



Christiansburg Town Council rejects permit request for multi-family dwelling near rec center

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Christiansburg Town Council unanimously declined a request to allow multiple-family dwellings located on the southside of Cambria Street, west of the Christiansburg Recreation Center at their regular Feb. 27, 2024, meeting.

The request was made by Last Resort, Inc. In the previous regular Council meeting on Feb. 13, citizens expressed disagreement with the placement of an apartment building at that location, citing concerns of increased traffic congestion, safety issues and residential density.

"I just want to share that it is impactful when those residents come out and share their thoughts," Council member Tanya

Hockett said. Also on Feb. 27, conditional use permit request by Shah Development, LLC, property owner, and Kevin Conner, applicant, to allow a single-family dwelling on each of two vacant lots in the Snidow Heights Subdivision, was unanimously approved by Christiansburg Town Council. A public hearing was held at the Feb. 13, 2024 council meeting.

Council member Johana Hicks also discussed the county's decision to destroy the old sheriff's building.

"The old building is going to be demolished by the county," she said. "I just want to express how sad that makes me. Especially because, I know we have no control over this...it was the county's decision obviously to take down that building along with the Phlegar building."

According to Hicks, the buildings will

make way for a single level construction with a change in the parking lots as well.

An agreement to establish ongoing monthly work sessions around many upcoming budget items and committee agenda items was also agreed upon by council members.

Council member Tim Wilson said, "Do you have topics already?"

"We do. We want to discuss new position requests and also cost of living and merit increases potentially," Town Manager Randy Wingfield said.

Wilson requested adding tourism to the work session agenda as well.

"If we are going to do a work session, I would like to see tourism and the Main Street project as budget items," Wilson said.

The Council budget work sessions will be on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

In other Other resolutions voted and agreed upon by Council were in recognition of Mar. 21, 2024 as Down Syndrome Day and recognizing Mar. 29, 2024, as Vietnam War Veterans Day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM LINKOUS POLAN

(Left to right) Pam Linkous Polan, Fred Linkous, Greg Polan, BVFD President JD Robinson, Andrew Harper, CJ Linares and BVFD Fire Chief Drew Smith.

Five individuals receive the "Above and Beyond Award" for heroic acts in saving a life

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Blacksburg Fire Chief Drew Smith and Firefighter Jeff Robinson, recognized five individuals during the Feb. 27 Blacksburg Town Council meeting for saving a life.

Andy Harper, CJ Linares, Fred Linkous, Greg Polan, and Pam Linkous Polan were awarded the "Above and Beyond Award" for their heroic actions in saving a woman's life on Christmas Eve, 2023.

The award reads "Above and Beyond Award presented by Blacksburg Volunteer Fire

Department in recognition of your courageous actions during an emergency situation on December 24, 2023. At great risk, you came to the aid of a fellow citizen with dedication and diligence saving a human life."

See Heroic, page 3

Concerns for future of St. Luke and Odd Fellows historical sites, artifacts shared with Blacksburg Town Council

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Heather Nicholson, Montgomery County Community Review Council (MCCRC) founding member, presented concerns about the future of historical sites and artifacts to Blacksburg Town Council during their Feb. 27 regular meeting.

During public address, Nicholson asked council to consider, as they move forward in their strategic planning, what will become of the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation as they work to preserve important African American history in the county.

"Questions remain for the funding of the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation," Nicholson said. "How will issues of equity, transparency, and accountability towards St. Lukes and Odd Fellows be addressed? Will the deed be honored? And what cultural expertise is being considered in this important work?"

Christine King, Montgomery County and Nellie's Cave community resident, addressed council with her ongoing issues surrounding the preservation of the St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall and local artifacts in danger of continued preservation. King also

reviewed the Odd Fellows Hall deed of gift conditions during her public address.

"As a reminder, the deed of gift condition states in letter D, that the Town will form a subcommittee of the Blacksburg Museum that will consist of members of the organizations that built the Odd Fellows Hall and/or their descendant, who is me, and representatives from the community, others who have not been included in these committees that I've actually requested that they be added, interested in the preservation and presentation of the history of the black community whose charge will be to advise the museum committee, develop programs, and raise funds to supplement operating and maintain the Oddfellows Hall," King said.

According to Nicholson, the MCCRC is "a collective of community members in Montgomery County, Virginia, committed to promoting equity in our grassroots approach to preserving the diverse history and culture of the County. As a grassroots initiative, in alliance with the Christiansburg Institute, we have been able to educate, advocate, and raise awareness of the significant inclusive social narratives."

One recent event supported by the MCCRC was held on Feb. 15 at The Lyric Theater in downtown Blacksburg, with speaker Jordan Bell discussing the history of African Americans in the local areas of Roanoke and Montgomery County.

On Mar. 28 at 7 p.m., Karice Luck-Brimmer will be presenting, "Reclaiming History Through Preservation & Genealogy: One Woman's Story," also at The Lyric Theater. This event is through the partnership of the Christiansburg Institute and the MCCRC, with additional support from Virginia Tech Humanities. Tickets, along with a schedule of additional upcoming events, are available at www.christiansburginsitute.com.

"On March 28, 1905, James Anderson, John Anderson, Gordon Mills, John Rollins, Grandville Smith, and Robert Eaves met at 8:30. James Anderson proposed to the gathered members of the Tadmore Light Lodge 6184 of Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows to purchase a small lot on the corner of Gilbert and Barger streets in the center of New Town, an African American community in Blacksburg, Virginia. The price of \$95 was agreed upon, as was

See Historical, page 3

Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley names new executive director

RADFORD - Elaine Stroud has been named as the new Executive Director of the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley (WRCNRV), the oldest center serving domestic violence and sexual violence survivors in Virginia.

Stroud's appointment comes as the organization is seeing an increase in the number of those seeking services due to intimate partner violence. Last year victims and survivors called the WRCNRV's 24/7 live and local hotline over 2,000 times and accessed over 10,000 nights of shelter and over 10,000 hours of advocacy - all free of charge.

"Having recently completed an extensive search, The Board of Directors is happy to welcome Elaine Stroud as the new Executive Director of the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley," said Holly Litos, WRCNRV Board President. "We are confident in her knowledge, leadership and commitment to the WRCNRV as we continue to serve our communities."

Prior to joining the WRCNRV, Stroud started a nonprofit in New Jersey 10 years ago to help domestic violence and sexual violence survivors that has successfully grown over the past decade. In addition, Stroud has had a 23-year career as a leader in higher education at Rutgers University in New Jersey and most recently at Virginia Tech.

"I'm thrilled to be joining the WRCNRV team," said Stroud. "The WRCNRV is an active member of the surrounding community and provides safety and shelter to those who need it. I am proud to lead an amazing team addressing this important issue that continues to need our attention as a community."

Stroud takes over the Executive Director role from Laura Beth Weaver, who has served in the position since 2020. Weaver played a pivotal role in the WRCNRV's growth and achievements during her 12 years of working at the organization, and the organization extends its gratitude for her significant contributions.

Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WRC OF THE NRV

Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley new Executive Director Elaine Stroud (left), pictured with Board of Directors President Holly Litos, will take the helm of the organization Mar. 18.



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 from 7-10pm in Radford**

Radford

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MACADO'S



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Mar. 7:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Saturday, March 9:

Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will be serving up hot biscuits topped with delicious sausage gravy, or with the latest batch of our "world-famous" apple butter. We will also have scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, 8 – 10 a.m. This is below the Sanctuary, on the lower church parking lot level. This is a fundraiser for our club to help us as we serve our community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast.

Monday, Mar. 11:

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, Mar. 12:

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, Mar. 13:

Hahn Horticulture Garden talk

How mushrooms can save the world! with Benjamin Harder. The world is spinning out of control but mushrooms are prepared! They eat our waste, clean our water, grow our food and create compounds to treat our diseases. The talk is at the Hahn Horticulture Garden, 200 Garden Lane, Blacksburg, at noon. You do not need to register for these talks, just show up and attend. Parking passes for these educational events will be provided by the HHG thanks to supplementary funding provided by the School of Plant and Environmental Design.

