



# News Messenger

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Christiansburg

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## Montgomery County Public Schools budget proposal released

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

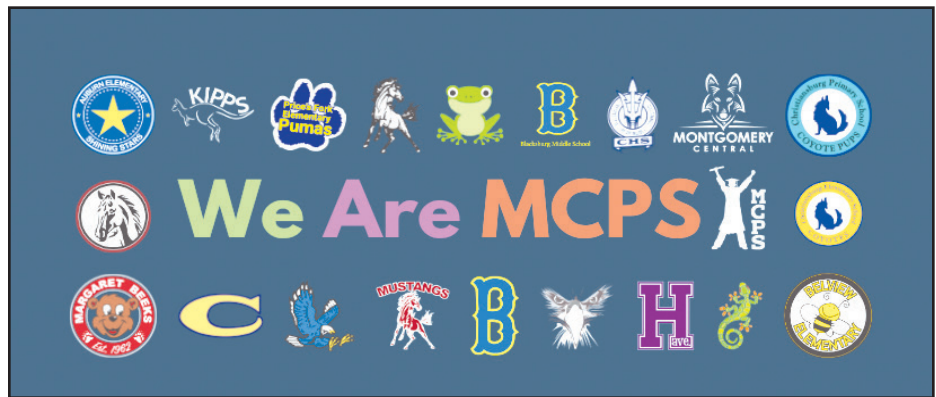
MONTGOMERY CO. - Following the MCPS Board work session on Feb. 21, a proposed budget has been released to the public.

The 2024-25 proposed operating budget includes a 9.32% increase over the previous year's budget, increasing from \$134,940,673 to \$147,512,978.

These costs include expenditures for instruction, administrative costs, transportation, operations and maintenance, non-instructional, and other uses of funds unspecified.

This proposal considers an expected state contribution of approximately \$5.5 million dollars, along with local and federal revenues as well.

Social worker services would see a 5.41% increase, along with other increases of material expenses across the board, including a 5% inflation increase for instructional materials. In addition to instructional roles, many other positions will see a 5% increase, such as part-time instructional teachers for homebound students, substitute teachers, executive administrative assistant, assistant superintendent, coordinator of communications, specialists in fiscal services, purchasing, the addition of a



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCPS

nurse position, psychological services, speech and audiology, and other support services in the county.

See MCPS, page 3



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA KRENS FOR VIRGINIA TECH

During his visit to Virginia Tech on Oct. 28, Uncle Devin discussed go-go music and hosted a workshop that explored the history of racism in children's music in the United States and beyond.

## Teaching history of Black music is integral to education, professor says

Cat Foster believes that teaching students to appreciate the history of Black music is integral to education. That's exactly what she is doing at Virginia Tech, through her role as assistant professor of practice of music education in the School of Education.

Black History Month "is a time where we can identify what makes the Black culture special," Foster said. "However, I feel like it's something that should be celebrated year round, and I think when we get into the

habit of only celebrating something during a specific month, we're in danger of not giving that culture the respect and the honor that it needs."

Foster's first higher education job was at Fayetteville State University, the oldest public historically Black college or university in North Carolina. This experience informed her areas of research interest and her approach to teaching overall.

"I was able to build deep, meaningful relationships with my students even

though there were many barriers that separated us," Foster said. "This was very different from my previous experiences in teaching, but I am appreciative that they trusted me and wanted to share their personal stories with me."

These connections and disclosures often came from Foster checking in on students when they had missing work, which has made that practice even more important to her.

"My research really

See Teaching, page 3

## YMCA at VT announces Cinderella and Prince Charming Boutique



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech Chi Delta Alpha Service Sorority volunteers help set up the boutique.

BLACKSBURG - The YMCA at VT in partnership with Blacksburg Junior Women's Club and Chi Delta Alpha Service Sorority is proud to present the Cinderella and Prince Charming Boutique.

The boutique provides teens on a budget their fairytale prom by providing new and gently used formal wear, shoes and accessories for young men and young ladies.

Prom and other formal occasions offer a special time in the life of a teenager. Everyone deserves the opportunity to attend if they wish yet it is also a very expensive event. It is especially so when one considers the cost of purchasing clothing, accessories and grooming. We do not want to see anyone that would like to attend their prom prevented from it because of the lack of resources.

The YMCA at Virginia Tech's "Cinderella and Prince Charming Boutique" (aka, The Cinderella Project) has been developed to offset

this potential issue. The assortment of clothing is large with a variety of options for all. We have volunteers to help with the process of selecting just the right outfit. Other volunteers help with grooming tips when available. In addition, we've made sure that price will not be an issue, nobody will leave empty handed.

"Finding a need and filling it, that's what the YMCA at Virginia Tech does," said Ron Ovelgoenner, YMCA Director of Thrift Shop Operations.

We are delighted to have support from volunteers from VCOM for the event this year. Please let us help make your Prom Dreams come true!! We invite all high school students shopping on a budget to come to the Y Thrift Shop, 1000, N. Main St., Blacksburg on the following dates to participate in the Cinderella & Prince Charming Boutique events. We promise every participant will

See Boutique, page 4

## Expert shares advice on the most effective strategies for tax season

Navigating tax season can be a source of stress for many individuals.

Virginia Tech finance expert Jesse Lineberry shares ways to stay ahead on tax season to avoid being overwhelmed as the April 15 deadline approaches.

Get organized early.

"With so many details to account for it's essential to retrieve all information from previous employers and bankers," said Lineberry. He suggests creating a checklist of items you anticipate receiving and cross-checking those with last year's documentation.

Don't overlook major life changes.

"It's easy to forget that purchasing a home, getting married, sending a child to college or private school, retiring, or changing employers could have a significant impact on your tax bill. If you rolled an old retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or 403(b), into an IRA, this will need to be reported as well," Lineberry said.

Don't miss out on credits.

"Tax credits are especially attractive because they result in a dollar-for-dollar reduction in income tax owed. In general, they are more powerful than "deductions" and can make a

significant impact on your tax bill," he said. "Common credits include the Child Tax Credit, Child & Dependent Care Credit, American Opportunity Credit, and Lifetime Learning Credit."

Save for later.

"Tax season represents a great opportunity to re-evaluate how much you are saving for retirement," said Lineberry. "If your tax bill was higher than anticipated, consider increasing the amount you're deferring into your employer-sponsored retirement plan or Traditional IRA (if eligible). Traditional IRAs, most employer-sponsored retirement plans, Health Savings Accounts, and Flexible Savings Accounts, allow you to make tax-deductible contributions, which reduce your taxable income."

Ask for help.

"A good CPA or Enrolled Agent can save you time and oftentimes, money while reducing the stress we often associate with preparing our taxes. This can help to reduce the stress often associated with preparing for taxes," said Lineberry.

