



News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, March 16, 2024

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Public hearing set for H20kies, New River Valley Aquatics lease request for new building construction

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG – Possible construction for a building to provide additional space needed for the Christiansburg Aquatic Center has prompted a 30-year lease proposal for town property adjacent to the swim facility.

H20kies Head Coach and Director Scott Baldwin presented a lease proposal

for a portion of town property at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, located at 595 North Franklin St. for tenant use.

Coaches, staff, parents, and officials are the “unsung heroes” that make these events happen, Baldwin said. However, the peak hours of the facility are already at max capacity, and in the next year or two will have over 300 swimmers in the program.

“Without the manpower that H20kies Aquatics brings to the table, those meets



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CAC

Construction for a building to provide additional space needed for the Christiansburg Aquatic Center has prompted a 30-year lease proposal for town property adjacent to the swim facility.

don't happen; we don't get those bids for those meets,” Baldwin said.

The Aquatics Center is seeking more

space for additional equipment that

See H20kies, page 6



IMAGE COURTESY OF SARAH MYERS, VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport, located in Blacksburg, historically was first a landing site in a farmer's pasture in 1913, with VPI Airport construction in 1929.

Virginia Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport seeing almost doubled fuel sales

First electric plane lands on runway in February

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG – Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport (VTMEA) is providing economic opportunity, private and professional travel, sports teams' transportation, international travelers, and new technology while also experiencing increased fuel sales with the new runway extension.

During the introductions and presentations of the Christiansburg Town Council meeting held Mar. 12, Virginia Tech

Montgomery Executive Airport Director Keith Holt gave a presentation on airport operations and economic growth provided to the New River and Roanoke Valleys.

“The Airport Authority, we were established in 2001 by the General Assembly as a regional government entity to run and operate the airport, so we are comprised of the Town of Christiansburg, the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, and Virginia Tech,” Holt said.

In 2020, Holt said, the airport runway extension

See Airport, page 4

Town council meeting includes three public hearings

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Three public hearings were held during the Mar. 12 Christiansburg Town Council meeting.

The first hearing was regarding an Issuance of Virginia Resource Authority (VRA) bond for improvement projects at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Town of Christiansburg Finance Director Valerie Tweedie reported to council.

“It was advertised in the paper that tonight is a public hearing for any comments from the public regarding the town taking out a loan for up \$15.5 million,” Tweedie said. “It's a VRA loan, which is a Virginia Resource Authority, it's a low interest loan of about a half a

percent. A portion of that loan, \$450,000, is eligible for being forgiven and the loan is to do a lot of improvements at the wastewater treatment plant.”

Tweedie said the cover sheet of the submitted documents provide a listing of all repaired and improved needs. There was no public comment.

The second public hearing was for the “Rezoning request by Radford Development of Virginia, LLC, property owner, and Hy-Tek Collision, LLC, applicant, to rezone approximately 2.265 acres of property located on the east side of the intersection of Badger Street, N.W. and Elk Drive, N.W. (Tax Parcel 525 – ((A)) – 44A; Parcel ID 026060) from B-3 General Business District to I-1 Limited

See Hearings, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAARIT KYTÖHÄRÄ

Caroline Shaw (at center) performs with S Percussion.

Classical and pop music collide with Sō Percussion, Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw, and beat boxer Shodekeh

BLACKSBURG — Multi-genre quartet Sō Percussion joins forces with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw and groundbreaking breath artist, beat boxer, and composer Dominic “Shodekeh” Talifero for an evening of music bridging the worlds of classical and pop at the Moss Arts Center on Wednesday, Mar. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Sō Percussion redefines chamber music for the 21st century with dazzling live performances that bring the vibrant percussion repertoire to life and an extravagant array of collaborations in classical music, pop, indie rock, contemporary dance, and theatre.

The Moss program includes powerful new original songs performed with Shaw from “Let the Soil Play Its Simple Part.” Shaw's faultless ear for melody and harmony combined with Sō's rhythmic

invention and compositional experimentation make for a world of sonic richness that feels fresh. These contemporary songs represent Shaw's debut as a solo vocal artist, and Sō opens a world of sonic possibilities and rhythmic virtuosity that dramatically expands Shaw's palette beyond the vocal and string writing for which she is best known.