Thursday, Mar. 21:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Dana Jackson will speak on the "History of the Confederate Veterans Home in Richmond." If Montgomery or Floyd County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Saturday, Mar. 30:

Easter Egg Hunt

Come join Pilot Community Center for its first annual Easter Egg Hunt; 2 – 3 p.m.! Kids 10 years old and under are invited to search for candy and prize-filled eggs. There will be refreshments for parents and kids of all ages. So come and join in the fun! This event will be held weather permitting. If there is rain or snow, the event will be cancelled and cannot be rescheduled. For more information: Call Brenda Eanes at 540-382-0857.

On-going:

NRV Virginia Passenger Rail Survey

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority is conducting a survey seeking input on planning, designing, and constructing rail infrastructure improvements to extend passenger rail service to the New River Valley. To participate in the survey, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/240044027996054>. For more information on the New River Valley passenger rail expansion, please visit the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's website at <https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/nrvproject/>.

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

Perdita is ready to sniff out her furever home, though, this gal doesn't always display the typical hound qualities of always having her nose to the ground or up in the air. She tends to be independent but doesn't seem to mind other dogs. Her future humans may need to provide some lessons in basic dog commands.



Nerida is a short-time resident at the Animal Care and Adoption Center. She's a younger dog who is very sweet and friendly. She's pretty smart, too! She knows some commands and will happily follow them in anticipation of a treat. Nerida loves attention and affection.

OBITUARY

Sledd, Donivan Lane

Donivan Lane Sledd, 52, of Riner, died Feb. 28, 2024, at his home.

He was born Oct. 1, 1971, in Florida to the late Edward and Ruth Sledd. Donivan was a loving husband who enjoyed playing games with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years Tammy

Sledd; stepchildren Roger Linkous (fiancé Victoria Graham) and April Linkous; granddaughters Lindsey Myers, Destiny Myers, Violet Linkous, and Kristen Myers; grandson Michael Myers; mother-in-law Jeanie Jones; sister-in-law Becky Hunter; son-in-law Dillon Myers; nephews

Andrew Hunter, Dustin Martin, and Logan Martin.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, Mar. 2, 2024, at 11 a.m. at McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, with the Pastor Simmon Jones officiating. Interment followed in the Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg.

Heroic

from page 1

"Last year, the National Fire Administration says that there were over 1.4 million fires in the United States and in those 2,160 people died," Smith said. "If it had not been for the action of these five individuals, there would've been one more number added to that, to that total."

Smith said that in his 29 years of service with the fire department, he has known of two situations when a civilian was rescued before the fire department arrived. Once, several years ago by Chief Anthony Wilson and then again, this past December Eve by these five people being recognized at the Blacksburg Town Council meeting.

Four of the individuals, Pam and Greg Polan, Harper and Linkous, happened to be spending Christmas Eve together, enjoying a holiday meal, when a pager alert interrupted their gathering. The structure fire was just across the street from them, and they knew that an elderly woman lived there. On arrival at the house, they did not see anyone outside. Linares, visiting family down the road, also showed up to meet

the four at the house.

"These individuals went inside, and smoke conditions were beginning to get very bad in there. I was the first one to get there with the fire department, other than Fred and Greg, and when I got there, they had her on the front porch. Got her to a safe place. I went back to shut the door and flames were rolling from the ceiling to the floor in the living room there," Smith said. "There's no doubt in mind, if it wasn't for the actions of these five individuals this lady would have lost her life that night."

Linkous and Greg Polan, along with a Riner Volunteer Firefighter, also received another award as selected by the Vocational Service Committee.

"Blacksburg Volunteer Firefighters, Fred Linkous, and Greg Polan were honored by the Rotary Club of Blacksburg for the Club's 2023 First Responder of the Year Award along with Mike King of Riner Volunteer Fire Dept," as stated on Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department's Facebook page.

Historical

from page 1



The historical site of St. Luke and Odd Fellows Halls are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM

St. Luke and Oddfellows Hall, established 1905, is located at 203 Gilbert Street, Blacksburg, VA.

the formation of a joint stock company with the Saint Francis Council of the Right and Worthy Grand Council of the Independent Order of Saint Luke," according to information at www.blacksburg.gov.

The museum is free and open to the public by appointment. Appointment information can be found at the forementioned website.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

OPINION

Professional conferences perfect combination of business, networking and fun

Last week I spent three days out of the office attending a legal conference in Miami, having been asked by one of my partners to participate on a panel of law firm general counsel. Actually, I should say that I spent one day at the conference and the rest of the time in airports in West Virginia and Charlotte and Miami. If you live where I do and don't want to drive to Pittsburgh and spend half the day trying to find a place to park at the airport before you depart and then have a two-



Evans "Buddy" King

Columnist

hour drive home when you return if you can find your car, you get used to "connecting." Or missing a connection, as the case may be.

As conferences go, this one was great - I was "volunteered" by my friend and law partner Melissa for the second year in a row to present to the IADC. Melissa is "high up" in this group and an excellent lawyer and charismatic person,

See **Business**, page 10

The 2024 General Assembly Legislative Session enters the final stretch

As we enter the final stretch of the 2024 General Assembly Legislative Session, the overarching themes have become clear. Democrats are united in their efforts to make Virginia more like California, but they are still conflicted internally over how to do so. Many actions (or inactions) taken by House Democrats this year appear to be motivated by next year's election cycle, while other moves seem to be driven by no particular strategy at all.

Democrats thought that they were setting the tone for this session early, with both the House and Senate caucuses introducing legislation to ban guns and raise the minimum wage. Never mind the underlying facts that restricting lawful gun ownership will do nothing to prevent criminals from committing crimes, and that typical minimum wage jobs are meant to be a starting point of employment for our youth, not a career in which to support a family. Democrats also killed legislation that sought to relax rules about electric vehicles and the mandate that 100% of new passenger vehicles sold in Virginia must be electric by 2035. Never mind that we are not even close to having the infrastructure needed to support this massive shift in policy, and that accompanying green energy mandates have made power more expensive and less reliable.



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

Once this initial burst of unity between House and Senate Democrats had subsided, the two caucuses went in very different directions on just how they should use their slimmed possible majorities. As a reminder, Democrats hold a 51-49 majority in the House of Delegates, and a 21-19 majority in the Senate of Virginia. In the House, Democrats chose to "continue" (or "push") some of their most controversial bills to the 2025 session - including those that put unconstitutional limits on firearm purchase and possession. They also chose a more conciliatory tone in working with the Governor by including his arena authority legislation - for the Washington Wizards and Capitals to move to Alexandria - in the House version of the budget.

Senate Democrats on the other hand chose a much more confrontational route, stripping the arena language out of the budget and attacking Northern Virginia Democrats by removing funding for Metro from their version of the budget. This has created conflict between the two majority caucuses, as they begin the process of holding each other's legislation hostage. The rancor is already at such a level that Democrats are openly anticipating a Special Session to complete budget work - when both chambers are controlled by Democrats!

Republicans will continue to monitor the situation closely as we head into the final week of session, and we will use any pressure points we can find to stand up for everyday Virginians and our shared common-sense values.

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

How to weather an unexpected job loss

News of mass layoffs in major sectors of the economy has reignited interest in how to prepare financially for a job loss. If you've recently been laid off - or if you're simply preparing for the prospect of job cuts at your



Josh Smith, CRPC

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

insurance benefits. Take action right away to make sure you don't experience a lapse in coverage. Unexpected illnesses or accidents can happen to anyone, and the financial impact can be significantly higher without the right insurance plan. If you received health insurance through your employer, you may qualify for COBRA insurance offered through the federal government. Costs, length of coverage and specific plan options (including coverage for your spouse, partner or dependents) may vary depending on your circumstances, so contact the U.S. Department of Labor or the Department of Health and Human Services for more information. Job loss is considered a qualifying event, which means you may shop the health care marketplace to find a plan that works best for you and your family.

Keep long-term goals on track

To the extent possible, try to maintain making contributions toward your long-term goals, such as college or retirement. Even modest contributions add up over time, so continue to save what you can. Additionally, avoid dipping into your retirement accounts. Borrowing or withdrawing money from a 401(k) is taxable and will incur a 10 percent penalty fee. Further, you could also miss out on months or even years worth of compounding and potential market growth that can be challenging to make up.

