Action Plan HOME and Community Development Block Grant Programs**

Notice of Public Comment

In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg seek public comment on the proposed draft of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the New River Valley's HOME Program and the Town of Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of HOME, CDBG, and other funds allocated towards the implementation of objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. The draft 2024 Annual Action Plan can be reviewed online on the Town's website at https:// www.blacksburg.gov/HUDplan or in person by appointment at 303 Wilson Ave. HOME and CDBG activities benefit low and moderate- income persons by making improvements throughout the New River Valley taking into consideration the public input received.

meeting from 4-5 pm on March 6th at 303 Wilson Ave and a live ZOOM call on March 6th from 6-7 pm. Please call (540) 443-1615 to request a link to the

Comments are also welcome via e-mail to: housing@blacksburg.gov, by phone

Citizens are invited to participate in a Public Comment meeting at an in person

at (540) 443-1615, or by mail to Housing and Neighborhood Services, P.O. Box 90003, Blacksburg, VA 24062.

Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. March 15.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1615.

This time of year brings fond memories of basketball tournaments at the Coliseum

Evans "Buddy" King

This is one of my favorite times of the year, from mid-February through mid-March, when the days get longer, when there is the occasional spring-like weather that promises more to come. In the Montgomery County of my youth, there were usually piles of dirty snow still in parking lots and along the sides of the roads this time of year, but you knew warmer days were ahead.

My most vivid memories of that time involved basketball, specifically tournament basketball. March Madness had not yet become the national mania that it has become. There were few televised college games. We got the C. D. Chesley Jefferson Pilot ACC game of the week ("Sail with the Pilot") on Saturday afternoons, and the Friday night and Saturday night semi-finals and finals of the ACC Tournament and the NCAA Finals. That was it. I do not even remember if the term "Final Four" had been coined, and I am pretty sure no one referred to the "Elite Eight" or

Only 23 teams made the NCAA Tournament. The brackets were truly regional - we did not get the incongruous pairings of Florida versus Ohio State in the Western Regional or California versus New Mexico State in the East. The regionals were truly regional. In fact, there were so few teams and conferences in the West that the West Regional consisted of only four teams, with no first-round games. And the regionals were actually symmetrical, with a Mideast Region in those years instead of the one they now call the South Region.

One slight deviation from the symmetry of the tourney during this era was in 1967 when the Hokies were placed in the Mid-East bracket. I guess southwest Virginia was further west than we realized. The Techmen actually won their first-round game against Toledo, and the regional semifinal against the Indiana Hoosiers, advancing to the regional finals only to lose to a Dayton team led by a super star of that era, Donnie May.

I still remember the starting lineup of that Tech team, Glen Combs (who went on to become an early star of the ABA), Ron Perry, Ken Talley, Ted Ware and my favorite, Chris Ellis, a tenacious defender, plus a phenomenal sixth man, Don Brown, who had perfected a fall away shot from around the foul line, an early version of the step back jumper of today. The high school coaches in the New River Valley had to spend considerable practice time discouraging their charges' efforts to replicate this

This "Haley's Comet" of an NCAA appearance by Tech (my beloved (later) Cavaliers were perennial first round losers in the ACC tournament and Tech didn't sniff the Big Dance again until the tournament expanded significantly in the 70's), was actually televised by one of the Roanoke channels. In my mind, this was a bigger TV event than Neil Armstrong's moon walk a couple of years later. I still remember gathering nervously in my parents' den, watching on a black and white television set, marveling that the Fighting Gobblers, the local boys, were actually on television!

All of this is back drop though as to why the high school tournaments of this time were so significant. The NCAA had adopted a rule during this period that only UCLA could win the national title. ESPN was only a gleam in advertisers' eyes, 20 years away, CBS had not yet bought the NCAA tournament and made us all sick of hearing "We are the Champions", and these two forces had not yet combined to dampen local interest in high school

and small college sports.

The Virginia Tech Coliseum (no Cassell then, simply THE Coliseum) had opened in January of 1960, when I was in the first grade, with my dad and me in attendance. Within a few years, this magnificent facility (the Hoos were still in Memorial Gymnasium, the

See Coliseum, page 8

A mixed bag of results for the fate of bills moving through the General Assembly

floor of the House of Delegates, and introducing them

Del. Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

This week, I welcomed visitors from the 42nd District to the Capitol, including local elected officials and Chamber of Commerce representatives from Pulaski County, representatives from Volvo/Mack Trucks, and a class of 60 students from Macy McClaugherty Elementary/Middle School in Giles County! I had a great time speaking with the class, taking them to the

to Speaker Don Scott, who was kind enough to share some remarks with the group before session convened. The group also saw Governor Glenn Youngkin in the halls of the General Assembly Building, and he stopped for a picture with them. I appreciate the hard work our teachers do to instill civic education in our children, and these field trips do wonders to get youth interested in how our laws are created. I received feedback including from the Speaker himself - on how wellbehaved the group was during their trip. Great job to Additionally, two more of my bills unanimously

passed through the House of Delegates and will now be considered by the Senate of Virginia. The first, HB 306, establishes additional procedures for how court appointed counsel - usually a public defender - can manage his or her caseload for indigent clients when the defender's active caseload creates a conflict of interest. The other bill, HB 1373, is workforce development legislation that allows the Roanoke Higher Education Center to offer specialized, non-credit workforce training in situations where local community colleges may be unable to. This encourages all entities to work collaboratively to ensure that regional workforce development needs are being met, and I was pleased to see it pass through the House on a 99-0 vote. However, I was disappointed this week when my