Sō Percussion and Shodekeh bring together distinctive rhythmic practices that converge on the experimental in “Vodalities: Paradigms of Consciousness for the Human Voice.” The collaboration draws on decades of collective experience that integrates influences such as John Cage, Meredith Monk, and a huge range of hip-hop and house music artists. In the process, they demonstrate how compatible vocal and physical percussion can be. “Vodalities” is dedicated to

See Moss, page 4

VDOT updates for Mont. Co. presented at supervisors' meeting

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY CO. – At the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting Mar. 11, VDOT Representative David Clarke provided an update on Montgomery County roads' conditions, projects, and clean-up due to the recent high winds that brought down trees and debris.

Preparations for paving work is happening, according to Clarke, on several roads in the county as well.

“They've already started paving on Glade



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VDOT

Road, they'll be doing about four miles in the Bradshaw area and about four miles on Catawba Road from the Roanoke County line back into Montgomery County,” Clarke said. “We'll also be doing some surface-treated roads. Some in the McCoy area, Keisters Branch area, Sterling Drive, Whittaker Hollow. We're doing Sydney Church, that was a rural rustic road, unpaved road project that we did and every once in a while they need to be gone over again. Doing some on Brush Creek and Craigs Creek Road as well, also on Mount Pleasant and on Brookfield.”

Some of these projects will occur this summer and will also include work from the Floyd County line back into Montgomery County on Route 612 in the Pilot area, Clarke said. Little River Dam Road is also in need of work and is slated to be improved. Taylor Hollow Road in the Lusters Gate area is planned as a summer project.

Supervisor Sara Bohn thanked Clarke and VDOT for Mill Point Road. Additional pothole repairs were requested in the Town of Blacksburg, Horseshoe Road, Nellies

See VDOT, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Mar. 16:

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Help Save a life by donating blood at the Waldron Wellness Center-Carilion Community Room at the Meadowbrook Library; 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Schedule your appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. Brunch will be provided for donors and they may select a used book to take home. Books compliments of Friends of the Library-Meadowbrook Chapter. Blood drive sponsored by Craighill Masonic Lodge and Meadowbrook Library.

Monday, Mar. 18:

Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society meeting

The Board of Directors of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society will meet by conference call at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to participate in the call from the Marion Office of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society located at 227 West Cherry St., Marion, VA 24354. For further information, contact: Joseph R. Carico, Executive Director (276) 783-8300.

Wednesday, Mar. 20:

Hahn Horticulture

Garden talk

Tim Shively - Tree of Heaven: Picking up from Scott Salom's talk from last month, Tim will talk about his research and sustainable IPM tools and strategies for use on tree of heaven. 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 American Pie Restaurant, 1041 Floyd Highway North. 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 Floyd and Montgomery 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.

Monday, Mar. 25:

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. 26:

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.

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/>.

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, April 11th at 3 PM
Income Producing Homes for Sale Near Radford University
Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com

 <p>OFFERING #1</p>	 <p>OFFERING #2</p>
 <p>OFFERING #3</p>	 <p>OFFERING #4</p>
 <p>OFFERING #5</p>	

Offering #1 - 1201 Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141
 Offering #2 - 1205 Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141
 Offering #3 - 1207 Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141
 Offering #4 - 1211 Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141
 Offering #5: 1217 Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141

Looking to expand your real estate portfolio with high-income properties? We have an unmissable opportunity for you! Presenting 5 homes that are currently used for student housing which are in the vibrant city of Radford, VA. They are just a short walk away from Radford University. These properties are perfectly situated for consistent rental demand and substantial returns on investment. Don't let this chance slip away!

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per offering is required on day of sale. Close on or before May 28th, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on April 11th, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com or Realtor Dari Cupp at 540-250-1839. Auction is in cooperation with Realtor Stephanie Carfagna with Long & Foster; contact Stephanie at 540-230-9357 or email stephanie.carfagna@gmail.com

**102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
VAAuctionPro.com
Lic# 2907004059**



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.



Mark Morris Dance Group instructors lead the group during Dance for PD at Warm Hearth Village.