Seek guidance from trusted professionals

Any change or interruption in your salary warrants a visit to a trusted financial professional. Meet with a financial advisor to review your financial position and determine what measures you can take during an income drought to minimize the impact on your portfolio. You may also consider meeting with a career counselor to plan the next phase of your career.

Josh Smith, CRPC is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Radford (540-639-5153), 202 Third Ave., Radford. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for three years.

organization - it can help to develop a game plan. Here are some strategies to keep in mind.

Reassess your financial situation

Start by reviewing your recent bank statements, current portfolio and upcoming financial obligations. Talk with your spouse or partner about how to reduce discretionary expenditures to ensure you meet all essential expenses such as mortgage, insurance, utility and car payments. Managing your budget carefully is critical in a period of job uncertainty.

Understand your severance package

If you receive a severance package, be sure you understand the terms, timeframe and payment amount. Your deal may include several paychecks, reimbursement for unused paid-time-off or sick days, and stock options, among other possible sources of income. Consider reviewing the terms with a trusted attorney or financial professional, particularly if you have the option to negotiate your severance. Some companies also offer career coaching, human resources support or other non-monetary benefits that could be helpful in your transition and search for new employment.

File for unemployment benefits

While government unemployment benefits aren't likely to replace your previous income stream, they may help you meet your day-to-day living expenses while you are out of work. File as soon as you can, as there typically is a waiting period to begin collecting.

Manage your health care coverage

The loss of a job may also mean the loss of health

News Messenger

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- Sao __, city in Brazil
- Longest division of geological time
- __ Alto, California city
- Small terrestrial viper
- Coming after all others
- Penetrate with a sharp fork
- Still-hunt
- Chinese frying pan
- Cave-dwelling salamander
- Any thick messy substance
- About the moon
- AKA Tao
- Jet cabin requirement
- Prince Hirobumi, 1841-1909
- An easy return in a high arc
- Italian commune
- L. Comfort's illuminator
- Foot digit
- Minute tunicate genus
- Green regions of desert
- Direct a weapon
- __ de Janeiro
- Equestrian animals
- Acress Tomei
- Head of the RCC
- Twines
- Scientific workplace
- Minerals
- Hypothetical original substances
- Hit with the open hand
- Political action committee
- Winged goddess of the dawn
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- Electronic data processing
- Man or boy (Br.)
- W. African nation
- Fault's incline from vertical
- Method of birth control
- City founded by Xenophanes
- Legumes
- Beckham's spice girl
- Explosive
- 1936 Nobel winner Otto
- Greenbay teammate
- Brass that looks like gold
- School graduates
- Lively, merry play
- Make indistinct
- Egyptian mythological figure associated with floods
- Washing sponge
- Old name for nitrogen
- Impounds for lack of payment
- Radiotelegraphic signal
- MN 55731
- Sun in spanish
- Helps little firms
- Cease living
- Flames up
- Egyptian sacred bull
- To wit
- Mire
- Bring two objects together
- Filths
- Israeli dance
- Oil cartel
- A particular instance of selling
- Microelectromechanical system
- Var. of 45 across
- Goat & camel hair fabrics
- Soda
- A firm's operational head
- Seaport (abbr.)

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Women's Resource Center of the NRV receives donation



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI SORORITY

Members of Alpha Mu Master of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority recently donated clothing items needed for clients at the Women's Resource Center of the NRV, located in Radford. The donations were received by Sherry Kramer, WRC Programs Director, shown second from left, from Libby Pettigrew, Kristen Talley, Service Chair, and Sue Warden.

Virginia State Parks campgrounds now open with burn restrictions in effect through April 30



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Camping in Virginia State Parks resumed March 4.

RICHMOND – Virginia State Parks reopened its campgrounds for the season on Monday, March 4.

Campsites, which have been closed since Dec. 4, are now available for booking online through reserve.vaparks.com. Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead and may make reservations up to 11 months in advance to secure their desired camping dates and accommodations.

Managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia State Parks offers more than 1,800 campsites, with options ranging from primitive camping to RV sites with electric and water hookups.

Full-service campgrounds with bathhouses are open from the first Friday in March through the first Monday in December, with the exception of Douthat, Hungry Mother, Pocahontas and Shenandoah River state parks, which have full-service campgrounds open year-round.

Campers who begin making reservations in March should be aware that the 4 p.m. Burning Law is in effect from Feb. 15 through April 30. This law bans open fires, including charcoal and wood fires, between midnight and 4 p.m. This restriction applies to all areas of a park, including picnic and cabin areas with grills or fire rings.

During the burn restriction period, gas grills and propane stoves are allowed; however, some parks have personal grill restrictions, so visitors should contact the park before making plans to bring one.

An exception to the 4 p.m. burning law is campgrounds that have an on-duty camp host. In those situations, signage will indicate that open fires are allowed before 4 p.m. if they are maintained within a designated campfire ring or circle. The fire must be under constant supervision until it is completely extinguished. All flammable material should be cleared from a 20-foot area around the fire,

and campers must also have ready access to water, a rake and a shovel.

To check the camp host status, please contact the park directly. Primitive campgrounds do not have hosts. For more information about campgrounds and burning restrictions, please go to virginiastateparks.gov.

Visit the camping webpage for more details about reservations, cancellations and severe weather procedures. If you are traveling with horses, visit the equestrian camping page for the policies dealing with horses while camping.

Reservations can be made online or by calling 1-800-933-PARK (7275) and choosing option 5. You can make lodging reservations up to 11 months in advance or for camping, up to 2 p.m. on the day of arrival, so start planning your next adventure today.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Attorney general launches new public awareness tools for “One Pill Can Kill” campaign

“One Pill Can Kill” aims to reduce opioid deaths, educate Virginians on the dangers of fentanyl-laced drugs, and provide community resources

RICHMOND – Attorney General Jason Miyares launched a new website and advertising campaign for the public awareness initiative “One Pill Can Kill.” The One Pill Can Kill campaign will include a website with resources for Virginians, statewide billboards expected to launch in February 2024, and cable, broadcast, and digital/social media efforts in March 2024. The campaign is expected to run through October 2024.

The initiative, modeled after the Drug Enforcement Administration’s national campaign, was initially launched in 2022 as a series of Public Service Announcements aired statewide.

“The opioid epidemic has impacted every corner of the Commonwealth. It’s through education, prevention, and accessible resources that Virginians can fight back against the threat opioids and fake prescription pills present to us and to our loved ones,” said Attorney General Miyares. “One Pill Can Kill is the product of federal and state programs working together to combat the fentanyl and opioid crisis facing our country. It will encourage open, honest conversations amongst families to ensure the health, safety, and

prosperity of all Virginians.”

The One Pill Can Kill campaign will be disseminated alongside the It Only Takes One campaign, which focuses on the opioid crisis in Roanoke, Virginia, led by First Lady of Virginia Suzanne S. Youngkin, with the support of Attorney General Miyares.

Fake prescription pills containing lethal substances like fentanyl pose a significant threat to public health in Virginia. Officials from the Drug Enforcement Agency report a dramatic rise in the number of fake pills containing at least 2 mg of fentanyl, which is considered a potentially lethal dose. Criminal drug networks are flooding the Commonwealth with these pills, masquerading them as legitimate prescription drugs and deceiving the public.

Laboratory testing indicates seven out of every 10 pills seized by the DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl. In 2023, the DEA seized a record 74.5 million fentanyl pills, which exceeds 2022’s total of 58 million pills.

In 2022, an estimated 1,967 people died from overdoses of fentanyl or other synthetic opioids in Virginia. Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in fake pills, is the primary driver in this alarming increase in poisoning deaths.

Visit onepillcankillva.org to learn more about the campaign.

Office of the Attorney General

AARP Foundation tax-aid opens in Virginia

Program provides free tax prep help to all

WASHINGTON — AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is providing free in-person and virtual tax assistance and preparation now through April 15 throughout Virginia.