HB 300, which would have allowed 9-1-1 dispatchers to qualify for enhanced retirement benefits, was "continued to 2025" in the Democratic-controlled House Appropriations Committee on a party-line vote. This means the bill is dead for the year. Our 911 dispatchers encounter untold amounts of stress on the job and deserve retirement benefits that acknowledge their invaluable contributions to our communities. Dispatchers often encounter individuals having the worst days of their lives, and this can weigh on them heavily. I'm hopeful that my Democratic colleagues will reconsider their opposition and pass this important bill Also puzzling was the defeat of Delegate Mark Earley

Jr.'s HB 882, which would have created a model policy to prohibit K-12 students from using cell phones during instructional time. This is a serious issue, and most reading this article (myself included) never had these distractions in the classroom when we were young. Our teachers work hard to prepare our students for the future, and in the aftermath of COVID-19 induced learning loss, we should be ensuring that all barriers to learning are removed. Our children are counting on it! Again, I'm hopeful that my Democratic colleagues will reconsider their opposition to this legislation.

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.

(540) 389-9355 P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

Established 1869

News Messenger

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org Michael Showell, Publisher

Heather Bell, Editor communitynews@ourvalley.org Aila Boyd, Executive Editor aboyd@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.

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.

14. Partly digested food

22. Living organism that

feeds on organic matter

23. One's biological father

28. Jump in figure skating

34. Georges ___, French

16. Lesotho capital

24. An aggregate of

27. Khoikhoi people

18. Copyreading

15. Not one

molecules

26. Equally

30. Lantern

31. TV network

41. Exist

53. Clue

42. Passed by

50. Graduates

54. Life-savers

51. Seedless raisin

52. Self-protection

55. Ingest too much

56. Misrepresented

59. Most mocking

60. Soviet Socialist

58. Small Eurasian deer

48. Very unpleasant smell

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a

AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: Cupid's Connection to Crypto The past two years have seen an explosion of crypto If someone you only know online tells you they are

scams which has led many people to ask the same question - how? After all, crypto currency is something most people don't understand, and those who do follow it know that it is very volatile, completely unregulated, and has no protection for investors. So, given all of that, how are people losing billions a year to crypto scams? If we had to pick someone to blame (besides the criminals), it might be Cupid. Romance scams have become one of the top drivers

of crypto currency fraud, because once the criminal creates a deep connection with their victim, they are able to get that person to do things they wouldn't

41. Pleasing to the eye

43. Poplar trees (Spanish) 44. Ship officer

45. Individual investment

46. Prefix meaning within

account (abbr.)

49. Day by day

56. Not color

drawal (abbr.)

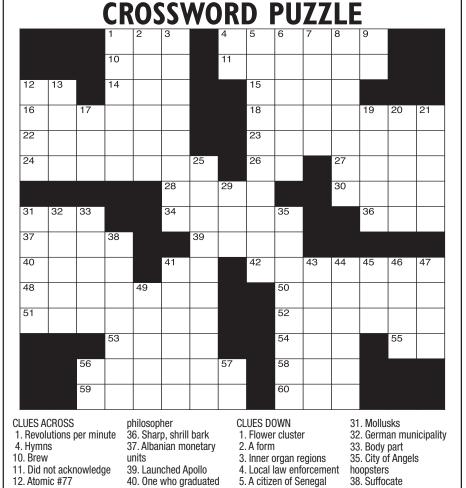
47. Ceased to live

57. Condition of with-

investing in crypto and offers to teach you how, it's a scam - full stop. It doesn't matter how well you think you know this person or how strong of a bond you feel you've created, asking for money to invest in crypto currency is one of the surest signs of a modern-day romance scam. Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

AARP Virginia



6. Positively charged

7. Connects granules

8. Business practice

9. The Mount Rushmore

electrodes

12. Leader

nymph

25. Clears

13. Hindu queen

21. Grandfather

29. Amount of time

17. Proofreading mark

19. European country 20. Greek mythological





/ arketplace =

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THE FINCASTLE HERALD

Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal



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Bid on Over 400 Lots of Woodworking Equipment, Tools, Model Railroad, Furniture,

Collectibles and MUCH MORE!

Visit wwwCircleCAuction.com to register and bid!