Warm Hearth Village and Mark Morris Dance Group transform lives through dance

BLACKSBURG – Co-hosted by the Moss Arts Center and Warm Hearth Village (WHV), Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) recently led a session of Dance for PD at the Village Center. This session is the group's internationally-acclaimed, research-backed global program that invites people with Parkinson's and their caregivers to transform their lives through dance. More than 40 peer-reviewed studies have shown the effectiveness and many benefits of dance for people with Parkinson's Disease and Dance for PD held classes online, in New York City and around the world. Jon Catherwood-Ginn, associate director of programming at the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech partnered with WHV Fitness Director, Kenny Harrah to coordinate the event with Harrah's Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) program students. In 2018, Harrah brought RSB, which

is specifically designed to improve physical skills for those battling Parkinson's Disease, to the Village. He and his fitness assistants, Marcus Burks and Jessica Robinson, are certified RSB Coaches and have been leading approximately 35 participants through drills targeted to relieve the symptoms of Parkinson's and strengthen the body as part of the non-contact boxing-based curriculum. Thirty boxers, family, and caretakers participated in the event led by Courtney Lopes and Ta'na Lyons. Class started with everyone dancing in their seats and progressed to dancing around the room then closed with hands held, individual dance moves, bows and applause. Harry Mott, one of the participants, said the session was a real benefit for the people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. "It was a gray cold day outside, but there was sunshine and warmth on the inside," he added.

Harrah said it was great to invite the dance group to Southwest Virginia and have them work with the RSB clients. "Courtney and Ta'na were fun, knowledgeable and approachable and our participants loved the entire program. A big thanks to the Moss Arts Center and MMDG for making this happen." WHV Fitness is a proud partner of RSB and uses its resources and practical tools to encourage and enhance fighters' experience and overall wellbeing. "It is so rewarding to see this program improve lives," said Harrah. "We also offer support groups for anyone with Parkinson's Disease and for their caregivers." Contact Kenny Harrah at 443-3474 to join the program or the support group or visit retire.org to learn more about what's available at the fitness center at Warm Hearth Village.

Warm Hearth Village

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Clothesline Project Display coming soon in Blacksburg

Public has the chance to create shirts for the display

The Clothesline Project, an effort to raise awareness of gender-based and sexual violence, is a visual testimony to the shattering effect of violence and the impact it has on society. Survivors of violence -- and friends and families of victims -- create shirts emblazoned with direct messages and strong illustrations. The shirts demonstrate the pain and suffering of the survivors, aid in their healing process, and celebrate their strength and courage to overcome the past.

The shirts are hung side by side on a clothesline, as though the survivors were standing there themselves, shoulder to shoulder, bearing witness to the violence committed on a daily basis. The shirts are color coded: white for those who have died from violence; yellow or beige for survivors who have been battered or assaulted; red, pink, or orange for those raped or sexually assaulted; blue or green for survivors of incest or child sexual abuse;

purple or lavender for those attacked because of their sexual orientation; and black for survivors disabled by violence. The Clothesline Project educates the public about the scope of gender-based and sexual violence and the impact it has on individuals, their families and friends, and the community. The project encourages survivors to come forward to break the silence by creating shirts to share their stories.

To create your own shirt in a quiet, comfortable environment, please drop by the Women's Center at Virginia Tech (206 Washington Street, Blacksburg) anytime daily from March 25 to March 29 during the hours from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All materials are supplied free of charge. This local Clothesline Project was initiated in 1994 by the Montgomery County chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Over 670 shirts made by New River Valley

residents are currently on the line. Local sponsors include Montgomery County NOW, the Women's Center at Virginia Tech, and the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley. Sponsors encourage community members to view the display on the sidewalk at 204 Draper Road in Blacksburg from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 27.