The nation’s largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program helped secure more than \$1.1 billion in refunds for more than 1.5 million taxpayers last year. Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS, and AARP membership is not required.

Tax-Aide volunteers provide free tax preparation and filing services to adults with low to moderate income in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to ensure they understand the latest changes to the U.S. Tax Code. Since the pandemic, AARP Foundation has seen a significant increase in volunteer applications nationwide, with over 20,000 people applying to help older adults file their tax returns in 2023.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers several options for taxpayer assistance:

In-person service: In Tax-Aide’s traditional in-person service, taxes are prepared and filed by IRS-certified tax counselors.

One-visit scan (Internet access required): Tax documents are scanned at the Tax-Aide site and then Tax-Aide volunteers prepare the return remotely.

Two-visit scan: Tax documents are scanned at the Tax-Aide site and then volunteers prepare the return remotely. During a second visit, taxpayers work with a volunteer to finalize their return and obtain a printed copy for their records.

Drop off service: Tax documents are left at the Tax-Aide site with an IRS-certified volunteer and the return is prepared remotely. During a second visit, taxpayers work with a volunteer to file their return and obtain a printed copy and their original documents.

No site visit required: (Internet access required): Taxpayers upload tax documents to the IRS-provided software. Tax-Aide volunteers prepare the return remotely and work with the taxpayer to file the return electronically.

Online coaching: The taxpayer prepares their own return and receives online support from an IRS-certified volunteer to help them along the way.

Facilitated self-assistance: Taxpayers schedule an appointment at a Tax-Aide site to work with a volunteer to complete and file their own return.

Self-preparation: The taxpayer prepares their own return using a software product made available through our website.

Access to the different types of taxpayer assistance varies by location.

“AARP Foundation Tax-Aide helps anyone secure tax credits and much-needed refunds they’ve earned while saving on tax preparation costs,” said Mioshi Moses, Vice President of AARP Foundation Volunteer Programs. “Millions of people, especially older adults living on fixed incomes, depend on their refund to pay for monthly expenses like food and utilities. Last year, older adults with low income saved over \$564 million in total with the help of Tax-Aide.”

Users can find the nearest Tax-Aide location in their area and assistance options by visiting the Tax-Aide site locator. The site locator features a Tax-Aide chat bot that can help book an appointment, answer questions about the program and transfer the conversation to a live agent if needed or requested. For more information, including which documents to bring to the tax site, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-AARPNOW (1-888-227-7669).

AARP

Low-intensity ultrasound shows promise as a noninvasive approach to alleviate pain

Virginia Tech researchers at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC report that applying low-intensity focused ultrasound to an area deep within the brain may point to new ways to help people cope with chronic pain.

In a study published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, scientists demonstrated the effectiveness of using low-intensity focused ultrasound to modulate the activity in a critical region in the brain that processes and regulates pain signals.

Researchers, including first author Andrew Strohmman, a Virginia Tech M.D./Ph.D. student conducting research at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, found the application of low-intensity ultrasound to a structure known as the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex reduced pain, diminished bodily responses to pain, and decreased pain-related brain activity without the need for invasive procedures, researchers said.

Strohmman is a student in the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Graduate Program.

“This study points to a noninvasive and effective way to modulate a critical region of the brain involved in pain processing while eliminating many of the risks associated with surgeries,” said Wynn Legon, assistant professor at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and senior author of the study. “It provides a potential new means to modulate the brain activity in response to pain that may serve to better understand the mechanisms of chronic pain to provide a new, innovative therapeutic option that could change how we approach and treat pain in the future.”

In a study with 16 healthy volunteers, researchers focused ultrasound energy on the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex to see if it could change how people feel

pain. To test whether it changed someone’s perception of pain, they applied brief heat to the skin and measured pain perception, heart rate variability, skin responses, and brain electrical signals.

Data was collected in three sessions on three separate days along with an imaging visit consisting of a CT scan and MRI to accurately and reliably target this hard-to-reach area in each individual.

The results showed that the ultrasound made people feel less pain, and it also altered how the brain and heart communicate. Overall, the heart did not respond as strongly to pain, and certain brain signals changed.

“Chronic pain patients often experience cardiovascular issues, which may either be at the root of their chronic pain or play a role in contributing to it,” said Legon, who is also assistant professor in the College of Science’s School of Neuroscience and in the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine’s Department of Neurosurgery. “Understanding this intricate relationship is crucial because it enhances our comprehension of pain mechanisms and suggests the importance of addressing both pain perception and cardiovascular health.”

The results suggest that using ultrasound applied to this specific region of the brain may help reduce pain and change how the body reacts to pain.

Even more recently, in a study published in the journal *PAIN* on Feb. 5, the researchers found soundwaves from low-intensity focused ultrasound aimed at a brain region called the insula can also reduce both the perception of pain and other effects.

“This study provides some of the first evidence we can change three major areas of activity, those being pain perception, brain activity, and cardiac activity,” Strohmman said.

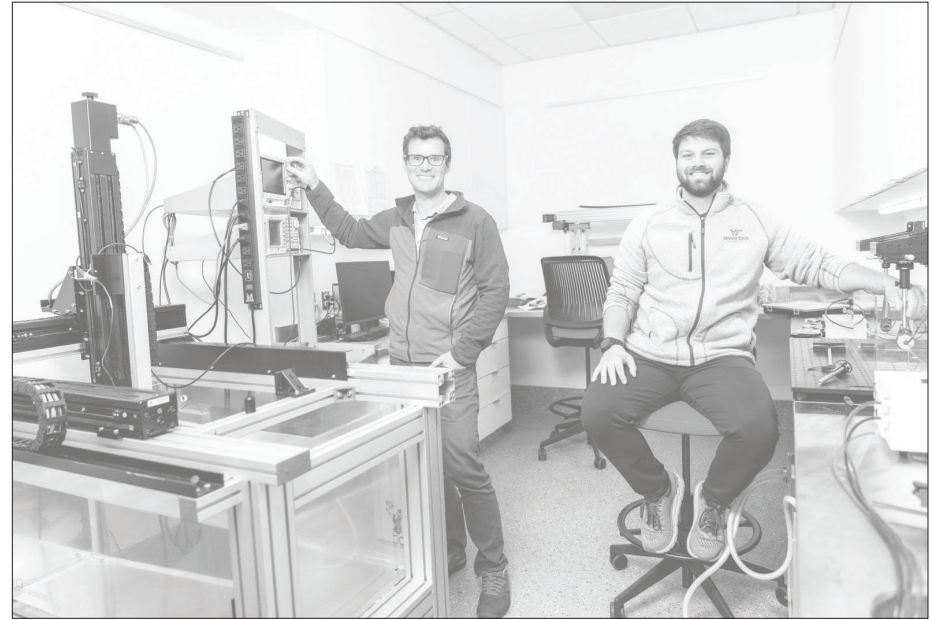


PHOTO BY CLAYTON METZ FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Wynn Legon (at left), the faculty director of the transcranial MR-guided focused ultrasound facilities at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, and Andrew Strohmman, an M.D.-Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech, were among researchers reporting that application of low-intensity focused ultrasound to an area deep within the brain may potentially help people cope with chronic pain. The research was published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

“The next steps are to look at how these metrics relate to each other and explore how these findings can be applied to improve the lives of patients suffering from chronic pain.”

“While there has been tremendous progress in recent years in the use of high-intensity focused ultrasound for creating small lesions in patients’ brain to treat disorders such as essential tremor and for tumor ablation, we are at the very beginning of exploration of the use of low-intensity focused ultrasound to mildly modulate brain activity and affect perception and behavior,” said Michael Friedlander, executive director of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, who was not involved with the study.

“The new work by Strohmman and Legon and their pioneering team represents some of the most exciting new advances of this approach,”

added Friedlander, who is also Virginia Tech’s vice president for health sciences and technology.

“The fact that it is addressing one of the most debilitating diseases, chronic pain, represents a major step in this important emerging field of biomedical research and provides hope for better treatments that may avoid the untoward effects of many drugs used for treating pain,” Friedlander said.

Research Assistant Brighton Payne, medical student Alexander In, and M.D./Ph.D. student Katelyn Stebbins of the Legon lab at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute contributed to the study.