Auction Location: 163 Dale Road Troutville, Va 24175

Bidding Begins to Close Wednesday February 21 st @ 7:30pm

Preview will be Tuesday. February 20 th from 4-6pm

Pick-up will be Thursday, February 22 nd from 3-6 pm

Contact

Cody Manspile, Auctioner @ (540) 784-9254 with any questions! VA AF#2908001046

For Sale - Firewood

FIREWOOD

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

Help Wanted -General

WANTED

Models needed for life drawing class, male and female, \$65 for 3 hour session. Call David (Do not text) 540-473-3713

Actor/Actress needed

to present stories for a documentary film. This is paid work. Last film released in December of 2023 is in worldwide distribution. Qualities needed: photogenic and articulate.

Send resume and photo to: Virginia Film Company, POB 3352

Roanoke, Virginia 24015



Vice President for Planning & Resource Development

Nonprofit seeks an individual with experience in directing the activities of a planning department. Must have a minimum of seven years successful grant writing and supervisory experience. Thorough knowledge of state and federal anti-poverty programs; ability to understand and interpret RFPs, regulations and guidelines. Preferred knowledge of Human Service, Economic

Development, Community Development programs at the local, Commonwealth, and federal levels. Performs complex professional and administrative work in directing the activities of the planning department,

providing strategic planning,

resource development and program development for the antipoverty programs, economic development. community development and partnership activities of the agency. Assists in gathering and collating issued)

pertinent data and program outcomes; identifies and qualifies resources: writes

clear and compelling narratives, effective and accurate budgets; and prepares grant applications in response to request for

proposals. Leads and trains a team of planners who support the agency's programs. Directs the communications and marketing efforts of the

agency Disseminates information to

program components, CEO,

Help Wanted -

Board of Directors, and other management staff on issues affecting the work of agency.

General

Recruits, trains, supervises, and evaluates planning staff, marketing & communications staff, and Whole Family Intake staff; organizes department responsibilities and workflow.

Coordinates the preparation

of grant applications and

proposal writing for all new and renewing agency program initiatives Responsible for quality and effectiveness of all proposals

Writes proposals for funding of specific projects as assigned.

Training, education and experience: Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major work in planning, public administration, journalism or a related field and extensive experience in community, economic development planning.

For a full job description please visit Indeed.com or at our website www.tapintohope.org

Salary: \$60,000-\$75,000/yr.

Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP. Human Resources. Job Code VPPRD-PL, PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St SW Roanoke VA 24011 or fax to 540-345-1944TTY: 540-345-4096 AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace Bilingual ability is a plus

For Sale - Antiques

CORNERSTONE **ANTIQUES**

Going out of Business SALE

Everything on Sale! Open Tues-Sat 11am-3pm

123 W. Lee Street Vinton VA

Across from the Farmer's Market downtown Events

6th Annual Church Community Chili Cook-off

The 2024 Church Community Chili Cook-off will be held this year at the Grace Baptist Church, on Saturday, February 24th, from 5 PM -7 PM. Each church may enter up to five (5) chilis for the competition. The Championship Trophy Cup will go to the church of the winning chili cook-off chef, to be displayed until the 2024 chili cook-off. There will be individual trophies given to the top three chili cook-off chefs. Free Hotdogs and drinks will be available during the cookoff. All are welcome to participate in the tasting. Come in for a good hot meal, commune with your neighbors and vote for your favorite chili. Official Rules: competition area Upon entering the

Each Church may enter up to 5 chilis in the competition. Each chili will be presented for tasting on tables in the competition area, everyone will be given a vote-ticket. Taste the chilis at your own

Place your ticket in the container by the chili you judge as the best. The chili with the most tickets will be the champion.

The chili with the 2 nd most tickets will be 2 nd place. The chili with the 3rd most tickets will be 3rd place. In the event of a tie, a mini re-tasting will be held by those present, between the chilis involved in the tie. (New vote-tickets will be

The individual trophies will be presented to the winners at the conclusion of the

The Championship Trophy Cup will be engraved with the winning information and presented to the winning chef's church in the next week (or whenever it's received back from the engraver). The Championship Trophy Cup will reside at the winning church until next vear's Church Community Chili

Cook-off

Events

For planning purposes: Please RSVP to Craig Valley Baptist Church if you are entering a chili. 540-864-5667, (if no answer, leave a message). The event is being held at the Grace

Baptist Church 159 Old Railroad Ave. (SR696), New Castle, VA, (Near the Field Of Dreams).