Margaret Ashburn for Virginia Tech

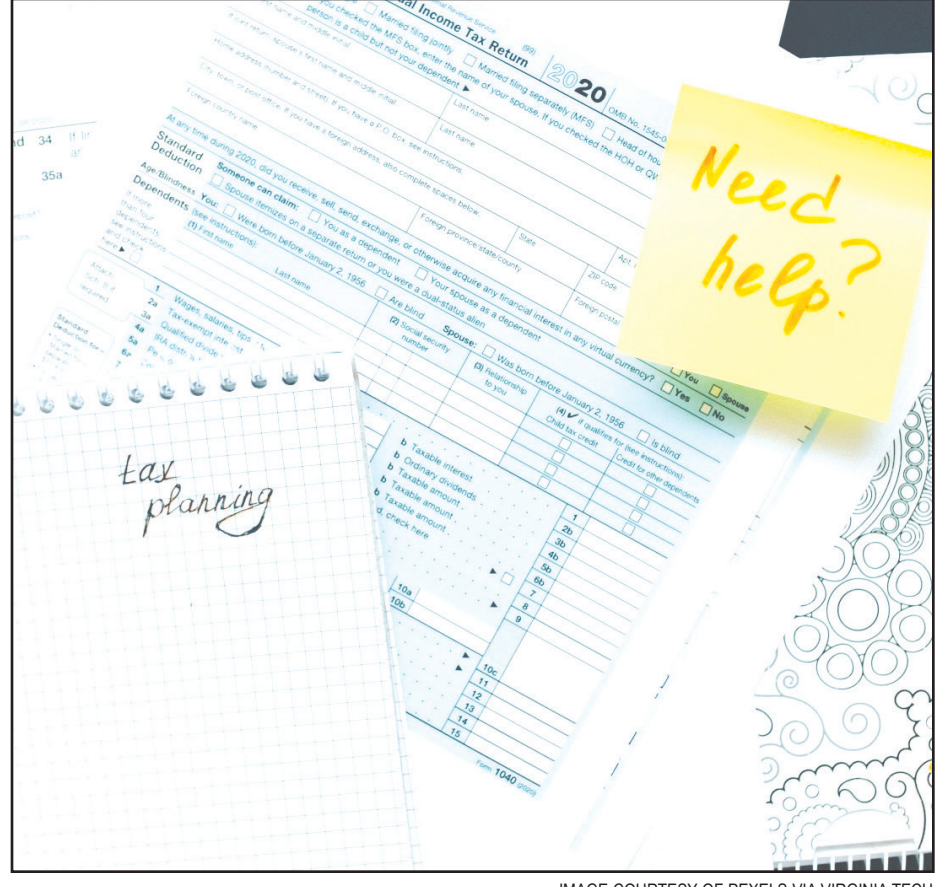


IMAGE COURTESY OF PEXELS VIA VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech finance expert Jesse Lineberry shares ways to stay ahead on tax season.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, February 24:

### Grownup Board Game Club

At the Radford Public Library; 2 – 4:30 p.m. Bring a friend, bring a game, or just bring yourself! Come play board games with us at the library. You can pick a game from our collection or bring something from home and teach us how to play!

### Living Legacy of the Blues

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 – 5 p.m. Join us for an unforgettable experience! Dive into the heart of blues music with a jam session featuring talents from the New River Blues Society and Christiansburg Institute. Receive a complimentary harmonica and immerse yourself in the rich history of blues in rural Appalachia. Our dynamic presentation explores the origins and development of blues in the United States, fostering a vibrant dialogue through interactive music sessions. Get ready for a unique blend of education and entertainment that encourages questions and collaboration. Don't miss this chance to be a part of the living legacy of blues!

### 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.

## Sunday, Feb 25:

### 2022 Lafayette Area Household Study

Remember when we knocked on your door with a survey about health conditions and well-being in the community? We're ready to share the results! Community members and Virginia Tech researchers will give a presentation and provide updates about ongoing air pollution monitoring. Come hear about the results at the Elliston Fire Station, 5001 Enterprise Dr. Free food, kids' activities, door prizes and old time music by Tim Thornton. We hope you'll join us!

### 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.

### NAACP meeting

Please join us for a regular scheduled meeting in person at the Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church next to the Old Hill School Community Center, 570 Hill Street, Christiansburg, at 3:30 p.m. Our Credo speaker will be Dr. Ellington Graves, Virginia Tech Assistant Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Director of Africana Studies Program in the Department of Sociology. He will be speaking on "Diversity and Free Speech Issues on College Campuses." Please join us. All are welcome! If you have not yet become a member of our local NAACP branch, we welcome you and invite you to seek membership. Dues are \$30 a year. Join us in the continuous work to fight discrimination and provide equity for all!

## 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](http://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.

## Wednesday, Feb. 28:

### Virtual Author Talk with Kim Scott

Hosted by the Radford Public Library; 2 -3 p.m. Why is feedback so difficult, and how can we make it easier? The idea is simple: You don't have to choose between being a pushover and a jerk. Kim Scott, New York Times bestselling author of Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity, will explain the Radical Candor feedback framework and how you can practice it today. Register now to start your practice! <https://libraryc.org/radfordlibrary>.

## Thursday, Feb. 29:

### Free Health Screening with Carilion

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. February is American Heart Month! It's the perfect time to get these FREE preventative health services: Blood pressure check; Diabetes risk assessment; Stroke risk assessment. No registration required! For more information, contact Sarah Frazier, Community Health Educator, at [sefrazier@carilionclinic.org](mailto:sefrazier@carilionclinic.org) or (540) 633-9361.

## Tuesday, March 5:

### Medicaid and Personal Care lecture

"Steps To Take When Applying for Medicaid and Personal Care" Lecture Program at 2 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center for an informative program led by Chris Conner and her team from Medi Home Health & Hospice to learn the important steps that should be taken when applying for Medicaid and personal care. This program is free, but registration is required. To learn more, call 540-443-1142.

