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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, February 17, 2024

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GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MONT. CO.

BOS approves Prices Fork Road property amendment

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Senior Planner Justin Sanders presented information at a public hearing during the Monday, Feb. 12 Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting addressing a request for Shah Development, LLC to amend proffered conditions of the approved rezoning at 3966 Prices Fork Road in the Prices Fork Village.

The proffered list amendment will give flexibility to business uses for the property owner compared to the prior auto repair business (M&M Tire) that was only permitted there previously.

According to Sanders, most of the surrounding properties are either zoned

A1 Agricultural or Planned Unit Development Residential, but there is also an R1 Residential area for Sterling Manor subdivision. The property is the previous site of the M&M Tire business and was rezoned to Community Business in 2019.

The original nature of the business that was located at the site allowed for automotive service uses without the availability of the sale of motor fuel.

“The applicant does not currently have an identified use for the property, and they are looking again for that flexibility to determine a future use and market the site accordingly,” Sanders said. “They have proffered a list of potential uses that would be allowed by-right. The applicant also proposes

additional proffers to address concerns about that future development of the parcel.”

Additional landscaping, aesthetics, and signage are also included in the proposal. Buffering would be required between the proposed property and nearby residential zoned parcels. Land use goals for this area do suggest the promotion of expansion, Sanders said as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Sanders also said that the property would meet several policy goals for the Prices Fork Village Plan; including but not limited to meeting requirements for signage, tree placement and vegetative buffer zones.

Further policies and regulations involving environmental issues,

See Amendment, page 6

VDOT updates given at Board of Supervisors meeting



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VDOT

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Resident Engineer David Clarke addressed the Montgomery Board of Supervisors with an update on county transportation maintenance and projects at the board meeting Monday, Feb. 12.

Clarke said some projects have been met with satisfaction while others are still a matter of concern.

According to Clarke, recent immediate concerns for VDOT have focused on weather-related events such as snow and rain, filling in potholes on paved and unpaved roads, and adding stone to roads where needed.

For future discussion, Clarke also mentioned the time is drawing near for the six-year plan and associated public hearing.

“We were going to set that for April 8th, if it agrees with everyone that works out at a good time,” Clarke said.

A few board members requested additional information on road or other transportation projects in their representative districts.

Supervisor Sara Bohn requested an update on Mill Point Road, to which Clarke responded that this project has been completed. Clarke added VDOT had spoken with a resident in that area following recent rains and “the drainage has worked out well.”

Supervisor Todd King requested an update on the Union Valley and Route 8 review due to concerns of congestion and accidents.

According to Clarke the review has been completed and no recommendations have been made at this time to make changes to the area.

“Have they been out there in the mornings when kids are trying to get to school?” King asked.

“Will you request that they go out there in the morning?”

Clarke did not know what time of day the study was completed but said he would look into it.

King also requested additional information on a large pothole located at the intersection of Tyler Road and Stanley Road.

Clarke said VDOT is looking at

See VDOT, page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

The Montgomery Museum Garden has been awarded a grant from the NRV Master Gardener Association.

Montgomery Museum receives NRV Master Gardener Association community grant

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History has been awarded the New River Valley Master Gardener Association Community Grant for its Garden Waterline Extension Project.

The \$1,260 award will be used to enhance water access to the Museum Garden plants and planters.

“This project is a game-changer, eliminating the need for dragging hoses and making the maintenance of our beautiful garden much easier,” the museum announced.

“A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved, especially the committee

that saw the importance of this project,” the announcement continued. “We are grateful for the support that will not only benefit our museum, but also dedicated volunteers like Master Gardeners, Beth Umberger and Gwen Ewing, who have tirelessly cared for our garden. Thank you for making this possible. Our garden is a wonderful recreational asset, educational resource, and place of respite for people through the year.”

The museum garden is open daily at 300 South Pepper St. Christiansburg, 365 days a year, sunrise to sunset. Street parking only.

Staff report



PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Students walk between classes on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus.

U.S. News & World Report ranks Virginia Tech online graduate programs among best nationally

For the third consecutive year, Virginia Tech's Master of Information Technology (VT-MIT) program has been named the No. 3 Best Online Program in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. The program also retained its top spot as the preferred choice for veterans for the fourth year running.

The program is a collaboration between the College of Engineering and

the Pamplin College of Business.

“The VT-MIT program stands at the forefront of academic excellence, offering a dynamic curriculum that transcends traditional boundaries,” said Parviz Ghandforoush, associate dean for Pamplin graduate programs and executive director of the VT-MIT program.

See Virginia Tech, page 6

Virginia State Police investigating fatal Montgomery Co. crash

MONTGOMERY Co. – The Virginia State Police is investigating a two-vehicle crash which resulted in a fatality on Route 11 on Monday.

The crash occurred at 2:20 p.m. on Route 11, one mile south of Plum Creek Road in Montgomery County.

A 2010 Chevrolet Impala was traveling

south on Route 11, when the vehicle crossed the centerline and struck a 2016 Ford F-150 head-on.

The driver of the Ford was identified as Jesse Allen Jones, 29, of Floyd. Jones was not wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene. The Chevrolet was driven by Richard S. Helm, 41,

of Shawsville. Helm was not wearing his seatbelt and was transported to the hospital for injuries received in the crash.

Charges are pending. The Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team assisted with the crash. The crash remains under investigation.

Virginia State Police

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 17:

Community Garden planning session

At the Meadowbrook Library; 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 are 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.

Blacksburg Presidents' Day schedule

The Town of Blacksburg will be operating under the following schedule in observance of the Presidents' Day

holiday:

Town administrative offices will be closed. Blacksburg Transit operating on full service in Blacksburg. BT offices will be closed. Visit <https://ridebt.org> for more information. Blacksburg Community Center and Blacksburg Aquatic Center open regular hours. Trash pickup-There will be trash pickup in the southeast quadrant.

Christiansburg Presidents' Day schedule:

Town Hall will be closed. The Recreation Center will be open regular hours and the Aquatic Center will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Administrative offices at both facilities will be closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Mondays will be collected on Tuesday, Feb. 20, along with Tuesday's regular collection.

Radford Presidents' Day schedule:

Trash pick-up on Monday, Feb. 19 will be collected on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Please have garbage ready for collection by 7:30 a.m. Drop Center: closed on Monday, Feb. 19. The Radford Public Library will be closed. City administration offices will be closed.

MFRL closure:

All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd regional Library will be closed for Presidents' Day 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.

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.