General Information

WASHINGTON STREET ARTS AND **CRAFTS SHOW DATE CHANGE**

The date for the juried Washington Street Arts and Crafts Show has changed to April 6, 2024 The show will now

coincide with the Cherry Blossom Festival sponsored by the Town of Buchanan. The show is sponsored by the United Women in Faith at Trinity United Methodist Church in Buchanan, VA. We would love to have you join us and applications are being accepted and may be requested by contacting the United Women in Faith at: WashingtonStreetArtShow

Legals - City of Radford

@gmail.com

Public Notice: CDBG Public Service Program COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **BLOCK GRANT** PROGRAM

The City of Radford Department of Community Development will accept proposals for the 2024 Program Year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) for funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Applicants must be a not-for profit organization as established by the IRS Proposals for Public Services programs are due no later than March 15 2024, by 4:00p.m. The major focus of the City of Radford's CDBG program is to provide a suitable living environment, decent

persons. Applications may be accessed at www.radfordva.gov or via email request to

housing, social services,

and economic opportunities

in low-income areas, and

low-to moderate- income

gov. The applications can also be picked up at Radford Administration Building, 10 Robertson St, Radford, VA Monday through Friday between 8:30a.m. and 5:00p m. For more information regarding the CDBG program, please visit

https://www.radfordva.gov/1 261/HUD-Community-Development-Block-Grant

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING

TO: CITY OF **SALEM REAL ESTATE OWNERS**

The Board of Equalization for Real Estate Assessments in the City of Salem will meet on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room at City Hall located at 114 N. Broad

Street, Salem, Virginia. The Board will continue its meeting from time to time thereafter, by adjournments, at and for such time or times, at the same place or such other place or places as may be designated and deemed necessary by the Board to accomplish and

complete its task of equalization of real estate assessments and to discharge the duties imposed by law upon the

Board. Said meeting will be adjourned on April 23, 2024, unless the powers of the Board are extended by

order of the Circuit Court for

Legals - City of Salem

the City of Salem. The purpose of the Board meeting is to equalize City and to hear and give consideration to all complaints of any inequalities in such assessment so that the burden of real estate taxation shall rest equally upon all owners.

At its meeting, the Board will hear and decide all inequality protest complaints, whether made by property owners, the City, or any taxpayer, on appeal to this Board by property owners. The Board may equalize any assessment by raising, or lowering assessments fixed by the Assessor, in proper cases, in order to make assessments uniform in the City as far as practicable. If you wish to discuss the assessment with the Board, call (540) 375-3058 for an appointment by February 23, 2024. The Assessor is required by law to prepare necessary papers for the Board and for the property owner who wants to appeal to the Board of Equalization. Information pertaining to the Assessor's valuations, along with forms for appeal to the Board of Equalization may be obtained from the Assessor's office by calling (540) 3753058, or online at

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SALEM Norman J. Beamer Kathy Fitzgerald Wendel Ingram Jr. David Prosser Janie Whitlow

www.salemva.gov

County

Order of **Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,20-104 Case No.JJ002260-06-00 CRAIG COMBINED **COURT-JUVENILE** Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court District

Commonwealth of Virginia

The object of this suit is to: terminate the residual parental rights of the parents, including the right of visitation, right to consent to adoption.

all other rights and responsibilities remaining with the natural parents of the aforesaid child and to obtain the right to place said

child for adoption. And, based on an affidavit filed herein, the court finds that there exists sufficient grounds for causing service

It is ORDERED that the unknown father and any or all others who may be related to Emily Rose Manning, whose actual whereabouts are unknown, appear at the above-named Court on or before the 5th day of April, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to do whatever is necessary to protect their

interests. We ask for this **CRAIG COUNTY SERVICES** 177 Court Street

February 8, 2024, Patty Taylor, CLERK

Montgomery County

316,20-104 Circuit Court, 55 EAST Virginia, in re MELISSA JANE MCPHERSON v. JACOB ANDRE **MCPHERSON** A/K/A KOBI MAZUR that JACOB ANDRE **MCPHERSON** A/K/A KOBI MAZUR appear at the abovehis/her interests on or before MARCH 8, 2024. **JANUARY 5. 2024**

CLERK

Legals -Montgomery County

TRUSTEES SALE

PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN:

The Riner Magisterial

District of Montgomery County, Virginia Containing 1.586 acres, more or less Commonly Known as: 3395 Radford Road, Christiansburg, Virginia IN EXECUTION OF A **CERTAIN DEED OF** TRUST OF RECORD IN THE CLERKS OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY. VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2008000295, DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2008, SAID **DEED OF TRUST** WAS MODIFIED BY MODIFICATION OF DEED OF TRUST DATED FEBRUARY 6. 2020, RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO: 2020002980, AND BY SUBSTITUTION OF COLLATERAL AND RELEASE DATED MARCH 10, 2020, RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO: 2020002979. DEFAULT HAVING BEEN MADE IN THE PAYMENT OF THE **DEBT THEREIN SECURED** AND BEING REQUIRED TO DO SO BY THE

NOTEHOLDER, THE

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE,

FOURTEEN (14) DAYS

DUE NOTICE TO THE

OWNERS OF THE REAL

ESTATE OF THE DATE,

OF SALE, WILL OFFER

FOR SALE AT PUBLIC

THE MONTGOMERY

AUCTION, IN FRONT OF

COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY

THE REAL ESTATE WITH

THEREON KNOWN AND

All that certain tracts or

parcels of land, with the

the appurtenances

thereunto belonging,

the Riner Magisterial

District of Montgomery

County, Virginia, and

described as follows:

All of the 1.586 acres as

shown on plat of survey

entitled; Plat of Boundary

Line Adjustment Between

& 90-(A)-34E situated

along Radford Road, U.S.