The work was partially supported by grants from the Seale Innovation Fund of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute.

John Pastor for Virginia Tech

Java Brothers featured at NRCC Concert Series

The music of Java Brothers and Marshall Page & Coal Mountain will be featured during New River Community College’s Concert Series event on Sat., March 9.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

The Java Brothers bluegrass band members met during a Monday Night Radford Fiddle and Banjo jam. Their musical influences include Bill Monroe, Stanley Brothers, Jimmy Martin, Old and In the Way, The Seldom Scene, Sam Bush, Tony Rice, JD Crowe and Doyle Lawson. The Java Brothers mix standard bluegrass and newgrass with fiery original tunes in their live shows. The band includes Joe Abercrombie on banjo, Ralph Berrier on fiddle, Chris Burgoyne on mandolin, Doug Capobianco on string bass, and Wayne Frye on guitar. Performing with the band at NRCC on banjo will be Jason Wheeler.

Marshall Page is an accomplished singer/songwriter from Parrott Mountain, a small coal mining community from Southwest Virginia. He is joined by Butch Robbins

on banjo, Sam Leary on upright bass, Keith Webb on fiddle, and Richard Burk on mandolin. The band will be performing original songs as well as a few traditional songs.

Corporate sponsors of the music events include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc., Radford; CCKY, LLC – Fazoli’s, Dublin; Deanie Hall – State Farm Agent, Dublin; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; King Tire Service, Pulaski; Lee’s Body Shop, Pearisburg; Martin’s Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgomery & Pulaski Counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset travel expenses for the musicians. The music events are typically held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Java Brothers will be one of two bands featured at the March 9 installment of New River Community College’s Concert Series.

For more information about the NRCC Concert Series, please contact Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625 or visit www.nr.edu/concerts.

NRCC



The Fincastle Herald

The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

Radford News Journal

Help Wanted - General



Vice President for Planning & Resource Development

Nonprofit seeks an individual with experience in directing the activities of a planning department. Must have a minimum of seven years successful grant writing and supervisory experience. Thorough knowledge of state and federal anti-poverty programs; ability to understand and interpret RFPs, regulations and guidelines. Preferred knowledge of Human Service, Economic Development, Community Development programs at the local, Commonwealth, and federal levels. Performs complex professional and administrative work in directing the activities of the planning department, providing strategic planning, resource development and program development for the antipoverty programs, economic development, community development and partnership activities of the agency. Assists in gathering and collating pertinent data and program outcomes; identifies and qualifies resources; writes clear and compelling narratives, effective and accurate budgets; and prepares grant applications in response to request for proposals. Leads and trains a team of planners who support the agency's programs. Directs the communications and marketing efforts of the agency.

Disseminates information to program components, CEO, Board of Directors, and other management staff on issues affecting the work of agency.

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

Coordinates the preparation of grant applications and proposal writing for all new and renewing agency program initiatives. Responsible for quality and effectiveness of all proposals.

Writes proposals for funding of specific projects as assigned.

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

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

Salary: \$60,000-\$75,000/yr. Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code VPPRD-PL, PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St SW Roanoke VA 24011 or fax to 540-345-1944TTY: 540-345-4096 AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace Bilingual ability is a plus

miscellaneous



When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack's animal health care products for horses, dogs, & cats. H&H Outdoors 254- 2420

Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEES SALE

PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN: West Ward of the City of Radford, Virginia Containing 0.2479 acres, more or less

Commonly Known as: 1002 West Main Street, Radford, Virginia

IN EXECUTION OF A CERTAIN DEED OF TRUST OF RECORD IN THE CLERKS OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RADFORD CITY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 201100838, DATED AUGUST 29, 2011, WHEREAS, BY DEED OF BARGAIN AND SALE AND ASSUMPTION DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 2016, RECORDED IN THE AFOSAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO: 201600804 THE DEED OF TRUST WAS ASSUMED BY MARK BROOKNER. DEFAULT HAVING BEEN MADE IN THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBT THEREIN SECURED AND BEING REQUIRED TO DO SO BY THE NOTEHOLDER, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, AFTER GIVING FOURTEEN (14) DAYS DUE NOTICE TO THE OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE OF THE DATE, TIME, PLACE AND TERMS OF SALE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION, IN FRONT OF THE RADFORD CITY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 619 SECOND STREET, RADFORD, VIRGINIA, ON THE 29th DAY OF MARCH, 2024, AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

All that certain tracts or parcels of land, with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the City of Radford, Virginia, and described as follows: BEING all of Lots 28 and 29, part of Lots 27, 30, 34, 35, Section 1, Plan C, Radford Land and Improvement Company Lots, containing 0.2479 acres (10,800 sq. ft.), as designated and described on a plat of survey entitled, Physical Survey Lots 28, 29 and Part of Lots 27, 30, 34, 35 Section 1, Plan C Radford Land and Improvement Co. West Ward City of Radford, Virginia for Ronald R. Sowers", dated August 23, 2011, Job No. 565811, by James Conrad Groseclose, II, Land Surveyor, Mathews and Henegar Inc., professional engineers and land surveyors, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof and reference is hereby made to said plat of survey for a more accurate description of the property herein conveyed.

Tax Map Number: 13-(5)-SEC 1-27A-28-29-30A-34A+

Account Number: 020000684.

Commonly Known As: 1002 West Main Street, Radford, Virginia

SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE. TERMS OF SALE: CASH, SETTLEMENT WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF SALE. A BIDDERS DEPOSIT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) MAY BE REQUIRED.

PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF RADFORD CITY COURTHOUSE, AT 619 SECOND STREET, RADFORD, VIRGINIA

DATE OF SALE: MARCH 29, 2024
TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M.

Daniel D. Hamrick, PC
Substitute Trustee

By: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent
For Daniel D. Hamrick, PC

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent
Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C.
104 South Franklin Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 382-0131

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:00pm in the City of Radford Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: Jones Builder, LLC seeking approval of a rezoning for .43 acres 402 West Rock Rd, Radford VA 24141 Portion of Tax Map # 12-(2)-SEC 2-8 and all of Tax Map # 12-(2)-SEC 2-9,10,11 & 12. The request is to rezone from (B-1) Limited Business to R-3, Single-Family Residential District (R-3) to allow the property owner to redevelop existing building into duplex and (1) Single Family Resident. The general usage and density range of the proposed amendment is low-medium residential development. The general usage and density range of the property as set forth in the City's comprehensive plan is commercial corridor. Comments may be presented at the meeting and by phone or in writing prior to the meeting. Additional information on this request may be obtained in the Community Development Department, 10 Robertson Street, Radford VA 24141, 540.267.3188 or by email at Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing to receive comments regarding a request from the Jones Builder, LLC, for a Special Use Permit to develop an existing building into a duplex, 402 West Rock Rd, Radford VA 24141, Tax Map #'s 12-(2)-SEC 2-10,11 & 12. The general usage and density range of the proposed amendment is low-medium residential development. The general usage and density range of the property as set forth in the City's comprehensive plan is commercial corridor. The hearing will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA. Interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present their views on the proposed Special Use Permit. Written comments may be sent to 10 Robertson Street, Radford 24141; please allow adequate mailing time: Melissa Skelton, Community Development Director.

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given

to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on March 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of E3MAG LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 744 Electric Road (Tax Map # 155 - 2 - 2.2) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.
2. Consider the request of Pinkesh R. Patel and Sonal P. Patel, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 1200 block Thompson Memorial Drive (Tax Map # 20 - 2 - 4) from RSF Residential Single-Family District to HBD Highway Business District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall

Legals - City of Salem

have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY:
Christopher J. Dorsey
Executive Secretary

PUBLIC HEARING The City of Salem School Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the FY 2024-2025 budget on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

The hearing will begin at 7:00 PM at the School Administrative Office, 510 South College Avenue, Salem. Any citizen of Salem who wishes to address the Board should contact Susan E. Young, Clerk of the Board, at 540-389-0130 by Monday, March 11, 2024 in order to be placed on the agenda. Individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to bring a copy of their remarks for the record.