## Virginia enters spring fire season

Statewide 4 p.m. burning law in effect Feb. 15 - April 30

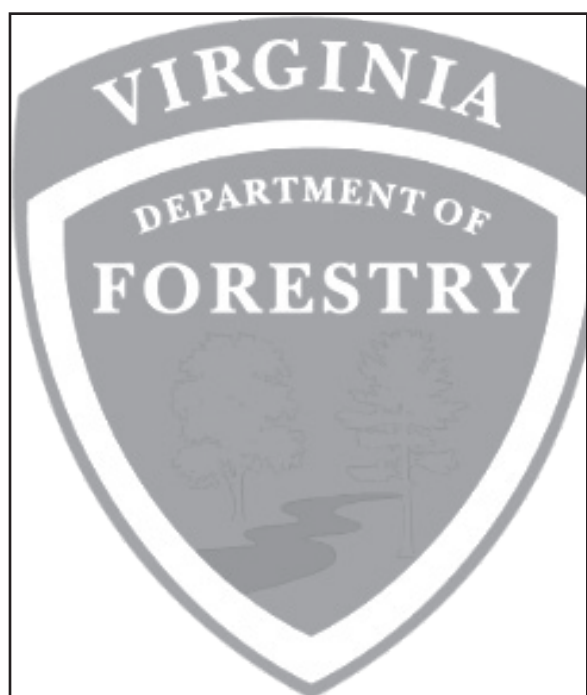
CHARLOTTESVILLE – The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) joins fire departments across Virginia to announce spring fire season and raise awareness of the statewide burning law, in effect from Feb. 15 through April 30.

The law prohibits outdoor burning before 4 p.m. when the fire is within 300 feet of the woods or dry grass.

Violation of the burning law is a Class-3 misdemeanor and punishable with a fine up to \$500. Those who allow a fire to escape may be liable for suppression costs and any resulting property damage.

The burning law applies to all open-air fires such as debris burning, campfires and charcoal grills like those found in park settings. This law does not apply to charcoal or gas-fired barbecue grills. Some exceptions to the law are made for campfires at Virginia State Parks. To learn more about Virginia's 4 p.m. burning law and fire prevention, visit DOF's website: <https://dof.virginia.gov/wildland-prescribed-fire/fire-laws/4-pm-burning-law/>.

"Last fall, Virginia experienced extreme fire



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VA DOF

activity that provided a stark reminder of the importance of safe burning practices," said DOF Chief of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. "Simple safety measures are easy to follow and significantly reduce the likelihood of an escaped fire, the number one cause of wildfires."

Although Virginia also has a wildfire season in the fall, more than 60 percent of the Commonwealth's annual average of 700 wildfires occur in the spring. Rising temperatures, dry and windy weather, and abundant fuels such as frost-killed vegetation and dead leaves, increase the potential for wildfires and make them harder to extinguish.

In addition to the statewide 4 p.m. burning

law, individual cities and counties may have specific burn laws, bans or restrictions. Check with local officials in your area before burning.

Keep these things in mind this spring fire season:

Burning is allowed between 4 p.m. and midnight as long as proper precautions are taken

Never leave a fire unattended

Avoid burning during dry and windy conditions

No fire may be started, and no fuels can be added to a fire after midnight

Have a shovel, rake and a charged hose on hand to control the fire

Call 911 if a fire escapes your control

Virginia Department of Forestry

## Christiansburg Police currently investigating social media threats

CHRISTIANSBURG – The Town of Christiansburg Police Department is continuing to investigate a series of posts being shared around social media.

Christiansburg police are aware of community concerns regarding threats posted on social media in the last 24 hours. Detectives have been working diligently to determine the source of the posts and the

matter remains under investigation. At this point it appears all of the posts being shared in our community, are the same posts that originated in Roanoke City. It seems that through social media, these posts are circulating through several communities.

Currently none of the social media posts known to law enforcement reference any specific Christiansburg schools

or localities. To confirm, currently we have no known social media threats to Christiansburg schools. Our detectives continue to investigate this matter and, as a precautionary measure, we have increased our patrol presence at all Christiansburg schools. For that reason, seeing a police car, or even multiple cars at a school should not be a cause for concern.

Town of Christiansburg

## Blacksburg invites public comment on 2024 action plan for HOME and CDBG programs

The Town of Blacksburg's Housing and Community Connections (HCC) Office invites residents to review and comment on the proposed draft of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the HOME and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs.

In 2021, a five-year Consolidated Plan to support the development of affordable housing in the New River Valley and support community services for low and moderate-income residents was established with community input. Each year thereafter, through the Annual Action Plan, the HCC office reports back to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on the progress made towards the goals and objectives set in the five-year plan.

The town works with the New River Valley Regional Commission and representatives from neighboring communities to develop affordable housing throughout the NRV through the federally funded HOME grant. The CDBG grant funds are used to support non-profit programs that assist low and moderate-income families in the areas of homelessness, special needs, economic development and community development in the Town of Blacksburg. Currently, the funding supports the homeless services provided by the Women's Resource Center and

New River Community Action and support services including Valley Interfaith Child Care Center and the Blacksburg Community Gardens. The grant also funds the Town's Home Repair Program.

A draft of the Annual Action Plan can be viewed online, in person by appointment at 303 Wilson Ave., or in hard copy format, which may be found at the Blacksburg Library located at 200 Miller St. SW. Residents are invited to participate in a Public Comment meeting at an in-person meeting Wednesday, March 6, 4 – 5 p.m., at 303 Wilson Ave., immediately followed by a live ZOOM call from 6-7 p.m. To request a link to the ZOOM call, please call (540) 443-1615. Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request.

Comments may be sent to [housing@blacksburg.gov](mailto:housing@blacksburg.gov), by phone at (540) 443-1615, or by mail to Housing and Community Connections, P.O. Box 90003, Blacksburg, VA 24062, and must be received by 5pm on Friday, March 15. For additional information, please contact HOME Program Coordinator, Jill Maher at (540) 443-1615.

Town of Blacksburg



# Teaching

from page 1

centered more around this faculty experience and giving more grace as a faculty member, because you don't know what's going on and students are not always going to share all of this information," Foster said. "There were things that my students shared with me that I, as a white person with white privilege, I cannot relate to."

Her research and personal experiences led her to think about what she could do to help make the field of music education more diverse and to better represent different cultures in the classroom.

"If you look at the stats, we're overwhelmingly white and female, and so what can we do as teacher educators and white pre-service teachers? What can we do to expand our recruiting efforts and really train more teachers who look like the students who will be sitting in front of them?"

The importance of teaching the history of Black music

Foster said making sure people of color are part of how we discuss music both historically

and in the modern day are essential to capturing the whole story.

"You can't tell me that things weren't happening on other continents besides Western Europe during, say the 1600s or 1700s," she said. "For example, there was a Afro-Brazilian composer at the same time as Beethoven — Jose Mauricio Nunes Garcia — but he was living in Rio de Janeiro, and he had no knowledge of Beethoven but their music was crazy similar."

Foster also is making an effort to discuss how Black people are influential in contemporary music. She launched the class Culturally Responsive Teaching last fall, which focused on teaching in a way that includes and respects the cultures of everyone in the classroom. She invited Devin Walker, an expert in percussion, racism in children's music, and the go-go music genre, to give a day-long presentation to both graduate students and local teachers. Walker's stage name is Uncle Devin and he is a Washington, D.C.-based teaching artist who calls himself a "drumcussionist."