Riner Magisterial District

Montgomery County, Virginia; dated June 28,

2016 prepared by Ralph 0.

Clements, L.S. for Gay and

Neel, Inc. recorded in the

Circuit Court Clerks Office

of Montgomery County,

Tax Map No: 090-A 34A;

More commonly known as:

Christiansburg, VA 24073

SALE WILL BE MADE

EXISTING EASEMENTS

SUBJECT TO ALL

AND RESTRICTIVE

AFFECT THE REAL

ESTATE.

COVENANTS AS THE

SAME MAY LAWFULLY

TERMS OF SALE: CASH,

SETTLEMENT WITHIN

FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF

PERCENT (10%) MAY BE

PLACE OF SALE: FRONT

COUNTY COURTHOUSE,

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY

TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M.

Daniel D. Hamrick, PC

By: Daniel D. Hamrick,

FOR INFORMATION

Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C.

104 South Franklin Street

Christiansburg, VA 24073

Substitute Trustee

SALE. A BIDDERS

DEPOSIT OF TEN

OF MONTGOMERY

AT 55 EAST MAIN

CHRISTIANSBURG,

DATE OF SALE:

REQUIRED.

VIRGINIA

28, 2024

Agent

CONTACT:

(540) 382-0131

Instrument Number

Parcel No: 024574

3395 Radford Road

Virginia as

2016004742.

Route 11 Near Plum Creek

Tax Parcels 90-(A)-34A

improvements thereon and

situate, lying and being in

28, 2024, AT 10:00 A.M.,

LOCATED AT 55 EAST

CHRISTIANSBURG,

IMPROVEMENTS

DESCRIBED AS

FOLLOWS:

MAIN STREET

VIRGINIA, ON

TIME, PLACE AND TERMS

UNDERSIGNED

AFTER GIVING

Legals - Craig

Court

in re MANNING, EMILEE ROSE

responsibility of support and

of process by publication.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL New Castle, Virginia 24127

Legals -

Order of **Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-Case No.CL23002018-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED namedcourt and protect K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. **JUDGE** TIFFANY M. COUCH,

Legals -Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

W P RISING INC., trading as Spicity 210 Prices Fork Rd STE E, Montgomery County, Blacksburg, VA 24060-3300.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) **AUTHORITY** for a Restaurant, Wine, Beer, and Mixed Beverages On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages

> Shu Yuan Lin President/Owner.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

Legals - Roanoke County

ABC NOTICE

SAV ON SHOP LLC., trading as CATAWBA ĞROCERY 5944 Catawba Valley Dr., Roanoke County, Catawba, VA 24070-2214

The above establishment is

applying to the VIRGINIA ALCÓHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store Beer and Wine Off-Premises license to sell or

manufacture alcoholic beverages

Pabitra Dahal, Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license

Legals - Roanoke

County

must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices.

Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - Town of Vinton

The VA Dept of

Historic Resources

will conduct a public information hearing of the Town of Vinton, VA on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. The meeting begins at 6:00 pm and will be held

at Vinton Town Hall at 311 South Pollard Street. Vinton, VA 24179. Public comment regarding the proposal will be taken at the time of the hearing or can be sent to Director Julie Langan, Dept of Historic

Resources, 2801

Kensington Ave, Richmond.

VA 23221. This proposal has been recommended eligible for the Virginia Landmarks and National Registers. This proposal will be presented to the State Review Board

and the Board of Historic Resources on March 14, 2024. For additional information, contact Amanda Terrell at Amanda.Terrell@dhr.virgin a.gov or 804-482-8092.

STATEWIDE

ADS

STATEWIDE ADS



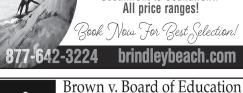
OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/24 "Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/31/24. Each dealership is independently owned and

No Payments & No Interest

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CALL NOW (844) 945-1631 operated. "Third party financing is available for those costomers who qualify. See your dealer for details. @2024 BCI Acrylic, Inc. OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS





SCHOLARSHIP

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

THROUGH APRIL 12, 2024 The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. Beginning in 2024, the scholarship program is extended to their descendants. The program is now open to eligible applicants for the 2024-2025 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

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*Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks

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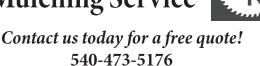


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Montgomery Sports

Big South evolving in changing landscape

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Editor's note: Today, we continue to examine the challenges college athletics are facing especially in this age of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL).

College athletics is changing and continues to this day. But the question is what does the future hold?

The recent movement has centered about the Power 5 conferences, leaving many to wonder what might happen to the smaller schools and conferences.