Blacksburg Town Council approves amendment civil penalties for trash violations

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG – The Blacksburg Town Council approved amendments to the town code establishing civil penalties for certain trash violations with a unanimous vote at its regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13.

According to Ordinance 2038, trash could include "abandoned personal property, garbage, refuse, litter or debris openly lying on any parcel, which might endanger the health of residents of the town."

Section 14-201 specifies it is the

occupant and/or owner's responsibility to remove trash and clutter as well as weeds exceeding from their real property. All clutter should be either concealed in an enclosed building or concealed with a screening as specified in the ordinance.

Town Attorney Larry Spencer made the presentation on the proposed amendments to the ordinance during the Feb. 13 meeting.

"The title makes it sound a little more grand than it really is, but our current process is really, for the trash, is a slow moving process," said Spencer. "Where there's trash on a lot, the owner gets a notice to correct it. There's a process if

they don't really think it's a problem, it's an appeal process. This is intended to address situations that are a little bit different where it's more of a health hazard and where there's loose trash, most typically out of dumpsters, but also it could be from trash cans."

Spencer said he did not want to give the impression the town would be policing neighborhoods. This is typically found in the location of apartment complexes. In the presence of an issue with unsightly or unhealthy trash hazards, Spencer said that it would start first with a conversation with the property owner or occupant.

"If there is non-compliance after that,

it's a maximum fine of \$50," Spencer said. "It just fills a little bit of a gap in our current processes."

Council members also unanimously approved an amendment to Ordinance 2040 establishing the new Section 17-315 prohibiting overcrowding in buildings. This in conjunction with the fire code already in place and allows that any event, restaurant, bar or other establishment, upon discovery of an overcrowded situation, can be stopped by fire authorities or their representatives until the situation is corrected. According to the ordinance, this type of violation is classified as a Class One Misdemeanor.

Business REVIEW

Time to Brag About **YOUR** Business!

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

Retired educators association offers scholarship to student

Retired Educators in Montgomery County are seeking to reward college-bound students who are interested in a career in public school education.

Montgomery County Retired Educators Association (MCREA) is offering at least one scholarship to a student who is graduating this spring from one of the county's four high schools. The scholarship is aimed at graduates who are attending college to pursue

a degree in education. Information and scholarship applications will be distributed to guidance counselors in February and must be submitted by March 31.

At least one \$1,000 scholarship is typically awarded, and in some years, more than one applicant is awarded a scholarship. Selection is based on financial need, grades, extra-curricular achievements and teacher/community

recommendations. In addition, each application includes an essay and enumeration of the applicant's school and community activities and achievements, which are also considered by the committee.

MCREA has presented one or more scholarships per year since at least 2004.

Montgomery County Retired Educators Association

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org



Blacksburg Books added flair and fun to Moon Hollow Brewing with their pop-up Valentines Book Fair.



Blacksburg Books Manager Ellen Woodall and Assistant Manager Nico Hazlett.

Beer, books, baked goods, and beef make for a fun Saturday to celebrate Valentine's Day

Moon Hollow Brewing offered a fun and relaxing experience to visitors on Saturday in celebration of the upcoming Valentine's Day.

Visitors to Moon Hollow Brewing could grab their favorite brewed craft beer, browse a selection of Valentine's Day inspired books, purchase eats from the Empanada Nirvana food truck, and then have a sweet treat from the Dessert Bar all in one place.

Moon Hollow Brewing, located on Prices Fork Road in the former Prices Fork Elementary School, welcomed a packed house on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 10. The bar and staff were decorated in cheerful pinks and reds and had a valentine table set up for those feeling a bit crafty. Specialty drinks were also a favorite as glasses of bright pink floated around the room in eventgoers' hands.

Empanada Nirvana is a Puerto Rican style restaurant, located in Roanoke, but also provides food truck service. On Saturday, in addition to their robust menu of beef, buffalo chicken, Spanish sausage and peppers, yucca fries, and so much more, they offered a special of a tripleta sandwich. The tripleta is a combination of meats and veggies including



Dessert Bar owner Stephanie Reschka provided delicious treats to brewery visitors.

marinated steak, pernil ham, onions, lettuce, tomato, mayo, ketchup and comes with fries, all on a 10-inch hero sandwich.

Blacksburg Books is located in downtown Blacksburg but made their second appearance at the Valentine's Book Fair event held at the Moon Hollow Brewing. Valentine-inspired books provided not only your typical romance novels, but also graphic novels, and non-fiction. A rack of mysteriously covered books with no title were labeled "Blind Date with a Book". A short synopsis on the cover described what the book was generally about and offered reduced prices.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LORI GRAHAM

Moon Hollow Brewery Owner Hannah Lester with Pourer FraserLee Hudgins served customers their favorite brews.

Blacksburg Books has other pop-up events at Moon Hollow in the summer, but their biggest event is around Halloween, manager Ellen Woodall said.

The Dessert Bar owner Stephanie Reschka situated her baked goods at the entrance of the brewery, delighting customers with the sweet smells wafting from her table. The Dessert Bar is also out of Roanoke but interested customers can visit their Facebook page to find out about their upcoming pop-up events and specials.

Marketplace

ourvalley.org

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

Auctions

PUBLIC NOTICE The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction

February 23, 2024 at 11am at

1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. D020 D025

1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. 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 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 TOWN COUNCIL

Legals - Montgomery County

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. 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 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-((A))-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.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at

7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning an unbuilt right-of-way vacation request by Denstock LLC for the vacation of an unimproved 0.047-acre portion of the eastern most end of Farmview Road, NE right-of-way. Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 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 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

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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 Tuesday, February 20, 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. Rezoning request by Radford Development of Virginia, LLC, Property Owner, and Hy-Tek Collision, LLC, Applicant, to rezone property located on the East side of the intersection of Badger Street NW and Elk Drive NW, identified as Tax Parcel 525-((A))-44A; (Parcel ID 026060), consisting of approximately 2.265 acres, from B-3 General Business District to I-1 Limited Industrial District. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Radford Development of Virginia, LLC, Property Owner, and Hy-Tek Collision, LLC, Applicant, to allow for automobile and truck or recreation vehicle assembling, painting, upholstering, repairing, rebuilding or reconditioning, body or fender work, including a commercial garage, towing service, or automobile body shop in the I-1 Limited Industrial zoning district on property located on the East side of the intersection of Badger Street NW and Elk Drive NW, identified as Tax Parcel 525-((A))-44A;

Legals - Montgomery County

(Parcel ID 026060), and consisting of approximately of 2.265 acres. The property is designated as Residential 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.