Foster also thinks a lot

of teachers limit themselves unnecessarily in terms of the genres of Black music they teach, leaving out many groups of people.

"We don't have to just talk about jazz. We can talk about jazz and we can talk about jazz musicians who are Black, but we can also talk about rappers and it's OK," Foster said, "It's OK to talk about hip-hop, and it's OK to talk about the roots of rock 'n' roll and the Black artists who really paved the way in some of these genres that we love so much."

When asked what she says to teachers interested in creating a more diverse music curriculum for their students, Foster said, "I encourage people to find resources and not just hope that it lands in your lap or that someone hands it to you. If this is something that you're really curious about or you want to make sure that there's representation in your classroom, you're going to have to do the legwork and you're going to have to go find the resources and find the information."

*Alexandra Krens for Virginia Tech*

# MCPS

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**2024-2025 Approved MCPS Calendar**  
**Key Dates:**  
 First Day of School: Aug. 13, 2024  
 Fall Break: Oct. 18  
 Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 27-29  
 Winter Break: Dec. 23-Jan. 1  
Students return 1/6/25  
 Spring Break: March 10-14  
 Spring Weekend: April 18, 21  
 Last Day of School: May 23, 2025  
 Graduation Weekend: May 23-25

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCPS

Four buses are proposed to be purchased at an approximate total cost of \$572,589.

The Office of the Principal is proposing a 6.13% increase overall with a 5% raise for those positions and the addition of a Dean of Students position with a salary of \$67,683.

The construction of Christiansburg High School, along with some other

projects in the county, are paid for with separate funds and not a part of the operating budget.

The full proposed 2024-25 operating budget can be viewed at the mcps.org website in the Board Documents section.

MCPS has also released the school calendar for the 2024-25 year. For the full calendar, go to the mcps.org website.

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

## 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](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

## Legals - Montgomery County

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](mailto: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

### 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. 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

## Legals - Montgomery County

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](mailto: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

## Legals - Montgomery County

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.

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

## Legals - Montgomery County

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 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

## Legals - Montgomery County

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

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (3) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND BY DELETING THE NO LONGER DEFINED USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, MAJOR 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, 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.

Copies of the proposed ordinance 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>.

## Legals - Montgomery County

### Town of Christiansburg Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that on March 12, 2024 the Town Council of Christiansburg, Virginia (the "Town") will conduct a public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, as required under applicable law, in accordance with Section 15-2-2606 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, with respect to the adoption by the Council of a resolution or resolutions, as may be necessary or convenient, regarding the proposed financing of the development, renovation, equipping and improvement of the Town's waste water treatment facilities in Christiansburg, Virginia. The Town proposes to fund the project in part by the issuance of a general obligation bond to be issued in a principal amount not to exceed \$15,500,000. The purpose of the financing is to pay for the costs of improvements needed and required as described above. The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be conducted at 7:00PM or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, by the Town Council in Council Chambers at the Town Hall located at 100 E. Main St, Christiansburg, Virginia. Interested persons may appear at such time and place and present their views whether orally or in writing or submit written comments prior to the hearing. The Town may set time limits on speakers and other rules and procedures for the conduct of this public hearing. Any persons with disabilities are urged to contact the Town Manager's Office at (540) 382-6128 prior to the public hearing to arrange for any necessary accommodations. For additional information, please contact the Town Manager's Office.



**Put The Classifieds To Work!**  
**Call 540-389-9355**



# OBITUARIES

## Altizer, Shirley Jean Morris

Shirley Jean Morris Altizer, 83, passed away Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024 at her home in Belspring. She was a banker with First Federal Bank.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Hester Morris, husband, Doug Altizer; great grandson, Desi Snell; brothers, Harry, Jack and Bug Morris; and sisters, Frances Teel, Margaret Howery, and Dorothy Epperly.



Survivors include her daughter, Laura Strickland (Scott); son, Woody Altizer; grandchildren, Mindi Bodin (Nic), Chase Altizer, Cara Altizer, Lance Strickland, Neil Strickland, and Cassie Snell (Jeff); great grandchildren, Harper Bodin, Everett Snell, Brynlee Bodin, and Liam Altizer; sister, Betty Joyner; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Preacher Eddy Gilpin officiating. Interment followed at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

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

## Bradley, Sr., James M.

James M. Bradley, Sr., 72, went end. In 2004 he married Denise to be with his Lord and Savior on Feb. 19, 2024.

Jim, as he was known to friends and family, was born on Dec. 9, 1951 in Lebanon, N.H. to Robert L. Bradley, Sr. and Beverly M. (Raymond) Bradley.

He was married to Sandra A. Hughes in 1969 and graduated from Southwick High School in Southwick, Mass. in 1970. Jim was a talented carpenter and in 1978 he moved to Maine with his wife and two oldest children to build his homestead and a small gentleman's farm. Once in Maine, they had two more children. He worked at various sawmills, woolen mills and leather/textile mills throughout his life and in the latter years worked in carpentry/home construction. He enjoyed woodworking and we will all cherish the various gifts he created for us over the years. Family was everything to him and he loved us all unconditionally. He had a love for the outdoors, music and had the best sense of humor. He was always the life of the party. Once you met him, he was your friend for life.

Jim and Sandy divorced just before their 20th anniversary but remained good friends until the



Wessinger. Jim battled and beat colon cancer in 2011 – 2012. The toll it took on him made the harsh Maine winters difficult, and in 2014 he and Denise moved to Virginia. This move allowed him to be closer to his parents and four of his brothers and allowed him to be able to help

care for his parents into their 90's.

He is survived by his wife, Denise Bradley, of Va., his first wife, Sandra Hughes, of Maine, his children, Tammy (and Christopher) Creswell, Adam (and Jessi) Bradley and Sarah Bradley, all of Maine, and David Wessinger and Melina Wessinger both of Va; 14 grandchildren, Alycia (and Andrew) Reed, Jeffrey Ludden, Jacob Bickford, Hannah Bradley, Rachel Creswell, Kaileigh Clowry, Joshua Creswell, Mason Pelletier, Jackson Bradley, Jayden Bradley, Brandy McRobbie, Samantha McRobbie, Leilani Corali and Alex Corali; and five great-grandchildren, Oakley Ludden, Brinley Ludden, Avery Reed (due in April), Asher and Logan. He is also survived by his siblings Lanie Edson (and

See Obituaries, page 5

## News Messenger

Established 1869

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

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

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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.

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

## Boutique

from page 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH

Volunteers Emma Kennady (left) and Tierra Kindred show off some of the dresses available at the Cinderella and Prince Charming Boutique.

leave satisfied.