Big South Conference Commissioner Sherika A.

Montgomery took a moment this past week to discuss how hers and other mid-major athletic conferences have been and will be affected in the new landscape. We have to continue to evolve," she said. "We've

are reviewing our strategic plan and have formed a basketball task force working group."

can set its apart from other conferences. "The NČAA is facing challenges we've never have

Montgomery said the question is how the Big South

The Big South Conference was founded in 1983 with

charter members including Radford, Armstrong State (later Armstrong Atlantic State University and Augusta University), Campbell University, Baptist College (now Charleston Southern University), Coastal Carolina University and Winthrop University. The expansion of membership occurred during

the '90s. Some of those members were the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Davidson College, Liberty University, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Towson University, Elon University, High Point University and Birmingham-Southern College.

The conference history does include football, which was started in 2002 as part of the Football Championship Subdivision. Fourteen years later, the Big South and the ASUN Conference (ASUN) announced a football partnership that effectively combined the two conferences in the sport.

Slowly teams and schools like Liberty, Campbell and Coastal Carolina have moved to new conferences. The latest being Hampton and North Carolina A&T, which left the Big South in 2022.

Currently, there are nine members in the Big South with another five being listed as associate members.

In April, Montgomery was named the fourth commissioner of the Big South Conference and is a former women's basketball player and staff member of the conference. She previously served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Missouri Valley Conference and served as the Assistant Director of Enforcement

(Investigations and Processing) at the NCAA. Earlier as a staff member at the Big South,

Montgomery served as a two-time chair (2016-2018) of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics during her service from 2014-2018 and was also a member of the inaugural NCAA Board of Governors Ad Hoc Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity. Her familiarity of the Big South also dates to her time as a basketball player (2010) at Gardner-Webb.

Changes in collegiate athletics includes a big emphasis on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL), which is the means through which college athletes are allowed to receive financial compensation. NIL refers to the use of an athlete's name, image, and likeness through marketing and promotional endeavors.

In the past, collegiate athletics' governing body the NCAA has done everything to not compensate student-

Three years ago, a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court changed that with the introduction and approval of the NIL plan.

Many student-athletes are now receiving as much as a million dollars a year. Montgomery could not give specific examples, but many Big South athletes are receiving NIL compensation. The total might not be the millions but instead hundreds or thousands. NCAA President Charlie Baker believes there must

be more control over this process as we move forward. During last month's NCAA convention, he said to maximize these opportunities, it will be important for Congress to provide special status to student-athletes. That way, schools and conferences can engage in

NIL and enhanced educational support without turning the student-athletes into something they are definitely not, which is employees," he said. According to a recent ESPN survey of more than 200 coaches, players and administrators, nearly 80%

of respondents believe schools will pay athletes directly within the next decade. Another 75 percent felt "college athletics will eventually follow some sort of professional model, perhaps with schools forming conferences based on their willingness to pay players." Just two weeks ago, Montgomery joined a Radford University volleyball player who testified before members

of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., during the "NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes' Dealmaking Rights" hearing of the House Innovation, Data and Commerce Subcommittee. The proposal aims to protect student athletes'

dealmaking rights and create clear rules to preserve amateur sports. In opening remarks, the subcommittee said: "Federal

legislation is needed to protect student athletes from



Big South Commissioner Sherika A. Montgomery

bad actors taking advantage of them financially, ensure transparency and protections in NIL contracts, and address the patchwork of laws affecting student athletes' dealmaking rights."

Montgomery said it was very important for her to be at the hearing.

We had to make sure our voices are heard on this

In so many ways, the new definition of the collegiate student-athlete is ever-changing itself. The National Labor Relations Board even suggests athletes at private universities should be classified as employees.

Getting back to the future, Montgomery is optimistic for the Big South. Membership is something that is prevalent on a day-to-day basis.

"We (the Big South) are not immune to that." The commissioner would not say if there were plans to expand to more schools or does she expect others to leave the Big South.

One of the big discussions centers on creating better non-conference schedules, especially in basketball.

"I feel very optimistic about the Big South's future," Montgomery said as she praised the excellent leadership across the conference.

For now, the Big South and its commissioner are trying to stay above water and watch what happens in the near future in college athletics. The next move could lie with NCAA officials and how Congress might be involved somewhere down the road.



Auburn's Lily Phillips placed ninth in the Region 2C 100-yard backstroke at Thursday's regional meet at Christiansburg. Auburn would finish in eighth place in the boys' competition and 11th in the girls.

Radford girls take region swimming title



Auburn's Kade Hamilton was the 100-yard breaststroke Region2C champion with a



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

See Swimming, page 8

Radford's Trent Hollandsworth raced to a win in the Region 2C 50-yard freestyle on Thursday night during the Region 2C meet held at the Christiansburg Aquatics Center. Radford tallied 98 points in the boys' competition to finish second by Glenvar with 134 points. The Radford girls' squad would total 101 points to finish ahead of second place George Wythe with 87 points.