In accordance with Board Policy KD, Public Participation in Board Meetings, individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to:

- provide their name and address,
- address their remarks to the Board,
- be brief,
- provide a copy of their remarks for the record, and
- be prepared to answer questions from the Board,
- In unusual cases or cases of emergency, the Board, by consensus, may allow an individual or organization to speak if not on the agenda.

Legals - Craig County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. J0002260-06-00
CRAIG COMBINED COURT-JUVENILE Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court District Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* MANNING, EMILEE ROSE
The object of this suit is to: terminate the residual parental rights of the parents, including the right of visitation, right to consent to adoption, and the responsibility of support and all other rights and responsibilities remaining with the natural parents of the aforesaid child and to obtain the right to place said child for adoption. And, based on an affidavit filed herein, the court finds that there exists sufficient grounds for causing service of process by publication.

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

We ask for this CRAIG COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
177 Court Street,
New Castle, Virginia 24127

February 8, 2024,
Patty Taylor, CLERK

Legals - Montgomery County

Trustee's Sale

1990 Reesedale Road, Elliston, Virginia 24087

(Parcel ID: 022175; Tax Map No.: 057-2 6)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 29, 2015, in the original principal amount of \$106,837.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia in Instrument No. 150009429, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on March 22, 2024,

Legals - Montgomery County

at 3:00 pm in front of the building housing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, the property designated as Lot 6, as shown on plat entitled "survey for Richard L. and Leilani F. Kaulback" showing Subdivision of 45.86 acre tract, Mt. Tabor District, Montgomery County, Virginia, which plat is dated June 18, 1979 and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in plat book 9, page 197. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or M. Brennan Hutt d/b/a H&H Abstracting, and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 233457-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. **CL23000237-00**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, v. SHANE ANTHONY SMITH, ET AL., Respondent(s).

The object of this suit is to: enforce the lien of the complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 497-A 202 Account No. 020009

All those two certain lots or parcels of land lying about one-fourth of a mile east of the passenger station at Cambria, Montgomery County, Virginia: Lot No. 1: Being all that certain lot or parcel of land conveyed to the said J.W. Britt by M. A. Helm and others by deed dated November 1, 1913, and recorded in Montgomery County Clerk's Office in Deed Book 63, Page 586; being described as lot 66 X 135 feet, be the same more or less, and to which deed reference is hereby made for a further description of the same.

Lot No. 2: Being all that certain lot or parcel of land conveyed to the said J. W. Britt by M. A. Helm and wife by deed dated January 19, 1914, and recorded in Montgomery County Clerk's Office as Deed Book 63, Page 583 and is described as being 61 X 135 feet, be the same more or less, and to which deed reference is hereby made for a further description of the same, both of said lots adjoining each other, being on the south side of the road leading from the station via Happy Hollow, and on the west side of the Happy Hollow Road, and runs back to the lot, now or formerly

Legals - Montgomery County

owned by Charles Lynch, and is bounded on the west by the lot, now or formerly owned by Mary Russel, together with the buildings improvements thereon, and the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

And being the same real property conveyed to Alice May Vaughan Brammer, Fannie Vaughan Carr, Sam Will Vaughan, Jr. John Blair Vaughan, Colonel Jabe Taft Vaughan, and James Curtis Douglas Vaughan from S. W. Vaughan and Ada L. Vaughan by deed dated and recorded on February 5, 1943 in the Montgomery County Clerk's Office as Deed Book 128, Page 389.

And further being the same property conveyed to Shane Anthony Smith from John B. Vaughan, as sole heir of John Blair Vaughan, deceased, by Quitclaim Deed dated December 18, 2013 and recorded December 23, 2013 in the Montgomery County Clerk's Office as Instrument Number 13011845.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: David W. Smith, whose last known address is 5352 Graysontown Road Radford, Virginia 24141; Ling Zhong, whose last known address is 1005 Robin Rd., Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, S. W. Vaughan aka Sam Willie Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; John Blair Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Alice May Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Fannie Vaughan Carr, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Sam Will Vaughan, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; John Blair Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Colonel Jabe Taft Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; James Curtis Douglas Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; James Henry Brammer aka James Randolph Robinson, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Virginia Elizabeth Brammer, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Gloria Jean Carr Butts Hicks, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; John Thomas Carr, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Meta Huggens Carr, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Denise Carr, whose last known address is unknown; Ada Mae Carr Nizer, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Melva James Nizer McNeill, whose last known address is 630 Colhoun St. NE, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Ludell Albert Nizer, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Emma Christine Carr Samuel, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Landon Samuel, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Vivian Palmer Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Lorenza Vaughan, whose last known address is unknown; Bertha Mae McDaniel Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Barbara H. Vaughan, whose last known address is unknown; Virginia N. Vaughan, whose last address is unknown; Michael O. Vaughan, whose last address is unknown; James Douglas Vaughan,

who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; James Douglas Vaughan, Jr., whose last known address is 8626 Croaker Rd., Williamsburg, Virginia 23188; Colonel Jabe Taft Vaughan, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; John Willie Junius Vaughan, Sr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; John W.J. Vaughan, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Dorothy Elizabeth Lacy Vaughan, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Tax Map No. 497-4202, Account No. 020009, whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby **ORDERED** that parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before March 29, 2024 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of The County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 22nd day of February, 2024.

Mike Fleenor, Jr.,
Judge
I Ask for This:
John A Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
Jeffery A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Big South tournament starts today, Wed. Mar. 6

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Big South Conference Tournament starts today, Wednesday, Mar. 6, in High Point, N.C.

USC Upstate and Radford tied for eighth in the standings at 5-11, and the Spartans landed the No. 8 seed. The teams split the season series, and the tiebreaker was Upstate's 1-1 record vs. first-place High Point, compared to Radford's 0-2 mark vs. HPU. Upstate and Radford will go head-to-head in the first round at 8 p.m.

Regular-season champion High Point (13-3) is the No. 1 seed -- its first No. 1 seed in

the Big South Tournament since 2015-16. Defending champion UNC Asheville (12-4) is the No. 2 seed, with Gardner-Webb finishing 11-5 for the No. 3 slot. Winthrop ended league play in fourth place at 8-8 and will be No. 4. Longwood, Presbyterian and Charleston Southern all tied for fifth place at 6-10. The Lancers earned the No. 5 seed based on their 3-1 season record against PC/CSU, while Presbyterian clinched the No. 6 seed (2-2 vs. LWU/CSU) - the program's highest-ever seeding in the Big South tournament. Charleston Southern secured the No. 7 spot (1-3 vs. LWU/PC) for the final auto-berth into the quarterfinals.

The USC Upstate-Radford winner will advance to the quarterfinals on Friday, Mar. 8, and play No. 1 High Point. No. 4 Winthrop vs. No. 5 Longwood will follow at 2 p.m., with No. 2 UNC Asheville vs. No. 7 Charleston Southern. No. 3 Gardner-Webb vs. No. 6 Presbyterian will conclude quarterfinal day. The semifinals will be Saturday, Mar. 9 at noon and 2 p.m., with the Championship game on Sunday, Mar. 10 scheduled for noon.

The 2024 Hercules Tires Big South Men's Basketball Championship will be televised on ESPN+ Wednesday-through-

Saturday, while Sunday's Championship game will air live on ESPN2. The title game will also be broadcast nationally on Westwood One Sports. The Big South's Tournament champion receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

On the women's side, Radford University finished at 9-7 in the Big South and will be the No. 3 seed when action starts this week.

Regular-season champion High Point (14-2) is the No. 1 seed - its second No. 1 seed in the Big South Tournament in four years and fourth time overall. HPU has secured the Big South's automatic bid to the WNIT should the Panthers not win the tournament. USC Upstate (10-6) is the No. 2 seed -- the Spartans' highest seeding since becoming Big South members in 2018-19, followed by Radford (9-7) at No. 3. Charleston Southern, Presbyterian College and Winthrop all tied for fourth place at 8-8. CSU earned the No. 4 seed based on its 4-0 season record against PC/WU - marking the Bucs' highest seed since 2010 (also No. 4). Presbyterian is the No. 5 seed (2-2 vs. CSU/WU), with Winthrop landing in the No. 6 slot (0-4 vs. CSU/PC). Longwood (6-10) locked in the No. 7 seed for the final auto-berth into the quarterfinals.