This event is NOT for pageant attire.

Location: Y Center at 1000, N. Main St., Blacksburg

2024 Schedule:

February 24- 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

March 1 – 3 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

March 2 – 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

March 22- 3 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

March 23 – 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

YMCA at Virginia Tech

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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49	50		51			52				53		
54		55				56				57	58	59
60					61					62		
63					64					65		
66					67					68		

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Iranian village
  - 6. Duct
  - 9. Holds potatoes
  - 13. Plant of the goosefoot family
  - 14. Spoken in Cameroon
  - 15. Students' rights document (abbr.)
  - 16. Skin lesion
  - 17. Went over the airwaves
  - 18. Nestle malt drink
  - 19. Rockets' point guard
  - 21. Developed the polio vaccine
  - 22. Businessmen
  - 23. Animals have it
  - 24. Atomic number 58
  - 25. Cycles/second
  - 28. Japanese classical theater
  - 29. Slow nocturnal primate
  - 31. Used in a play
  - 33. One that breaks apart
  - 36. Yellow-fever mosquitos
  - 38. Bag-like structure in a plant
  - 39. Simple wooden shoe
  - 41. Leeches
  - 44. Tide
  - 45. Fathers
  - 46. Decay
  - 48. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
  - 49. The Golden State (abbr.)
  - 51. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
  - 52. Unique garments
  - 54. True firs
  - 56. One who's not on time
  - 60. Angry speech
  - 61. Young children
  - 62. About aviation
  - 63. This (Spanish)
  - 64. Earns a perfect score
  - 65. People of Ghana
  - 66. Founding member of The Grateful Dead
  - 67. Of she
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Variety of pear
  - 2. Curved symmetrical structure
  - 3. A demon in some cultures
  - 4. Cricket frogs
  - 5. Atomic #45
  - 6. Abnormal bone joint
  - 7. Cain and \_\_\_
  - 8. Unhappy
  - 9. Dogooder
  - 10. Most babies need \_\_\_ when they eat
  - 11. Abdominal pain suffered by babies
  - 12. Monetary unit
  - 14. Tendency to suffer from a particular condition
  - 17. Genus of flowering plants
  - 20. It comes up some days
  - 21. Koran chapters
  - 23. In support of
  - 25. One who crunches numbers
  - 26. A type of school
  - 27. Pops
  - 29. Tears
  - 30. Not influenced by drugs
  - 32. Forms a boundary
  - 34. Touch quickly and gently
  - 35. Stray
  - 37. A period between solar and lunar eclipses
  - 40. Third-party access
  - 42. A very large body of water
  - 43. Infections
  - 47. It might be due to nerves
  - 49. Hall of Fame ballplayer
  - 50. Belittle
  - 52. Type of sword
  - 53. Makes very wet
  - 55. One-time Peruvian money
  - 56. A shoe typically has one
  - 57. Not nice
  - 58. Sea eagle
  - 59. Civil Rights figure Parks
  - 61. Humbug
  - 65. A precious metal (abbr.)

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communitynews@ourvalley.org



# Obituaries from page 4

James Morgan), Gary (and Linda) Bradley, David (and Patti) Bradley, Douglas (and Darlene) Bradley, Ricky Bradley and Timothy Bradley. He leaves behind numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews scattered all over the country and a lifelong friend, Peter Hughes.

He was predeceased by his parents, one son, James M. Bradley,

Jr., a daughter, Amy McRobbie, a grandson, Thomas McRobbie, and brothers Dennis Bradley and Robert Bradley, Jr.

Celebrations of Life will be held in the spring in Virginia and later in Maine. He will be laid to rest in Morse's Corner Cemetery in Corinna, Maine next to his beloved son, Jay.

## Blaylock, Betty Jean

Betty Jean (Miles) Blaylock catering, crafting, and most of all being a grandmother. beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother passed away Feb. 20, 2024, in Roanoke Memorial Hospital.



She is survived by her loving faithful husband of 57 years, Frank Wayne Blaylock. Betty was born on Feb. 19, 1947, in Durham, N.C., daughter of James Pleasants Miles, Sr. and Estelle Currin Miles. Wayne and Betty were previous residents of Durham, N.C. then relocated to Radford. Betty was a loving remarkable woman of warmth and strength cherished by all her family and friends. Betty loved baking,

She is survived by her brothers, James Pleasants Miles, Jr of Durham, N.C. and Robert Miles of Rome, Ga.; son, Christopher Scott Blaylock of Radford, Va.; grandchildren, Austin Blaylock of High Point, N.C., Alayna Blaylock of High Point, N.C.,

Josie Blaylock of Radford, Drew Blaylock of Topeka, Kan., Dakota Blaylock of Valley Center, Kan., and Miles Blaylock of Hutchinson, Kan.; and great grandson, Braxton Wayne Blaylock of Topeka, Kan.

To honor Betty's request, no formal funeral services will be held. A private family gathering in celebration of Betty's life was held for family and friends Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024 at the family residence.

In lieu of flowers donations may

be made to the American Cancer Society.

Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory, Radford, Virginia is honored to be caring for the Blaylock Family. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Childress, Glenna Rhea Carrier

In loving memory of Glenna Rhea Carrier Childress, who peacefully passed away Feb. 20, 2024, just four weeks shy of her 90th birthday.



Glenna lived a life filled with love, compassion, and kindness, touching the hearts of all who knew her. Glenna grew up in a tiny apartment on Randolph Street near the river in Radford. She attended Radford High School where she was a cheerleader and excelled as a student. Glenna married the love of her life JS Childress when she was only 18. She and JS ran the Wayside Market in Fairlawn for many years. After the market closed Glenna went into banking where she rapidly grew from the switchboard to an assistant

branch manager in Dublin. After Glenna retired from the bank, she became the administrative assistant at Fairlawn Presbyterian Church.

She was an active member of Fairlawn Presbyterian church for over 70 years and spent time volunteering at the Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, the Radford Clothing Bank, and Radford Community Hospital. Glenna's journey is seen as a continuation of her spiritual path. In the Christian tradition, Glenna's life was a testament to her faith and devotion to God. She lived her life guided by the principles of love,

See **Obits**, 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.christiansburgcob.org). A loving family, and 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](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](mailto: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](http://www.eck-va.org), [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences](http://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

## YOU ALONE

Read Numbers 18:1 through 19:22

Monte had given his son one job: Shovel the walk. Monte returned to see messy piles of snow haphazardly scattered about. The boy had convinced his younger sister—who could barely lift the shovel—to do it for him so he could play video games. Monte promptly unplugged the game and sent the boy out to finish the job.

Similarly, God gave Aaron and his sons enormous responsibility. He expected them—and them alone—to follow through.

“But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary is to be put to death” (Numbers 18:7).