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 February 26, 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 Supervisors' intention to act on the following request:

To amend the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan by adding information concerning Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems to the Utilities chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendments include adding background information to the Current and Historical Conditions and Trends section of the Utilities chapter, and by establishing a new section 2.4 of the Utilities chapter to outline proposed goals for Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems within the County. The proposed goals to be added include: establishing a maximum of 4,500 acres of allowed acreage for the development of large-scale solar energy projects within the County, promoting shared agricultural uses within large-scale solar energy projects, considerations related to project scale and project siting, and consideration of natural resources in the approval of large-scale solar energy systems.

Legals - Montgomery County

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>.

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 February 26, 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 Supervisors' intention to act on the following request:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 ENTITLED ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM USES IN THE COUNTY BY AMENDING SECTION 10-61 DEFINITIONS BY DELETING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MAJOR AND SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MINOR AS DEFINED USES AND CREATING NEW DEFINED USES SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FIVE OR LESS MEGA WATTS, SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM UTILITY SCALE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE MORE THAN FIVE MEGA WATTS AND A NEW DEFINED USE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM WHICH TEMPORARILY STORES ENERGY BEFORE GOING TO THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK; AND BY ADDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21(4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-23 (4) R-R RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 10-28 (4) GB GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING

Legals - Montgomery County

DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (4) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (4) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND BY ADDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM UTILITY SCALE AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21 (4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, AND 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT; AND BY ADDING SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, COMMUNITY AND UTILITY SCALE IN SECTION 10-48 (10) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USES; AND BY DELETING THE NO LONGER DEFINED USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, MINOR AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY RIGHT IN SECTIONS 10-21(3) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (3) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (3) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (3) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (3) PUD-COM

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Virginia Tech president gives 2024 State of the University address

BLACKSBURG - Tim Sands' near decade at Virginia Tech has resulted in record growth in the areas of fundraising, research expenditures, and applications along with an expanded Virginia Tech presence in the Washington, D.C., area.

The university president brought attention to those things at his annual State of the University Address, but he spent more time focusing on plans for the university's future.

Global distinction, access, and affordability were the strategic focal points of the

37-minute address, which was given Wednesday afternoon at the Moss Arts Center. Sands, whose 10-year anniversary in Blacksburg is in June, started the address by recognizing the pending retirement of Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, and the additions of several new faculty and staff members before emphasizing to the audience in attendance and those watching online the importance of 2024.

"2024 will be a significant year for all of us," Sands said. "We have challenges to

address, milestones to achieve, and we will see our hard work and investment in the Beyond Boundaries vision pay off in tangible ways."

In 2016, Sands - now in his ninth year as Virginia Tech's president - published his "Beyond Boundaries: A 2047 vision" document that serves as a long-term vision for the university. In 2019, he and his staff released a complete version of a strategic plan that includes four priorities: advancing regional, national, and global impact; elevating the Ut Prosim difference; being a destination for talent; and ensuring institutional excellence.

Affordability a concern
In light of the rising cost of tuition nationwide, Virginia Tech officials launched Virginia Tech Advantage in mid-October. The multiyear \$500 million fundraising initiative serves as the university's commitment to offer a broad educational experience to undergraduate students from Virginia who have financial need.

The initiative is designed to increase scholarship dollars for in-state students, provide basic support for unmet needs, help with career preparation, and be used to offer transformational learning experiences.

More than 5,500 Virginia Tech undergraduate students who hail from Virginia have demonstrated financial needs. The money from Virginia Tech Advantage will be used to close the gap between the cost of attending Virginia Tech and students' abilities to contribute their own resources.

Sands said the gap between student financial need and the aid and support currently provided by Virginia Tech is approximately \$52 million annually.

"During the last decade, we have been successful in improving access for students who might not otherwise have chosen Virginia Tech, but we know that access alone is not enough to ensure success," Sands said. "Students who lack generational wealth often miss out on broader educational opportunities. They work 20 or more hours per week in jobs unrelated to their studies and



PHOTO BY LEE FRIESLAND FOR VIRGINIA TECH

President Tim Sands delivers the 2024 State of the University Address.

take on oppressive debt just to remain in school. They don't develop the workplace skills and networks that are strong predictors of a successful launch after graduation.

"The full Virginia Tech experience provides our graduates with opportunities to begin a fulfilling career with the skills and networks needed to succeed and without the heavy burden of excessive student loan debt."

Sands said in addition to raising \$500 million to address affordability, the university plans to incorporate paid internships and other "bridge" experiences into every degree program.

Virginia Tech Global Distinction
Sands' other top strategic priority, Virginia Tech Global Distinction, centers on the university's commitment to elevate the international prominence of the institution and strengthen our capacity to act as a force for positive change.

Sands and other university leaders aspire to see the university ranked among the top 100 global universities and the top 10 U.S. public land-grant universities in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Times Higher Education is a publication that focuses on higher education issues.

The publication releases its World University Rankings each fall, and Virginia Tech was ranked in the 251-300 band in last fall's rankings - 17th among U.S. public land-grant universities.

"To grow our global reputation and impact, we are focused on enhancing the impact of scholarship; extramural funding; faculty awards, fellowships, and memberships; and doctoral education and postdoctoral associate training," Sands said. "This will be accomplished through investment in prioritized research frontiers and providing world-class shared research tools and facilities."

Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke selected the members of a steering committee to lead the university's efforts toward global distinction goals. Dan Sui, senior vice president for research and innovation, and Executive Vice Provost Don Taylor serve as co-chairs.

Sands also pointed out the growth of Virginia Tech's research enterprise - one of many metrics used by Times Higher Education when comprising its rankings. Externally sponsored research growth grew by 13.4 percent during the last fiscal year, reaching \$415 million. That surpassed the university's strategic plan milestone two years early.

"Both Virginia Tech Advantage and Virginia Tech Global Distinction share one important principle," Sands said. "Our strength is in our community and our people. Faculty, staff, and students are the university's most important assets."

Additional updates
For the fourth consecutive year, Virginia Tech set a new high for the number of first-year applications for admissions, with a total of 52,365 - an 11 percent increase from last year.

The number reflects the growing interest and reputation of the university, but Sands said that the university will be reducing the percentage of applicants accepted primarily because of limited on-campus infrastructure and limited local availability of housing.