Gardner-Webb finished the league slate at 5-11 for the No. 8 seed, with UNC Asheville (4-12) at No. 9. Those two teams will go head-to-head in the first round on Wednesday, Mar. 6 at 6 p.m.

The Gardner-Webb/UNC Asheville winner will advance to the quarterfinals on Thursday, Mar. 7, and play No. 1 High Point. No. 4 Charleston Southern vs. No. 5 Presbyterian will follow with No. 2 USC Upstate vs. No. 7 Longwood. No. 3 Radford vs. No. 6 Winthrop will conclude quarterfinal day. The semifinals will be Saturday, Mar. 9 at 6 and 8 p.m., with the Championship game on Sunday, Mar. 10 scheduled for 6 p.m.

Sports notes: RU in hunt for Memphis eighth grader

Hokies number 1 in lacrosse, Region 4D all-star team

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

College basketball recruiting has become more competitive off the court than the games on the court. Two Memphis, Tennessee, eighth graders are garnering a lot of attention from programs around the state, but the only one to officially offer so far is Radford University.

Braylon Williams and DJ Okorth led their middle school team to a 69-0 record over the past two years and are standouts on the court.

Williams is 6-1 point guard, and Okorth is a 6-4 forward. Williams is the on the radar by RU after averaging 18.4 points and 8.5 rebounds this past season.

Tech Lax nationally ranked

Virginia Tech held off former No. 4 South Carolina on Friday night to help keep the Hokies' stranglehold on the top spot in week two of the MCLA Division I New Balance Lacrosse Coaches Poll.

Virginia Tech (5-0) gobbled up 25 of the 26 first-place ballots cast this week, keeping the Hokies over 30 points clear of the field. Tech hosts No. 7 Liberty (2-1) on this evening in what could be a preview of the Atlantic Lacrosse

Conference (ALC) tournament final.

Georgia Tech (6-0), which was awarded the remaining first-place vote, remains at No. 2 heading into a weekend when it entertains New Hampshire (2-0) and Texas A&M (2-2).

After sweeping a pair of ranked opponents on the road, Chapman (3-0) remains solidly in the third spot followed by Utah Valley (2-0) in fourth.

Appy all-star game to JC

The Johnson City Doughboys and the Appalachian League announced that the 2024 Appalachian League All-Star Game presented by Visit Johnson City will take place at TVA Credit Union Ballpark, home of the Johnson City Doughboys. The 2024 All-Star Game will be a two-day event with a full slate of events. The league's Home Run Derby will be Monday, July 22, and the All-Star Game on Tuesday, July 23. There will be many more exciting additions added to the event in the coming weeks.

This signature event will be broadcasted on MLB Network and will bring together the Appalachian League's top players in the league that features the nation's top rising college freshmen and sophomores.

ACC sets basketball schedule formats

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) will maintain a 20-game conference schedule beginning next year.

The announcement came late last week and had been a head scratcher as the conference adds Cal, SMU and Stanford to the overall membership.

"As the 2023-24 ACC women's and men's basketball regular-season competition continues and our teams look ahead to the postseason, we are thrilled to announce each school's opponents for our first year as an 18-member league," said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "We look forward to having Cal, SMU and Stanford join the ACC this summer and we know there's already

great excitement and anticipation for our teams, alumni and fans for what's ahead surrounding this incredible conference."

Now, each school will play two games home and away versus its two current partners. In the case of Virginia Tech, those two partners would be Miami and Virginia.

The men's schedule will then include one repeat opponent, home and away. Tech will then play one of the remaining 15 teams in a year. For the next two years for Tech, Clemson would be the opponent. The remaining 14 league opponents will be seven home only and seven away only.

Below is a breakdown of Tech's scheduling matrix for the 2024-25 season. The full conference schedule with specific game dates, times and networks will be announced early

this fall.

For 2024-25, Virginia Tech's opponent line up this way:

Home/Away: Clemson, Miami, Virginia

Home only: Louisville, North Carolina, NC State, Pitt, SMU, Syracuse, Wake Forest

Away only: Boston College, Cal, Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Notre Dame, Stanford

On the women's side, under the new format, each school will play 18 league games, but only have one partners they play twice with one time apiece at each school. For Tech, the partner is the University of Virginia.

For the next two years, Virginia Tech's women's opponents line up this way:

2024-25
Home - Cal, Stanford, SMU,

Florida State, Wake, Louisville, Notre Dame, Syracuse

Away - Pitt, Miami, Clemson, Georgia Tech, NC State, North Carolina, Duke, Boston College

Partner - Virginia
2025-26

Home - Pitt, Miami, Clemson, Georgia Tech, NC State, North Carolina, Duke, Boston College

Away - Cal, Stanford, SMU, Florida State, Wake, Louisville, Notre Dame, Syracuse

Partner - Virginia

As previously announced by the league, the ACC men's and women's basketball tournaments will include only the top 15 teams at the end of the 2024-25 regular season. The 2025 ACC Men's Basketball Tournament will be contested March 11-15 at Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Virginia Tech quarterback Kyrone Drones is teasing Hokie fans of the new college Football 25 video game.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EA SPORTS

The new game also includes the famous Virginia Tech "lunch box."

Familiar sights part of planned EA Sports release

EA Sports says after 10 years without any video game EA Sports College Football, it's back.

NCAA Football 14 will be released this summer, but already bits of the game are being teased to customers.

The last time fans of the game saw any video hype was when Denard Robinson was QB1 at the University of Michigan. Many people wondered what had happened since NCAA Football 14.

According to the company, Collegiate Licensing killed the franchise in those days because they had to use fake players. Now with

the new NIL program, that has all changed.

The new game will include in-game action with individual stadiums, mascots, locker rooms, jerseys and helmets. Expect Lane Stadium and rowdy crowds. But so far, the company has not secured the rights for the game to the "Enter Sandman" entrance.

Under the new rules, college players can opt to be in the game and be paid for being on your television screen in the form of EA Sports.

Staff report

Honoring those who have come before her

Hokies latest transfer in her own words

Editor's note: Olivia Summiel is a graduate student that joined the Virginia Tech Lady Hokies this season after a four-year career at ACC rival Wake Forest.

Growing up in Connecticut, like many young girls, I idolized Maya Moore.

Between NCAA Championships, WNBA Championships, MVPs, All-Star games, etc., name an accomplishment on the basketball court, and she's done it.

I've always admired her work ethic and everything she's achieved in the sport, but what she's done outside the sport is what's inspired me the most.

For her to use her voice and platform to show the world how powerful and influential she can be in changing people's lives is something I've always marveled about her.

When I think about what Black history means to me, as a biracial student-athlete who plays basketball at Virginia Tech, it's about honoring individuals like Maya Moore who paved the way.

Whether it was watching Maya and those UConn women's basketball teams growing up or being around so many incredible mentors and leaders in my life, I've been fortunate to have some extraordinary role models who have shown me the way.

I've been blessed to have such a strong support system in my life, with my family playing an integral role in the success I've had. I also feel indebted to be a part of a university like Virginia Tech that has embraced diversity and inclusion and provided me with a platform to use my voice and make an impact.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I'd like to take this time to recognize those that came before me who have made a significant difference in the world and in my life.

Dedicated and loving investment Throughout the highs and lows of my basketball career and life, my parents have been right there with me every step of the way.

Whether it was driving me to practices and games or helping me find the right teams and leagues to play in, they were always there to support me and help me grow as a player.

I spent countless hours in the car with my dad, driving back and forth to practices and tournaments. I spent just as many hours on the phone getting advice, love, and an incredible amount of support from my mom.

Looking back, those car rides and phone calls are some of my fondest memories.

Without my parents' love, support, and sacrifice, I never would have had the

opportunity to play college basketball and earn my undergraduate degree at Wake Forest and continue my career at VT.

My parents always tell me that my success is their "return on investment," but I know it's so much more than that.

It was an investment of time, energy, and love, and I will spend the rest of my life trying to pay them back for everything they've done for me.