Has God placed a burden on your heart? Is He pointing you toward work that will expand His kingdom? You are uniquely gifted and in just the right place to effect divine change in this world. Don't wait for someone else to do the job the Lord has given you. He wants you, and you alone, to follow through.

Thought for Today: The work of the Kingdom changes our hearts as it changes our world.

Quicklook: Numbers 18:1-7

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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@stmilc.us](mailto:hope@stmilc.us); Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

### 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 Derflinger (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](http://StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA). All are welcome. Website: [www.stpaulvaumc.org](http://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](http://christwesleyanchurch.org)



**Obits** from page 5

forgiveness, and service to others. Glenna's unwavering faith sustained her through life's challenges- especially the loss of her husband JS in 2020 and her beloved granddaughter Ashley just seven months ago. She found comfort in the promise of eternal life with her Creator and the joy in seeing those who have gone on before her.

Glenna will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Though she may no longer be with us in body, her spirit will live on in the memories and hearts of those she touched. Her family echoes the Buddhist Prayer "May the brilliance of Glenna's life continue into the future; May the garden of her life proliferate endlessly."

Glenna was preceded in death by her, husband Junior Summers Childress, father and mother Glen Willie Carrier and Lena Hamilton Carrier, and granddaughter Ashley Nichole Childress.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Stephen D. Childress (Linda); daughter and son-in-law, Glenda L. Childress (Dale Milton); and numerous other family members and friends. We would be remiss if we didn't also mention leaving behind her grand dogs Asha and Zeldia who loved their mee-maw.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m.- 12 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, at the Fairlawn Presbyterian Church in Fairlawn. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. with Rev. Allison Unroe officiating. Burial will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to the Women of the Church at Fairlawn Presbyterian Church in continuation of the community service Glenna held dearly. <http://fairlawnpc.org/presbyterian-women/The Childress family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford>.

**Simpson, Jeanie May**

Jeanie May Simpson, born May Parker Anderson, Ashton Anderson, Lacie Anderson, Jayce Leonard, Callie Leonard, Daxton Leonard, Ellis Howery, Harper McCroskey, Aria Craven, and Maia Craven.



Throughout her life, Jeanie loved to play tennis, paint ceramics, bask in the sun, walk on the beach, play cards, crochet, work puzzles, spend time with her family and, most of all, reading the Bible or devotionals growing her relationship with the Lord. She was also known for her exceptional skills as a seamstress.

Jeanie will be dearly missed by her surviving family members: Mary Boyd (sister), Judy and Mark Buckner (sister and brother-in-law), Don and Alicia Leonard (Son and Daughter-in-Law), Doug Leonard (son), David and Michelle Leonard (son and daughter-in-law), Debra and Rick Craven (daughter and son-in-law), along with her grandchildren Joshua Leonard, Jessica Owen, Dustin Leonard, Elizabeth Howery, Tori Leonard, Alex Leonard, Logan Craven, Devin Craven, and Morgan McCroskey, and great-grandchildren

She was preceded in death by her father, Paul Simpson, her mother, Cecil Simpson, her brother Paul (Jimmy) Simpson, Jr., her sister Dorothy Thornton, her brother Bobby Simpson, her daughter Terry Rae Leonard, and a few others.

Jeanie attended Dublin High School and later pursued a career at Burlington Industries as a secretary and at Walmart as a cashier for over 30 years. She worshipped at the Cambria Pentecostal Holiness Church.

A Celebration of Life service was held at Cambria Pentecostal Holiness Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, located at 915 Montgomery St., Christiansburg. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Jeanie's honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg is assisting with the funeral arrangements.

**Harrison, Mary Allene Musick**

Mary Allene Musick Harrison, 74, of Dublin, went to be with her Lord Monday, Feb. 19, 2024.

She was a member of Fairlawn Church of God since 1974, where she sang in the choir for 40 years, and was a nurse for 20 years at Highland Ridge Nursing Home. She enjoyed quilting, crocheting, making crafts, gardening, canning, cooking and baking, but most of all she loved being a good wife, mother, and grandmother to all her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ervin and Letha Musick; husband, Ted Andrew Harrison; brothers, Hunter, Robert and Charles Musick; and sisters, Pauline Musick and Virginia Grizzle.

Survivors include her sons, Teddy Harrison (Nina) and Rev. Marcus



Harrison (Alicia); grandchildren, Zoe, Gabriella, Samuel and Hannah; brothers, Dallas Musick (Alice), Billy, Kenneth and Willis Musick; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 3- 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at the Fairlawn Church of God. Funeral services will begin at 4 p.m. with Rev. Joey Sheppard officiating.

Interment will be private at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Fairlawn Church of God, 7858 Peppers Ferry Blvd, Radford, VA 24141.

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

**Petry, Cecille Sayers**

Cecille Sayers Petry, 96, of Pearisburg, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Petry; daughter, Shelby B. Collins; father and mother, Ellis and Roxie Sayers; and grandson, John Gillespie.

She is survived by her daughters, Sandra C. Vest of Georgia, and Sharon and husband Dan Steuck of California, son-in-law, Billy Collins of Virginia; five grandchildren;

nine great grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren; brother, Howard Sayers of South Carolina; along with nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at Horne Funeral Home 6 - 8 p.m. Monday, March 4, 2024. The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2024 in the Horne Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow in Huffville Cemetery. Arrangements with Horne Funeral Home.

**Hypes, Belinda C.**

Belinda C. Hypes went to be with the Lord Feb. 17, 2024, at the Forsyth Medical Center in North Carolina. She was 69.

She was born in Panama City Jan. 22, 1955. She lived in Rich Creek, Va. A funeral service will be held at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg, Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. A visitation will also be held 1-2 p.m. before the service. She was preceded in death by her parents, Aubrey and Mary Frances Cruise; her sister, Rodonna Sutphin; brother-in-law, Allen Sutphin; brother, David L. Cruise; and sister in law Debbie



She is survived by companion/forever friend James (Jug) Donathan; daughter Oceanna Cruise Matney; son-in-law Geoff Matney; sister Pamela C Young; brother-in-law Thomas E. Young; nieces Mary Dennis and Whitney Young; nephews John Young and Shawn Cruise; great nephews Westyn Ware, Aubrey Cruise and Joey Culverhouse; great niece Cassandra Cruise; great-great nephew Zayland McGraw; and three special fur babies Smokey, Bandit and Rambo.