Battle of the Burgs

Christiansburg girls win, Blacksburg boys win



Christiansburg's Katy Hoover was an offensive force for the Blue Demons in a 50-45 win over Blacksburg on Wednesday night. Hoover scored five three-point goals on the way to a 27-point outing against the Bruins and tallied 1,000 points



Blacksburg post player Riley Price scored 18 points in the Lady Bruins loss to



Christiansburg guard Izaiah Cotto lines up a jump shot against Blacksburg. Cotto would score 13 points in the Blue Demons' 62-51 loss.



Blacksburg's Wade Bland paced his team with 19 points and led all scorers in a 62-51 win over Christiansburg on Wednesday.



Radford's Evie Grim dives in for the 200-yard freestyle relay anchor leg for the Region 2C race winning Bobcat team. The Radford girls would win the team Region 2C championship, with the boys in second place.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Radford's Peyton Mowry swam to a third-place finish in the Region 2C 50-yard freestyle with a time of 27.89.

Coliseum from page 4

Mountaineers were in the Field House, the Heels were in Woollen Gymnasium, twice removed from today's Dean Dome, and most colleges still played in similar gyms built soon after WW I) began hosting the district, regional and occasional state high school tournaments. These three weeks of back to back games are what I think of first when the days become longer and the sun looks different in late February.

Schools came from all over southwest Virginia to play life or death games in one of the best college arenas in the country. At that time, Virginia had four classes of schools - 1A, 1B (Christiansburg, Blacksburg Radford were 1B schools), II and III. The Coliseum hosted the New River District Tournament (the Montgomery County schools and their rivals), the next weekend (or maybe the next two) there were regional rounds for 1B, II and III, and some years we were lucky enough to get the state finals. The "bigger schools", i.e., Roanoke east, Class 1A, did not venture west to play their games. We cared not about them. Teams came from Gate City and Grundy, from Fort Chiswell and Covington, from Pound and Pearisburg, to compete.

These were the real "one and done" days. One loss and your team went home, and we constantly witnessed the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. Christiansburg, Blacksburg and Radford were members of the New River Valley District then, along with Dublin and Pulaski (in the 70s these schools were consolidated, ending one of the great rivalries of all time in my mind), Narrows, Giles County, Galax, Hillsville, and Wytheville and, for a few years, Fort Chiswell. During, this era, probably from my second or third grade year through high school, Blacksburg dominated the district and was a perennial participant in the regionals and states, guaranteeing that my mom and dad would be in attendance since my father was head of the schools in Montgomery County at the time.

Blacksburg won two state titles during this period, led by a wonderful player named Rick Aydlett, who amazingly was the star both his freshman and senior years when the Indians (it was okay to call them that at that time) won state titles. They were coached during this run by the great Allen Wiley, who, if memory serves me well, won a total of five state titles at BHS and went on to successfully coach at Pulaski County, much to the chagrin of all Blacksburgers. Aydlett went on to play for Frank McGuire's great teams at South Carolina, perplexing and breaking the hearts of all Hokie fans, me included.

Sadly, our own Blue Demons never won a tourney game during this time that I can recall, usually being bounced in the very first game of the NRV District tournament, not even making the field a few times when the district

got too big. This game was usually at noon on Thursday and relieved any stress for all Blue Demon fans for the rest of the month. There were some epic games. One

year Blacksburg and Pulaski met in the district finals, with each team sporting a 20 - 0 record, through a scheduling quirk they had not met during the regular season. They both advanced to the Regionals and met again, with Blacksburg winning both games. One of the games ended with Tot Martin hitting a jumper from the top of the key to win the game. It was one of the great clutch plays of my youth. This was Aydlett's freshman year and the Indians went on to win the state. His senior year BHS had another epic win against Harrisonburg in the state finals, from

While my family and I were died in the wool Blue Demons, we couldn't help but root for BHS during these years, partly because the team was so good and well-coached, partly because of my dad's fondness for Curtis "Ducky" Gray who was principal of BHS, and partly because it would have been poor form for the superintendent of schools not to pull for a county team.

There were legendary coaches as well, the aforementioned Allen Wiley, my cousin Sammy Joe Lucas who won several Class III championships at Auburn High and Sonny Smith who coached at Dublin. Sonny went on to be the head coach at VCU and eventually at the "other" Auburn, the university, not my mother's alma mater in Riner. Sonny was by far the most entertaining, in what had to be one of the first stops on his storied coaching path. I saw him once kick the scorer's table over before being asked to leave the floor of the Coliseum. My mom and dad were so intrigued by Sonny that we tried to sit behind his bench so we could hear him exhorting his troops. His catch phrase when his team transitioned to defense was "get your happy tails up the court". My mother laughed for weeks over that line and some of Sonny's other sideline shenanigans. A few years later these legendary coaches were replaced by other Montgomery County icons, family friend Bob Trear at BHS and Nelson Simpkins at Auburn High.