"As we look toward the future, housing availability and affordability is one of a number of headwinds that we must address, but not alone," he said. "Now is the time for the university, the town, the county, and surrounding region to join and find a strategic path to improve our community for all. I'm pleased that progress is being made, and hopeful that, in the coming weeks, Virginia Tech and our community neighbors will be able to

See Address, page 6

News Messenger

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Emperor of Russia
 - 5. Abounding in rocks
 - 11. Increase in speed
 - 14. Music app
 - 15. Not nice
 - 18. Tables (Span.)
 - 19. Decomposes
 - 21. ___ student: learns healing
 - 23. Nursemaid
 - 24. Joke-teller
 - 28. Male parent
 - 29. Group of countries (abbr.)
 - 30. "Rambling Rose" actor Lukas
 - 32. Midway between south and southwest
 - 33. Cartoon Network (abbr.)
 - 35. Peacock network
 - 36. Principal ethnic group of China
 - 39. Made of fermented honey
 - and water
 - 41. Exclamation of surprise
 - 42. Evaluates skill or knowledge
 - 44. Stage in ecological succession
 - 46. Ethnic group of SE Asia
 - 47. Not small
 - 49. A cat is one
 - 52. Broken piece
 - 56. French president
 - 58. Artist's workroom
 - 60. Ability to apply knowledge and skills
 - 62. Visually stunning
 - 63. Ancient region south of Dead Sea
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Used to pour beer
 - 2. Con game
 - 3. Skin disorder
 - 4. Communists (slang)
 - 5. Subjects to hostility
 - 6. A major division of geological time
 - 7. Hitting statistic (abbr.)
 - 8. British thermal unit
 - 9. Influential envoy to Woodrow Wilson
 - 10. Fits on neck of animal
 - 12. Fertile soil
 - 13. Type of battery
 - 16. Khoikhoi peoples
 - 17. Consist of two parts
 - 20. Small group of trees
 - 22. Execute or perform
 - 25. Millinery
 - 26. 007's creator
 - 27. Associated with esoteric doctrine
 - 29. Electronic counter-measures
 - 31. Schenectady County Airport
 - 34. No (Scottish)
 - 36. Position of leadership
 - 37. Statement
 - 38. Raccoons belong to this genus
 - 40. One who diagnoses
 - 43. True mosses
 - 45. Blood type
 - 48. Albanian
 - 50. Emergency response notification system
 - 51. College reservists
 - 53. Away from wind
 - 54. Tough outer layer
 - 55. Art __, around 1920
 - 57. Born of
 - 58. The greatest of all time
 - 59. Georgia rockers
 - 61. Natural logarithm

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OBITUARIES

Hall, Michael Steve

Michael Steve Hall, 66, passed away Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at his home in Christiansburg. Steve was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. He was a natural born salesman, selling everything from insurance to steaks. He was preceded in death by his wife, Arleen Patricia Ford-Hall.

Survivors include his parents, Thomas Lee and Catherine Louise Blackwell Hall; daughter, Krystine Atkinson (Chris); sons, Craig Hall (Leigh) and Ezra Ford; grandchildren, Catherine Wirt, Thomas Wirt, Abigail Atkinson,



and Margaret Ford; brothers, Sherman Hall (Nancy) and Tim Hall (Dana); and numerous other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Rev. Leon Alley officiating. Graveside services were held Thursday, Feb. 15, at Rockford Church Cemetery in Fairlawn.

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

Jordan, Jerry Wayne

Jerry Wayne Jordan, 73, passed away Sunday, Feb. 10, 2024, at his home in Radford.

He was a U. S. Army veteran and retired from RAAP. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil Roy and Mary Lee Jordan; sisters, Betty and Judy; and eight brothers, Glenn, Jimmy, Kenneth, Buddy, Donald, Bobby, Terry, and Ronnie.

Survivors include his wife, Pamela Elizabeth Jordan; son, Jason Jordan (Amy); daughter, Robin Jordan (Tommy); grandchildren, Megan, Courtney, Katie and Josh; great



grandchildren, Makenzie, Camden and Alayna; sisters, Margaret Morgan and Linda McCoy; brother, Rick Jordan; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services with full military honors followed at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

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. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

PLACE OF REFUGE

Read Numbers 32:1 through 36:13

Select some towns to be your cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone accidentally may flee. They will be places of refuge from the avenger, so that a person accused of murder may not die before he stands trial before the assembly. (Numbers 35:11,12).

God commanded that if anyone died because of violence, and murder was assumed, the murder suspect was not automatically to be considered guilty. Instead, he was allowed to flee to a city of refuge (one of six to be chosen in the Promised Land) that would assure the accused would be treated justly and justice would be done. In this way God provided justice in a culture where protecting the innocent was not a typical response.

When we hear accusations of guilt against others, our first response should be to provide them with a place of refuge in our hearts. That is, we should not rush to judgment, assume their guilt, and be careless in our speech about them. We should treat them fairly, as God intended.

Prayer for Today: Ask the Lord to make your heart and mouth a place of refuge rather than a fount of accusation for others.

Quicklook: Numbers 35:6-15

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

St Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 East Main Street, Christiansburg VA, 24073. Worship and communion at 10:00 a.m., each Sunday, followed by hospitality coffee and Adult Sunday Adult Seminar. Our service is also streamed. Contact for more info: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com. http://www.stthomaschristiansburg.dioswva.org

LUTHERAN

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

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

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where we gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are

always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation." A place where all are truly welcome." You'll love our minister, The Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison, who engages us in God's word. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Caring Initiative which includes Micah's Backpack, Soup for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmcl.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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.

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages

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

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

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

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Rev. Mike Derffinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship at 10a.m. with Children's Church at the same time, Sunday School at 9 a.m. Worship is in-person and Live-streamed on our YouTube Channel: StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA. All are welcome. Website: www.stpaulvaumc.org

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

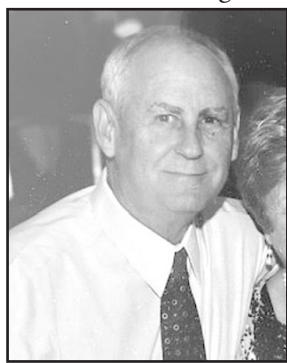
Keffer III, James Leslie

James Leslie Keffer III, a believer in Christ, a beloved husband, father, brother, and community leader, passed away Feb. 9, 2024, at the age of 78.

Born in Blacksburg in 1946, James was preceded by James "Mouse" Keffer II and Margaret Keffer. James is survived by his devoted wife, Carolyn F. Keffer; his loving sons Christopher Keffer and Gregory Keffer; his brother Raymond Keffer; sister Carolyn Bess; and cherished grandchildren Madison Keffer and Carter Keffer.