**Virginia gas prices on the rise**

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 11.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.23/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 26.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 2.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 10.0 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.09 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.79/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.20/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.79/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.20/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 8.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.26/g today. The national average is up 16.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 11.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from

more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

- February 19, 2023: \$3.21/g (U.S. Average: \$3.37/g)
- February 19, 2022: \$3.39/g (U.S. Average: \$3.53/g)
- February 19, 2021: \$2.51/g (U.S. Average: \$2.61/g)
- February 19, 2020: \$2.24/g (U.S. Average: \$2.47/g)
- February 19, 2019: \$2.16/g (U.S. Average: \$2.36/g)
- February 19, 2018: \$2.38/g (U.S. Average: \$2.51/g)
- February 19, 2017: \$2.11/g (U.S. Average: \$2.27/g)
- February 19, 2016: \$1.56/g (U.S. Average: \$1.72/g)
- February 19, 2015: \$2.16/g (U.S. Average: \$2.27/g)
- February 19, 2014: \$3.21/g (U.S. Average: \$3.37/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.19/g, up 8.5 cents per gallon from last week's

\$3.11/g. Richmond- \$3.28/g, up 14.0 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.14/g.

West Virginia- \$3.26/g, up 15.0 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.11/g.

"Roses are red, violets are blue, Valentine's is over, and gas prices are going anywhere but lower," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "With Valentine's Day now behind us, we have officially entered the time of year when gas prices traditionally start their spring fling, but we've already seen the streak of consecutive increases in the national average hit four weeks. While the early start could also mean an early end, we still have as many as eight weeks that gas prices typically increase, and anything can happen between now and then. One of the most critical elements to how much gas prices will climb is how quickly and effectively refiners can finish their pre-summer maintenance, start producing EPA-mandated summer gasoline and build up supply of it before Memorial Day."

GasBuddy

**Radford alum named President of Virginia Rural Health Association**



Nancy Bell

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VDH

Nancy Bell has been named President of the Virginia Rural Health Association.

Bell, Population Health Manager for the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD), assumed the role in January.

Rural health has been the focus of Bell's work since she joined the Virginia Department of Health in 2016 serving Franklin, Henry and Patrick counties and the City of Martinsville. She has been responsible for leading community health assessments and improvement planning aimed at the needs of rural citizens and for

implementing grant-funded programs to address those needs.

Bell is a graduate of Radford University (BA, 1982) and Duke University's Nonprofit Management program (2010). Virginia Department of Health

**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](mailto:businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov) or call 540.961.1108.



**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Another Bruin will play at next level

**Marty Gordon**  
*Contributing writer*

The softball grape line from Blacksburg High School has picked up another commitment to play at the next level. Tuesday, Junior Aubrey Hudgins announced on social media she will play at East Tennessee State University.

Hudgins said it was important she love the school and the area where it was located.

"I ultimately chose ETSU because it felt like home when I stepped on campus- it's beautiful, and I love Johnson City. I could truly imagine myself being there for the next four years of my life, so I knew it was the perfect fit," she said.

At Blacksburg, Hudgins has started at second base for both her freshman and sophomore years. Last season, she helped lead the team to the River Ridge District title, while hitting .342 at the plate with a fielding percentage of .950. She was second team All-River Ridge.

East Tennessee State University (ETSU) is a public research university in Johnson City, Tenn., and as of 2017, it is the fourth largest university in the state with a

current enrollment of 9,768 students.

ETSU collegiate athletic teams, nicknamed Buccaneers, compete in the NCAA Division I Southern Conference.

The softball team is 2-8 so far this season after finishing 17-27 last year.

Cheryl Milligan took over the ETSU program four years ago. She came to ETSU with 25 years of coaching experience, including 18 years as a head coach – most recently spending the last four years at Army.

Milligan began her coaching career at Tufts in 1998 where she was an assistant coach at her alma mater. She spent her first six seasons as an assistant coach before taking over as the head coach from 2004-18.

In her 15 years at the helm, Milligan led Tufts to an astonishing record of 490-148 (.768), including seven trips to the Division III NCAA Tournament, five appearances in the Women's College World Series and three NCAA Division III National Championships.

Milligan led the Jumbos to three straight national titles from 2013-15, becoming the first team in NCAA Division III history to win three



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBREY HUDGINS

**Blacksburg High School junior softball player Aubrey Hudgins has made an early commitment to continue her playing career at East Tennessee State University.**

consecutive championships.

Hudgins hopes to grow as a player in the collegiate setting, competing to the best of her abilities and to positively

contribute to the future success of ETSU softball.

In college, Hudgins plans to major in Early Childhood Development.

## Hokie women claiming top headlines



**The iconic ESPN show, College Game Day, is coming Sunday to Blacksburg for Senior Day.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS



### From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Virginia Tech's women's basketball team has garnered the label of "Queens of the Cassell" because of its success over the past few years.

The big change came last season with a trip to the NCAA Final Four. The expectations remain high and already the ladies are taking most of the headlines. Matter of fact, you might say they are grabbing all of the attention from the media.

While the men's team is stepping backwards, the women are taking steps that no one could really predict.

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team is ranked eighth in the latest AP Poll and coming off a sounding victory against Louisville with North Carolina coming to town.

The Hokies will be back home at Cassell Coliseum on Sunday, Feb. 25 for a 2 p.m. tip. That game can

be seen on ACCN and will take the national stage with some special guests.

Ahead of Senior Day, ESPN announced College GameDay Covered by State Farm will broadcast live at Carilion Clinic Court at Cassell Coliseum on Sunday in advance of the game.

It marks the first time the iconic show will be ahead of a Hokie women's game, making Tech the first-ever ACC school to host College GameDay on the women's side, and just the second time ever in Cassell (Feb. 26, 2011; men's side).

The show, which will be its third of five women's basketball shows this season, will run an hour long starting at 11 a.m. ET that features Elle Duncan, Andraya Carter, Carolyn Peck, Holly Rowe and Chiney Ogwumike.

Throughout the season, State Farm has had a

bus specifically follow the women's College GameDay show all season long, and has also implemented a 3-point Challenge, entailing a select student competing for the chance to win \$19,000. The selected student must make four 3-pointers from various locations around the arc in under 19 seconds.

On the court, the game is sold out.

The individual also keeps coming with Tech

center Elizabeth Kitley, earning this week's ACC Player of the Week honors. For the graduate student, it is her fifth time winning the award this season and third week in a row.

Kitley helped the Hokies to a pair of victories to push Tech's win streak to nine games last week. The two-time Player of the Year scored 34 points against Duke and 26 at No. 18 Louisville, while shooting 76% from the

field for the week. She also recorded double-doubles in both games taking her season tally in that category to 19.

With the road victory over Louisville, Tech owns the only road victories at each of the other top for teams in the league including NC State and Syracuse. Tech has won nine straight in ACC play in the same season for the first time ever.