So, this time of year I remember the drive from Christiansburg to Blacksburg with the sun at a funny angle, walking through the parking lot beside the Coliseum with my parents dodging snow drifts, entering the doors of the grandest arena in the region. And I remember walking the halls during halftimes, looking for familiar faces, smelling the popcorn (served by my Aunt Ruth and her husband Ralph who had the concessions), marveling at a gym that could seat 10,000 people. And I remember the hollow feeling I got, sometime while I was in college I believe, when my dad told me "Tech's not going to let us use the Coliseum anymore.'

Bells from page 1

"At that time, keep in mind this was 95 years ago, they had a schoolhouse in that community. It was a small community," Scott said. "They would only give you a teacher if you had 20 students. So, in that community it was hard to get 20 students. It was 1-7 grades. When they could have school, and had 20, the schoolhouse was used."

Everyone walked to school at that time, and the schoolhouse was close to Scott's house, so the teachers would board with her family. This also provided the added benefit for Scott to receive special attention from the teachers that resided in her home. When Scott was about 4-5 years

old, the school was struggling to have enough pupils to support a teacher, so she started her elementary education at an early age. After her first year of schooling, Scott would return the next year as a third grader. "For that reason, I've always been too

young, younger than the other students. Not because I was smarter," Scott said. "It was because they started me out young." Scott would graduate from high

school at the age of 15 years old and then go directly into higher education at Radford College. This was a grand adventure for someone that had rarely ventured outside of her home community. She would have never imagined the

beautiful life that awaited her.

At age 18, she graduated from Radford College, just at the close of World War II. Her first year of teaching was instructing military men who had returned from the war. Some men had been drafted or signed up before they had finished high school. She would then teach a couple of years in Floyd County schools and another year at a small schoolhouse in McCoy, Virginia, where her husband and she settled down and raised a family.

Her husband Leo, affectionately called 'Scotty" by Rubye and all who knew him, gifted her bells as well through the years. Scotty and his brother owned a store in the McCoy community which sometimes required travel to parts of the United States to buy things to sell. One bell he purchased was from 1981 after his visit to the western United States.

Bells line her cabinet made of iron, brass, coal, wood, straw, and glass - all part of a collection that has been labeled with the year and name of the giver. As Scott picked each bell up and gave it a shake, she recalled the story of how each chime came to reside in her display cabinet.

There is one from her daughter Patricia Scott Williams, who lives close by, and another from her son Kim Scott, also of Blacksburg. A sheep bell from her neighbor and farmer and here's her smallest bell, barely the size of the end of your finger. Only two of her bells are alike, one from England and another from Scotland. Rubye Scott's sister, Lovis, visited England on a trip and brought back one of the bells decorated

with delicate lavender flowers. Her sister Lovis passed away recently after battling Alzheimer's, making the bell even more special to Rubye in her remembrance.

Pastor and Missionary Flinchum also gifted Scott a bell from his time spent in Thailand. Altogether, Scott has bells from eight countries.

There are bells that were also gifted to her from her years of instruction too. Although Scott was primarily a business instructor for 33 years, that first teaching job instructing World War II veterans was remembered as some of the best learning years of her life. She thought she had to teach by the book. Later she would come to understand that teachers were a lot of things to students, especially that could not be learned from a book but had to be felt and experienced from the heart.

One year when Scott was teaching at Blacksburg High School, Principal Alfred Curtis Gray approached her about helping to cover for a teacher who was leaving for an opportunity to study abroad for a year. Scott was reluctant at first, as she enjoyed teaching business courses and was very happy to stay where she was. An agreement was made that she would take on a few additional tasks but remain in her business classes. One of those duties was to provide some guidance to students as needed during her non-instructional class periods.

This was when she met "Tommy", a young man in a transient home life, with no parents to look after him.

"He was in trouble all the time, in every class. That little boy was sent to my office, I know every day. Tommy was not his real name; I won't tell you his real name. Here would come Tommy though. He was wasting time, and I didn't think you should waste time. I would find little things for Tommy to do," Scott said. "We got to talking and that's the reason I knew Tommy's situation and Tommy and I got to be good buddies."

The time came when the principal told Scott that Tommy needed something different to help with his education. The principal set to work, finding a place for the student to go where he could learn something; a place where he could get a better start in his life. Special education was not part of the public-school curriculum at this time but both Scott and Gray knew that he needed specialized education.

"I hated to see Tommy go but I knew that is what he needed," Scott said. 'Tommy knew that I collected bells, so the day that he was set to leave, he came in my office. He was all dressed up and looked so nice, and he said, 'Mrs. Scott, I've got something for you.', and he pulled it out and it was this bell. Lord, I knew it was stolen off some desk...I didn't want him to think I knew that."

Scott didn't know what to do at that moment, so she went and hugged him and thanked him.

Scott said to Tommy, "Tommy, I will always keep your bell."



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