James honorably served his country in the United States Army before embarking on a successful career. He spent 27 years at Dupont in Richmond, where he served as a Union Steward and worked in Vibration Analysis. Later, he joined Philip Morris until his retirement. Beyond his professional accomplishments, James made a significant impact as a coach and mentor in the Chester League Baseball association, where he served as a commissioner. His guidance and encouragement touched the lives of countless individuals.

James established his family home in Chester, Va., before eventually settling in Mathews County, where he found solace in the serene view of the river from his living room. An avid outdoorsman, he loved deer hunting, fishing, and passionately supported the Virginia Tech Hokies. In retirement, James found joy in Florida, where he could indulge in his hobbies of golfing and fishing, all while relishing quality time with Carolyn, family, and friends.



His commitment to service extended beyond retirement, as evidenced by his leadership role in the Chester Civitan Club and active involvement in the American Legion. James Leslie Keffer III will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of love, leadership, and sportsmanship will forever endure in the hearts of those he touched. May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to his family and community during this difficult time.

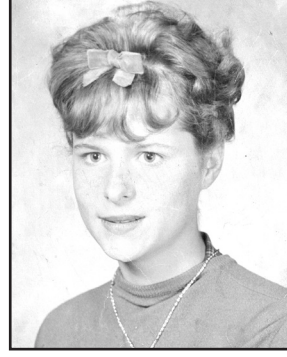
Services were held at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg, Thursday, Feb. 15. The funeral was held Friday, Feb. 16 at McCoy Funeral Home, followed by a graveside service.

Petrey, Mary Evelyn Bowden

Mary Evelyn Bowden Petrey, 75, of Dublin, entered into her forever home in Heaven Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024.

She was born Oct. 7, 1948 in West Virginia. Mary was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She loved spending time with her family and being at church. She could always be seen with a smile on her face and would do anything for others. She was preceded in death by her mother, Evelyn Bowman; brothers, Jimmy and David Bowden; and her sister, Ruth Bowden.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Angela Harrison (Delbert), and Crystal Leffler (Chris); grandchildren, Matt Wetzel, Brandon Petrey (Victoria), Jeffrey



Bennett, and Hannah Bennett; great-granddaughter, Ava Petrey; brothers and sisters-in-law, Roger Bowden, and Roy Bowden (Joy); sister, Ruby Bowden; best friend, Glen Branscome; and numerous other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends 10 - 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Pastor Doug Testerman officiating. Burial will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

Virginia Tech from page 1

Both Pamplin and engineering had other programs rank highly as well in the magazine's 2024 Best Online Programs rankings.

Pamplin's online MBA programs scored highly in areas of concentration in general management, where it was ranked No. 13 in this year's survey, and in business analytics, which was ranked No. 14 in the nation. Read more about Pamplin's ranking.

Three master's degree programs in the College of Engineering also saw improved placement. They included:

No. 17 for Best Online Graduate Engineering Programs

No. 8 for Best Online Master of Industrial Engineering Programs

No. 11 for Best Online Master of Electrical Engineering Programs

Across the board, these rankings have increased with the online graduate

engineering program rising eight spots from No. 25 in 2023, the online industrial engineering program increasing eight spots from No. 16, and the online electrical engineering program moving from No. 12 to No. 11. Read more about the College of Engineering's rankings.

Michael Stowe for Virginia Tech

VDOT from page 1

this problem to find the best solution since it is a large pothole with some drainage issues.

"It will take some coordination with the house, I think they run a business out of there as well," Clarke said. "We can bring that entrance and tie it into Stanley, or continue it the way it is, leave it the way it is, but that gives us two entrances off of Tyler Road which is kind of awkward."

Lastly, King requested an update on the drainpipe located on Poff School Road in Riner. Clarke confirmed VDOT has looked at the condition, but he has not received an update yet.

Vice Chair Steve Fijalkowski asked Clarke for an update on Craig

Mountain Road study that is ongoing.

"Yes, that came back. I believe there was no recommendation for a speed change on that," Clarke said. "I'll double-check and make sure I have the documentation on that, and we'll get in contact with the citizen that requested it."

Fijalkowski also discussed a previous citizen request for a crossover at Cove Hollow Road.

"A citizen makes a good case that it could possibly be safer to have one there," Fijalkowski said. "I'm not sure, I know traffic flies pretty quickly down through that stretch."

Designing for a previously approved intersection at Alleghany

Springs and Route 460 in Shawsville has begun, according to Clarke. As of now, Clarke does not think a date has been set for construction.

"That will definitely be welcomed there," Fijalkowski said. "I think the only turn lane that's there is on the westbound side and is about 20 feet long, maybe."

Clarke welcomed the new board members with an invitation to reach out to his office with any questions or concerns. He said there is a manual for Board of Supervisors, of which he would try to get copies to them. The manual lays out processes, information on the six-year plan, and other important information, which is also available on the VDOT website.

Address from page 4

announce a plan for a productive dialogue to heighten our understanding of needs and develop a path to address our shared goals."

Among other updates, Sands announced that the first building of Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus in Alexandria, Virginia, is scheduled to open next year. Innovation Campus' academic programs opened in fall 2020, and now, 376 master's degree-seeking students are enrolled in computer science and computer engineering.

In addition, among facilities projects, Hitt Hall, Perry Place Dining Hall, the Undergraduate Science Laboratory Building, the War Memorial Gym renovations, the elevators next to Derring Hall, and the Multi-Modal Transit Facility all will be complete by this fall.

Also of note, Sands highlighted the growing relationship between Virginia Tech and Botswana, a nation in southern Africa. As part of a project spearheaded by Kathleen Alexander, the William E. Lavery Professor in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, Virginia Tech, the government of Botswana, and a nongovernmental

organization formed by Alexander broke ground this past fall on a Wildlife Forensic Laboratory, a joint facility that allows students of Virginia Tech and Botswana to perform research in various areas of conservation.

In closing, Sands recognized the efforts of the university's Advancement group and the generosity of Virginia Tech supporters. Virginia Tech raised approximately \$225 million during the last fiscal year and received recognition by the Council on Advancement and Support for Education as a CASE 50 institution, placing the university in the top tier for university advancement.

"In 2024, we will look back on the last decade with pride, and then turn our attention to the future," Sands said. "Great opportunities and challenges lie ahead. The state of our university is strong, hopeful, and committed to our mission in the spirit of Ut Prosim - That I May Serve."