I would be remiss if I did not mention what my siblings have meant to me along this journey. I am not me without them. The love and bond we share has pushed me to become who I am today, and for that I am grateful.

A powerful platform My sophomore year at Wake Forest became a transformational year for me because that's when I actively realized the platform I have to let my voice be heard, especially as a biracial student-athlete.

I was heavily involved with SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) and we held a town hall meeting after the events that transpired with George Floyd and the impact that it had on our community.

I still have goosebumps thinking about the powerful conversations we had at that meeting.

It was amazing to hear from football players and other athletes that don't normally speak up because they lacked the platform and comfort opening up to create conversations and dialogue about topics that were so near and dear to their hearts.

As I've continued to grow into my leadership roles with SAAC at Wake Forest and now at Virginia Tech, there's never been a more valuable time for a student-athlete's voice to be heard.

With all the changes happening to NIL, conference realignment, the transfer portal and more, we're all going through these experiences for the first time together. It's critical to get feedback from people so we can grow, learn, advocate, and get to know each other on a personal level as we navigate these changes together.

Lifelong bonds and mentorship When I look back on my time as a student-athlete, I firmly believe the relationships and connections I've made have been the most important and impactful part of my journey.

I've had several coaches along the way but three that have had a significant influence on preparing me for the next level. Lauren Moore, Kara Leary, and Kim Benzan all played a pivotal role in my development and gave me the opportunity to showcase my skills on



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Olivia Summiel came to Blacksburg as a transfer from Wake Forest, where she started all 33 contests, averaging a career-high 7.4 points per game, while grabbing 5.6 rebounds.

a national stage at the AAU level. Kim Benzan was my last AAU coach and has remained an incredibly impactful mentor to me throughout my college career. She was an influential factor when I entered the transfer portal knowing I could rely on her guidance and mentorship.

During my time at Wake Forest, I had the benefit of working with some amazing coaches, and will be forever indebted to Coach Hoover and her staff for choosing to invest in me. When I think about the leaders and role models that impacted my experience, I admire Coach E's ability to lead fiercely as a black woman in the industry, and Coach Mel's dedication to advocacy and community outreach.

When I think about meaningful relationships and the invaluable role of mentorship, Jena Ready, who was my strength coach, comes to mind. Coach Ready had a tremendous impact on me both on and off the court, too. She pushed me to be the best athlete I could be and taught me the importance of resilience, hard work and dedication.

She actually joined Clemson's staff in the last few years, so I was able to reunite with her when we played them a few weeks ago, which was the best feeling ever.

Another person who had a huge influence on me during my time off the court at Wake Forest was Ashley Wechter.

Ashley was a staff member at Wake Forest at the time, and she was one of the most important mentors in my life. She was the one who helped introduce me to SAAC and was a huge support in that area. I still pick up the phone and call her today whenever I need advice or guidance, and I am so grateful for her leadership and friendship.

When I think about the people who have impacted my life, I am truly blessed

to have so many amazing mentors and leaders who have guided me and shaped me into the person I am today.

Breaking barriers and building bridges As a biracial woman, I've had to navigate the complexities of my identity, mostly off the court. There have been times when I've felt like I don't quite fit in with either group, but through it all, I've learned the importance of getting to know a person beyond the surface level.

Taking away what people look like on the outside and getting to know somebody and what they possess on the inside is what matters the most.

The importance of Black history lies in the ongoing need to engage in conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion.

By continually working to improve these experiences, we contribute to shaping a better future for the Black community for generations to come.

For me, personally, I'm able to compete at the highest level of college basketball because of the Black athletes that came before me who fought for equality and opportunity.

Their hard work and sacrifice paved the way for athletes like me to chase our dreams and make the most of our opportunities.

They have shattered barriers, broken records, and changed the game for the better, and I will spend the rest of my life doing everything I can to honor their legacy and push their work forward.

Whether it's advocating for student-athletes through SAAC, fostering an inclusive environment on my team, or being a mentor and leader to my younger teammates, I am dedicated to making a positive impact in everything I do.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Business from page 4

relatively new to our firm in our relatively new Dallas office, respected by all.

Last year Melissa got me on a panel at the IADC midyear event in Austin - another wonderful experience. After my part of the program was over, I visited the LBJ Presidential Library, Darrel Royal Stadium on the campus at the

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University of Texas, a great barbecue house where ribs are taken to the highest level, and a couple of country bars on Sixth Street where Lone Star flows freely and the next Waylon Jennings or Willie Nelson may be on stage and everyone does the Texas two-step in cowboy or cowgirl boots. All of this was sandwiched between "conviving" with other conference attendees, a requirement at these events. I recommend Austin to all.

For the second year in a row, my panel did its thing at 7:30 - in the morning. I think in part this time slot is a reflection of the level of interest most lawyers have in discussions of

ethics (sadly) and in part the desire to finish the programs by noon so that folks can play golf or tennis or sight see. If everyone I spent time with at the pool party or the hotel bar the night before who said, "I can't wait to hear your talk" had shown up the next morning, it would have been standing room only. As it was, there were plenty of empty chairs and the ones that were full contained lawyers I didn't recognize, people who had the good sense not to have hung out with me the night before. At least they got their one hour of ethics credit.

A couple of the "I can't wait till the wake-up call comes in

the morning so I can attend" guys didn't attend but invited me to join them at the horse track that afternoon after my program. I forgave them for missing since they were left coast lawyers whose body clocks were three hours behind. I admired their stamina in closing the bar with me, and I told them that I had not bet either of them to win, place, or SHOW. They were no different than the nags that I chose that afternoon, but we stood along the rail in 75-degree weather without a cloud in the sky, staring at the Miami skyline in the distance. There are worse ways to spend a free afternoon.

This event brought back memories of many of the legal conferences I have been lucky enough to attend over the years. Most have been annual meetings of my firm at wonderful places like The Greenbrier and The Homestead and Nemaconlin. These events have been with friends you work with and their significant others and helped form part of the fabric of relationships that became lifelong friendships. As our firm has grown, these conferences have provided opportunities to meet new folks in distant offices and to misbehave with them in safe environments. I think these get-togethers remain beneficial even if sometimes it seems like speed dating as you try to spend time with as

many new faces as you can. Not that I have ever speed dated.

A few memories of firm conferences past - eating breakfast at Bones Diner in downtown White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia at four in the morning in black tie (with Susan Brewer in evening gown) after having been driven by the staff at The Greenbrier after everything there had closed; normally respectable lawyers jumping into the pool at Nemaconlin in full evening gowns or tuxedos; singing Hail to the Redskins at a bar in the basement of the Homestead; toasting the memories of deceased partners and the President of the United States (goes back to our founder Louis Johnson, who "worked" for Roosevelt and Truman).

There have also been great junkets to outside conferences like the IADC midyear meeting I just attended, such as a trip to South Africa (where my wife and I had the pleasure of a snake in our room while on safari) and Mexico City (amazing history), each hosted by an international organization of law firms we belong to, taking me to places I would never have gone otherwise. And the annual meetings of our professional liability carrier, at such incredible venues as Banff in the Canadian Rockies and La Costa in San Diego and the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs and

the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. I even got to see the original Zamboni machine at Hockey Town Cafe in Detroit!

One thing these events all have in common is that they are about 25% business, 25% "mingling" or "networking" and 50% fun. I feel blessed for the experiences, the people I met or got to know better, and the sights I got to see and the things I got to do.

I am sure some readers are curious about my references to the "IADC". What does it stand for? Why hasn't the dumb so and so told us? Well, I live in a world of acronyms, getting emails or calls from all sorts of people using them without definition, often without meaning to me. I usually don't ask questions.

Last year when I returned from Austin, I was filling out my expense report and said that I had attended the "IADC" conference. The diligent scrooges who handle our firm's finances asked me what is the "IADC"? I had no idea - I had to look it up.

Anyway, it's the International Association of Defense Counsel, a great organization with a great staff and great members, sort of like the American Trial Lawyers Association, only with people you don't mind being around. Thankfully our Melissa is a star! It pays to have friends in high places. And to know your acronyms.

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