Meanwhile the men are still scratching their way

out of the bottom of the ACC. After a victory over UVA this week, the male-version of the Hokies slid back in the middle of the pack. There is still hope as fans will remember they came from the seventh seed just two years ago to the win the tourney.

But for now, it is the women that is selling out the Cassell and getting the national attention. Congrats to Coach Kenny Brooks and his team.

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

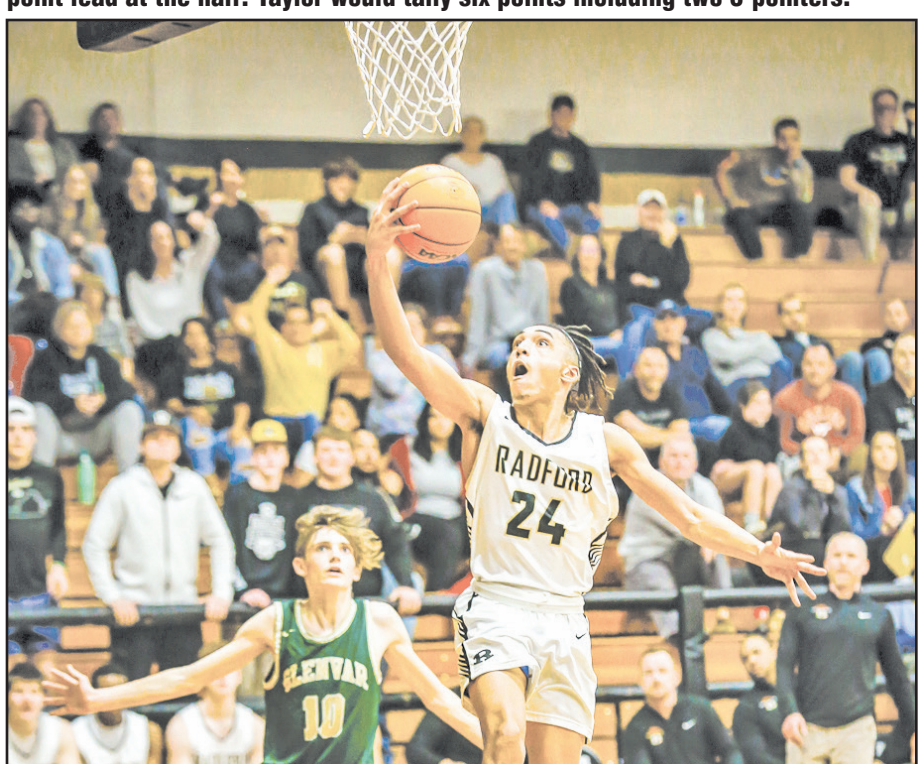
## Radford boys advance in Region C play



Luke Woodard nails a three pointer in Tuesday's regional playoff game. His late game 3's helped to secure the 45-36 win over Glenvar for the Bobcats and advance to the region semi-finals vs Martinsville. Woodard finished with 14 points.



Tuesday night, Sincere Taylor scores in traffic to help the Bobcats build a nine-point lead at the half. Taylor would tally six points including two 3-pointers.



Radford's Daniel DeHart-Lewis glides in for a breakaway layup late in the to help put the game away for two of game-high 16 points.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Five-7 format confirmed for 12-Team Playoff

The College Football Playoff (CFP) Board of Managers today unanimously revised the qualifying criteria for the 12-team event to now include the five highest-ranked conference champions, plus the next seven highest-ranked teams as determined by the CFP Selection Committee.

"This is a very logical adjustment for the College Football Playoff based on the evolution of our conference structures since the board first adopted this new format in September 2022," said Dr. Mark Keenum, President of Mississippi State University and Chair of the CFP Board of Managers. "I know this change will also be well received by student-athletes, coaches and fans. We all will be pleased to

see this new format come to life on the field this postseason."

This change modifies the original plan, which called for the bracket each year to include the six highest-ranked conference champions, plus the next six highest-ranked teams.

Under the 12-team playoff format that begins this fall, the four highest-ranked conference champions will be seeded one through four and each will receive a first-round bye, while teams seeded five through 12 will play each other in the first round on the home field of the higher-ranked team. (The team ranked #5 will host #12; team #6 will meet team #11; team #7 will play team #10; and team #8 will meet #9.) The quarterfinals and semifinals will be played in the New Year's Six bowl games,

the national championship game will continue to be at a neutral site. No conference will qualify automatically and there will be no limit on the number of participants from a conference.

Members of the CFP board of managers include Neeli Bendapudi – Big Ten Conference (President, Penn State); Tim Caboni – Conference USA (President, Western Kentucky); Jim Clements – Atlantic Coast Conference (President, Clemson); Michael Fitts – American Athletic Conference (President, Tulane); Gordon Gee – Big 12 Conference (President, West Virginia); Jack Hawkins – Sun Belt Conference (President, Troy); Rev. John Jenkins – President, Notre Dame (Independent); Mark

Keenum (chair) – Southeastern Conference (President, Mississippi State); Kirk Schulz – Pacific-12 Conference (President, Washington State); Satish Tripathi – Mid-American Conference (President, Buffalo); and Keith Whitfield – Mountain West Conference (President, UNLV).

The College Football Playoff (CFP) is the event that crowns the national champion in college football. The CFP Selection Committee ranks the top 25 teams at the end of the season, and the 12 playoff participants consist of the five highest ranked conference champions, plus the next seven highest ranked teams. The four highest ranked conference champions will be seeded one through four and receive a first-round

bye. The schools seeded five through eight will host those seeded nine through 12 in first-round games. The quarterfinals and semifinals rotate annually among six bowl games – the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic, Vrbo Fiesta Bowl, Capital One Orange Bowl, Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, Rose Bowl Game presented by Prudential and the Allstate Sugar Bowl. This year's quarterfinals will take place on Dec. 31, 2024 and January 1, 2025, while the semifinals will be Jan. 9-10, 2025. The College Football Playoff National Championship will be Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

CFP Playoff Committee

## AARP Virginia fraud alert: A new take on an old scam

One of the oldest scams around involves a criminal getting hold of one of your checks and forging the payee and the amount. Usually this is done by "washing" the check with chemicals to remove the real information you have written on it. Today, with access to new technologies, criminals are "cooking"

checks by creating fake versions of real checks using computer programs. These "cooked" checks can be manipulated digitally and either printed or deposited electronically, saving the crook a lot of mess and hassle.

The best way to protect against these scams is to be careful how you send

checks. If you use your checkbook to pay bills via mail, how you send those bills is the key to staying safe. Rather than dropping the bills in your mailbox and flipping up the flag, take them to the post office and drop them off inside. A criminal can't wash or cook a check they don't physically have, so taking this extra

step to safeguard your mail can protect your bank account in the long run.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

AARP Virginia