"We're ready to show the world who we are."

Virginia Tech

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Amendment from page 1

stormwater runoff and transportation would be reviewed later once the use of the property is specified.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the site with the property by-right uses being limited to those listed in the proposal and shall remain zoned as Commercial Business.

Supervisor Todd King requested clarification on the current use of the property being limited to an auto repair shop if the amended proffered list proposed by the applicant did not receive approval.

"That's correct, so the existing proffer states that it could be an automobile repair shop without motor

fuel sales in a building that is 2,000 square feet or less," Sanders said.

Engineer John Neal from Foresight Design Services presented additional information to the board.

"Just to point out, we are talking about 1.5 acres of land," Neal said. "The intent, when we went through the rezoning, to Community Business from Agriculture, with M&M Tire operating as a community business for 20-plus years, when it was zoned agriculture, we did it to kind of keep things in line with what M&M was doing there. And the intent was that M&M would operate there for as long as they intended, and then unfortunately, they

moved on," Neal said. "So, Mr. Hagan had an opportunity to purchase the property and with our preserve, Walnut Springs, behind it, we thought it was wise to do that."

Neal also said there is a buffer of approximately 25 feet to the rear of the parcel and with an additional 50 feet of common space associated with the preserve, there is a total of approximately 75 feet allotted as a buffer to the nearest residential property.

At this time, VDOT is taking no exception to the proposed property, but a traffic analysis might be required once a determination of the property use is made.

Carol Hoge of Walnut

Springs, Blacksburg addressed the board during the public comment session of the meeting. Hoge and her family were previous owners of the property and still own an adjacent farm to the rear of the proposed commercial business site.

"My main concern is, we have a man-made pond that adjoins the property line that they're developing and it's an absolutely beautiful pond," Hogue said. "At the closing, we were asked by Shah Development if we would sign an addendum allowing them to have a water runoff or something... into our pond from their development. The lawyer told us that if we signed it,

we had nothing to worry about because the County would monitor this. Now, the construction has begun. I don't know if the County has done any monitoring, but every time it rains, our pond is filled with mud and runoff from the minimal amount of construction that has started."

Hogue also said that she has lived on the property since 1977 and the pond has never overflowed, but recently water has exceeded the pond's boundaries. There is a cottage that she uses as a rental located near the pond as well. In total, Hogue says that she has 300 acres of land now in conservation and has been in her family since the

mid-1800s.

Supervisor Derek Kitts made a motion on the proffer amendment, suggesting the Prices Fork Road parcel proffer amendment to be moved to the next meeting on March 11, 2024. Kitts suggested that in light of the citizen's response, more opportunity for discussion may be necessary.

Supervisor April DeMotts agreed a delay on the amendment vote is understandable, but regrets it is also a delay to the applicant.

Supervisor Sara Bohn questioned if the neighboring landowner Hogue's statements are related to the amendment being discussed before the board. Kitts then withdrew his request to delay the vote.

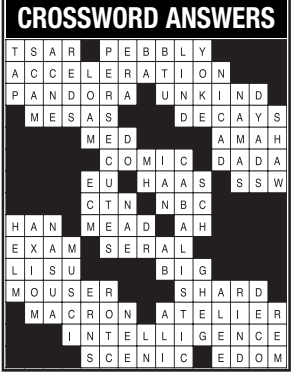
The Prices Fork Road proffered amendment was passed unanimously by the board.

Blacksburg 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 January 2nd. If you have not received the packet, email businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov or call 540.961.1108.



MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Hall named new Executive Associate AD for Virginia Tech



Brandon Hall PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Brandon Hall, a Christiansburg native, is returning to the New River Valley as Virginia Tech's Executive Associate AD / Athletics Chief Financial Officer, announced Monday by Director of Athletics Whit Babcock.

A 17-year professional in college athletics, Hall will serve as the lead financial officer for Tech's athletic department, overseeing all finance and business activities. Additionally, Hall will serve on Babcock's executive leadership team, manage a business office with seven direct reports and maintain a culture of compliance. Hall will begin his new role in March 2024.

"We are thrilled to welcome Brandon and his family back to Southwest Virginia," Babcock said. "Our mantra, 'This is Home,' carries a great deal of meaning for Brandon as a Christiansburg native.

"We are adding a respected professional who I have the utmost confidence in being a good steward of our resources, while providing valuable counsel and financial planning for our department," Babcock continued. "This position is vital as we chart our path forward in the ever-changing landscape of college athletics."

Hall comes to Blacksburg following a three-and-a-half-year stint at Clemson University, most recently serving as the Senior Associate Athletics Director / Chief Financial Officer. In addition to managing the Tigers' \$160 million operating budget, his areas of oversight included business operations, equipment operations and the aviation department.

He also assisted with the establishment and management of Clemson's corporate partnerships venture and served as secondary sport administrator for the softball program. During his

tenure, the Tigers added women's lacrosse and women's gymnastics.

As Clemson's CFO, Hall was the athletic department's financial liaison to the university, ACC and NCAA. He also managed capital project cash flow for several Clemson facilities, including:

\$67 million Memorial Stadium expansion, including new premium areas, scoreboards and ribbon boards, team locker room, and bowl seating

\$12 million football operations complex expansion

\$37 million women's sports expansion project, including gymnastics operations, lacrosse stadium, lacrosse operations building, and elite athlete recovery center

\$50 million performance and wellness center for Olympic sport student-athletes

"My family and I are thrilled for the unique opportunity to come home and join the Hokie family," Hall said. "Special thanks to Whit Babcock, Amy Sebring [Virginia Tech's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer], and the search committee for entrusting me to serve in this leadership role.

"I also want to thank all the wonderful people at Clemson, especially Graham Neff," Hall continued. "It was going to take a special opportunity for me to leave, and Virginia Tech is certainly that for my family. I'm excited to get started and help further the success and momentum in Blacksburg!"

See Hall, page 8

SPORTS NOTES

Virginia Tech shortstop Rachel Castine has been named the ACC Player of the Week, the league announced Tuesday morning. The junior earns the award for the first time in her career after leading the Hokies at the plate last week.

Castine led Tech offensively over the five games played, hitting a .583 batting average with 13 RBIs and four home runs, two of those being grand slams. The junior individually recorded more RBIs than any other team in the tournament. Belmont had eight RBIs, Illinois recorded 10, and Auburn put up 12.

In last week's opener win against Illinois, Castine went 2-for-2 with a grand slam, the Hokies' first home run of the season. She then hit her second grand slam of the day to put the Hokies up 8-1 in the extra inning victory against No. 20 Auburn.

Castine also produced pivotal home runs during the Saturday rematch against Auburn and the weekend finale against Illinois, as both home runs helped the Hokies come from behind. She rounded out her career-weekend with a total of seven hits and a 1.667 slugging percentage.

ACC kickoff

For the first time in the history of the event, the Atlantic Coast

Conference will conduct the annual ACC Football Kickoff with four full days of interviews, July 22-25, at the Hilton Charlotte Uptown in Charlotte, North Carolina. ACC Network will provide live coverage for all four days.

With the addition of three new members in the University of California (Cal), Southern Methodist University (SMU), and Stanford, the breakdown of all 17 schools will consist of three schools on Monday, July 22, five schools each on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 23-24, and four schools on Thursday, July 25.

Women's tourney tickets

Single-session tickets for the 2024 Ally ACC Women's Basketball Tournament, to be held March 6-10 at Greensboro Coliseum, are now on sale.

Individual session ticket prices start at \$10 for reserved seating and \$7 for general admission seating (for select sessions). Additional reserved seating is now available for all sessions, which starts at \$99.

A nation-best nine ACC teams are ranked in the top 40 of the NCAA NET rankings, headlined by five teams in the top 25. In the latest Associated Press (AP) Poll, five ACC teams are in the Top 25, beginning

with NC State at No. 6. Virginia Tech is No. 12, Notre Dame is No. 16, Louisville is No. 18 and Syracuse is No. 19. Duke and North Carolina are receiving votes.

The 2024 Ally ACC Women's Basketball Tournament will mark the 47th edition of the nation's longest running women's basketball conference championship. It will mark the 24th time in the last 25 years the Greensboro Coliseum has hosted the event.

Nine different ACC institutions have combined for 23 trips to the Women's Final Four, with 2023 ACC Tournament Champion Virginia Tech making its first-ever appearance a season ago. ACC teams have made five trips to the Final Four in the last five seasons. Over those five seasons, 40 teams have earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament, the most among all conferences. Since 2014, the ACC has combined for 119 NCAA Tournament wins, the next closest conference has just 105.

Lady Hokies 12th

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team is ranked 12th in the AP Poll the organization announced Monday

See Notes, page 8

ACC FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIPS	
MEN'S & WOMEN'S SOCCER	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
2024-29 - CARY WAKEMED SOCCER PARK	2024 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO COLISEUM
	2025 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO COLISEUM
	2027 - CHARLOTTE SPECTRUM CENTER
MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIM & DIVE	GYMNASTICS
2024 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	2024-26 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO COLISEUM
2025 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	
2027 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	
2028 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	
2029 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	
MEN'S & WOMEN'S LACROSSE	ROWING
2024-28 - CHARLOTTE AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL STAD.	2024 - RALEIGH LAKE WHEELER PARK
	2026 - RALEIGH LAKE WHEELER PARK
	2027 - RALEIGH LAKE WHEELER PARK
	2029 - RALEIGH LAKE WHEELER PARK
	2030 - RALEIGH LAKE WHEELER PARK
WOMEN'S GOLF	MEN'S BASKETBALL
2024 - WILMINGTON PORTERS NECK COUNTRY CLUB	2025 - CHARLOTTE SPECTRUM CENTER
2025 - GREENSBORO SEDGEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB	2026 - CHARLOTTE SPECTRUM CENTER
2027 - GREENSBORO SEDGEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB	2027 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO COLISEUM
2029 - GREENSBORO SEDGEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB	2028 - CHARLOTTE SPECTRUM CENTER
	2029 - GREENSBORO GREENSBORO COLISEUM
	MEN'S & WOMEN'S TENNIS
	2024-29 - CARY CARY TENNIS PARK
	BASEBALL
	2024 - CHARLOTTE TRUIST FIELD
	2025 - DURHAM DURHAM BULLS ATHLETIC PARK
	2026 - CHARLOTTE TRUIST FIELD
	2027 - DURHAM DURHAM BULLS ATHLETIC PARK
	2028 - CHARLOTTE TRUIST FIELD
	2029 - DURHAM DURHAM BULLS ATHLETIC PARK

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ACC

ACC announces championship locations

On Thursday, Feb. 8, the Atlantic Coast Conference announced Charlotte, Greensboro, Cary, Durham and Raleigh will play host to numerous future neutral site conference championships as approved by the league's membership.

Half of the conference's 28 sponsored sports are named, including the ACC Women's Basketball Championship and ACC Men's Basketball Championship, as well as Olympic Sports, including baseball, women's golf, gymnastics, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's

soccer, men's and women's swimming and diving, rowing, and men's and women's tennis.

As was announced in April 2018, the ACC's Football Championship Game is scheduled to be played on the first Saturday in December at Bank of America Stadium through 2030.

"We are incredibly proud to announce this tremendous package of neutral site championships that will be held in the State of North Carolina, where the league was founded more than 70 years ago,"

said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "Each of these outstanding cities and venues will provide a first-class experience for our student-athletes, coaches, institutions, alumni and fans over the next seven years. We are also pleased to have been able to deliver so quickly on our commitment to continue to hold numerous tournaments and championships in cities across the State of North Carolina as part of the ACC Board of Directors' decision to relocate the conference office headquarters to

Charlotte."

The ACC Men's Basketball Tournament will take place in North Carolina for five consecutive years from 2025 to 2029. The historical postseason tournament will alternate years, taking place at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte in 2025, 2026, and 2028, and at the Greensboro Coliseum in 2027 and 2029. No venue has hosted the ACC Men's Basketball Tournament more than the Greensboro

See ACC, page 8

DeMartini embraces leadership role

As the 2024 baseball season nears, Virginia Tech third baseman Carson DeMartini has been steadily tabbed for his talent and grit on the diamond. The junior from Virginia Beach, Virginia, was praised as D1Baseball's No. 3 third baseman in the outlet's 2024 Preseason Player Rankings, has garnered 2024 Preseason All-American consideration from three leading outlets (D1Baseball, NCBWA,

Perfect Game) and ranks as the No. 43 overall prospect for the 2024 MLB Draft per mlb.com.

"It's the body of work that I put in," DeMartini said. "I've been working at this game since I was two years old. It's something that I've always done well. I've always worked my butt off at it."

During his sophomore 2023 season, DeMartini started 52 games, batted .323, had an on-base

percentage of .455 and boasted a .947 fielding percentage at third base. After sustaining a mid-season injury that kept him from playing the field, he transitioned into the role of the Hokies' designated hitter, hitting triples during each of his next two games in the heart of Tech's lineup.

Back at full health in 2024, DeMartini has added a new role to his repertoire, one he has not truly held with the Hokies

until now – leadership. This offseason, Tech welcomed 24 newcomers and 13 true freshmen, leaving many new faces to integrate into the clubhouse.

"I think I'm one of the leaders on the team," DeMartini said. "I think that's fair to say. I feel like I've earned that role, both vocally and by how I carry myself. Throughout [my] years it has built [up], and this year is the climax of that role."

DeMartini is now a See DeMartini, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech's Preseason All-American Carson DeMartini is determined to will club through new season.

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Radford girls falls to Floyd



Abby Hodock races up court after grabbing a rebound against Floyd County.



Senior Claire Fender sinks a free throw in the first quarter in the final regular season game for the Bobcats on Wednesday night.



Radford's Adouncia Hayes shoots a short jumper in Tuesday's 61-39 loss.



Radford's Angel Thompson gets fouled while driving to the basket.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

DeMartini from page 7

seasoned veteran with the Hokies, having started all but two of the team's 112 games since arriving as a freshman in 2022. As a rookie, he slugged .659 on Tech's 2022 NCAA Blacksburg Super Regional team, hammering 15 home runs while totaling 50 RBIs.

This season, DeMartini anchors the infield alongside a core group of returners

who are poised to lead the Hokies to the program's first Men's College World Series appearance.

"I think it's huge having returning guys in every spot on the infield," DeMartini said. "We all know what to expect with the season. It's a lot. The game moves fast and it's tough to worry about everything else and still play well. I think we're able

to loosen [the newcomers] up a little bit and in turn, they are able to have a better season."

Attitude and skill form the foundation to any third baseman, especially in DeMartini's case. His day-in, day-out demeanor helps him emerge as a player who can lead this 2024 team and he is prepared to do so.

Virginia Tech baseball begins its 2024 campaign on Friday, Feb. 16, at Charlotte. Following a midweek away game at James Madison on Wednesday, Feb. 21, the Hokies will debut at English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park on Friday, Feb. 23, against Rhode Island.

~ VT Athletics

ACC from page 7

Coliseum, and 2027 will mark the 30th time. The City of Charlotte has hosted the ACC Men's Basketball Tournament on 13 occasions.

The ACC Women's Basketball Tournament will also split time between Charlotte and Greensboro, as the women's tournament will tip off in the Greensboro Coliseum in 2024 and 2025. In 2027, the longest-running DI conference women's basketball tournament in the country will be held at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte.

Like the men's and women's basketball championships, the ACC Baseball Championship will also alternate sites over the next six years. Starting this spring, the baseball conference championship will be hosted at Truist Field in Charlotte in 2024, 2026, and 2028, while Durham and the Durham Bulls Athletic Park will

host the championship event in 2025, 2027, and 2029.

In addition to basketball, the Greensboro Coliseum Complex will also host men's and women's swimming and diving as well as gymnastics. The Greensboro Aquatic Center will host the ACC Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving Championships in five of the next six years – 2024, 2025, 2027, 2028, and 2029. The ACC Gymnastics Championship will be held three straight years – 2024, 2025, and 2026 – at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Charlotte is the host city for both the ACC Men's and Women's Lacrosse Championships beginning this spring and running through 2028. Both events will be held at the American Legion Memorial Stadium.

The ACC Women's Soccer

Championship and the ACC Men's Soccer Championship will continue to be held at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary through the 2029 season.

The Cary Tennis Park will continue to host the ACC Women's and Men's Tennis Championships from 2024 through 2029.

Lake Wheeler Park in Raleigh will host the ACC Rowing Championship in five of the next seven years, including 2024, 2026, 2027, 2029, and 2030, while the ACC Women's Golf Championship will be played on a variety of McConnell Golf properties throughout the Southeast through 2029. The 2024 event will be held in Wilmington at Porters Neck Country Club, while the 2025, 2027, and 2029 tournaments will take place at Sedgfield Country Club in Greensboro.

The ACC continues to accomplish

greatness with a monumental start to the 2023-24 academic year.

This past fall, the ACC saw four different ACC teams win four NCAA Titles across the seven league-sponsored fall sports. The conference as a whole, also continued to rank among the nation's best in both U.S. News and World Report Rankings and NCAA Graduation Success Ratings while making momentous changes to the league with the relocation of the office headquarters to Charlotte, North Carolina, the announcement of the addition of three world-class institutions in University of California (Cal), Southern Methodist University (SMU) and Stanford University and the launch of a new brand campaign entitled Accomplish Greatness.

Atlantic Coast Conference

Notes from page 7

afternoon.

The Hokies are 20-4 (11-2) on the season following another 2-0 week which featured a fourth consecutive victory over NC State and an 11-point win against Boston College in front of a sellout crowd. Overall, the Hokies have won seven in a row and are in solo first place in the ACC standings with five games remaining.

ACC honors Kitley

Virginia Tech center Elizabeth Kitley earned ACC Player of the Week honors the conference announced Monday afternoon. For the graduate student, it is her fourth time winning the award this season and 13th

time in her illustrious career.

Kitley recorded two 20-point double-doubles this week as the Hokies ran their winning streak to seven games. In the second game of the season sweep of NC State she led all scorers with 25 points on 50% shooting while securing 13 rebounds as the Hokies became the first team to win at Reynolds Coliseum since they won there last season. Sunday, she put up 24 and 15, going 9-14 from the field.

She became the all-time leader in ACC history with her 73rd career double-double against the Wolfpack and then added to that total against the Eagles.

Staff report

Hall from page 7

Hall came to Clemson after serving as the Senior Associate Athletics Director / Chief Financial Officer at the University of South Florida from 2018-2020. During his tenure in Tampa, Hall was a member of the Bulls' Athletics Cabinet and oversaw business operations, equipment operations, human resources, and information technology. Prior to USE, Hall spent six years

at the University of Oklahoma from 2012-2018 – starting as the Director of Business Operations before being promoted to Assistant Athletics Director in 2016. Hall primarily managed the Sooners' budget that grew over 60% during his time in Norman.

Hall began his career in athletics in his home state of Virginia, spending two years at the College of William and Mary (2010-2012) after four

years at Radford University (2007-2010).

Hall earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Radford University in 2009 and Master of Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 2015. Brandon and his wife Cindy have two sons, Dylan and Tanner.

Virginia Tech Athletics

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