Montgomery County chapter of the National Organization for Women



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

NRCC economic impact exceeds \$100 million

New River Community College has an impact of well over \$100 million on the regional economy, a new study has determined. According to the study, the college generated \$121.7 million in economic activity in the New River Valley in FY 2021-22. The economic impact study, conducted by the data analytics firm Lightcast, concluded that NRCC alumni and the businesses they work for saw \$97.2 million in added income, while the college's payroll and operating expenses totaled \$22.9 million. In addition, student spending reached \$1.6 million. "While we were aware of the influence that NRCC has both educationally and economically in the New River Valley, we were pleased to see the college makes an even more significant economic impact than might be apparent at first glance," said Dr. Pat Huber, NRCC president. The study estimates that for every dollar invested in NRCC, students gain \$4.50 in higher future earnings, and taxpayers see a net benefit of \$2.20 in added tax revenue stemming from

students' higher lifetime earnings and increased output by businesses and public sector savings. When compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent, the average NRCC graduate with an associate degree will see an increase in earnings of \$8,100 annually, according to the report. Over the long term, for every dollar invested in NRCC, the citizens of Virginia will receive a cumulative value of \$6.80 in benefits the study estimated. Altogether, the social benefits of NRCC are estimated to have a present value of \$322.1 million. These benefits include \$218.4 million in added student income over a 40-year working career, \$73.5 million in added business income, and \$21.5 million in added income from college activities, as well as \$8.8 million in social savings related to reduced government spending for health, the justice system, and income assistance in Virginia. The full report of the Lightcast study can be found at www.nr.edu/visitors/economicimpactstudy.pdf.

New River Community College

Radford U. announces Highlander Works Grant Program to support work-based learning success

RADFORD - With support from a \$100,000 grant on behalf of the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP), Radford University is launching the Highlander Works Grant Program to support student participation in work-based learning opportunities. The Highlander Works Grant Program will assist students in covering cost-of-living expenses assistance, purchase of professional attire or uniforms, housing costs or other necessary expenses, the Highlander Works Grant Program assures that students can focus on making the most of valuable pre-professional experiences. "Each year, our students forego valuable internship opportunities for various reasons including unpaid or underpaid internships, need for housing stipends, or steep travel costs," said Jeanne Mekolichick, associate provost for research, faculty, success, and strategic initiatives at Radford University. "This grant will create more opportunity for students to participate in these career-enhancing experiences."

When cost-of-living needs are met, students stand to benefit from the positive relationship between internship participation and professional skill development, employability and career retention. "The Highlander Works Grant Program is a 'game changer' for our students to participate in high-impact, work-based internship opportunities which will help them become career and life ready, and even more competitive for the national marketplace of jobs," said Lee Svete, Radford's director of career and talent development. "With this uniquely funded program, our students can dream big and accomplish big things." On Feb. 29, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) announced one-year grants of \$100,000 each for 12 public four-year institutions to help remove barriers to internships and work-based learning opportunities. "We value the commitment made by

SCHEV and V-TOP to support student success in work-based learning opportunities, which will develop quality talent that drives Virginia's economy forward," Radford University President Bret Danilowicz said. "The Highlander Works Grant Program is one more avenue for our students to take full advantage of valuable internship opportunities and develop as the next generation of difference-makers across the commonwealth." Degree-seeking students currently enrolled full-time at Radford University are eligible to apply for the Highlander Works Grant Program. Full program qualifications can be found at the Highlander Works Grant Program website. The Highlander Works Grant Program is managed by the university's Center for Career and Talent Development Office. V-TOP is administered by SCHEV in partnership with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Virginia Business Higher Education Council.

Radford University

Virginia Tech researcher probes the potential for preventing and reversing age-related memory loss

About 40 percent of people over age 65 suffer some form of age-related memory loss, which puts them at higher risk for developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease. However, there are currently no approved methods for preventing memory loss with age. Tim Jarome's work carries significance for understanding and treating not only memory loss from aging but also from degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. Photo by Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech. Tim Jarome, associate professor of neurobiology in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' School of Animal Sciences is hoping to change that, aided by a \$433,000 grant from the National Institute on Aging, which is part of the National Institutes of Health. Jarome and his research partner, Assistant Professor Sydney Trask of Purdue University's Department of Psychological Sciences, aim to manipulate a protein complex called the proteasome in the hippocampus region of the brain to determine its role in memory loss. "We've known for quite some time that proteasome function decreases over a person's lifespan and that it's likely related to memory loss, but it's never been directly shown because no one's been able to manipulate the proteasome," Jarome said. Using a gene-editing tool called CRISPR-Cas9, Jarome and his team have been the first researchers to successfully stimulate the proteasome within the hippocampus. In the next phase of their research, they will manipulate the proteasome to determine whether it can be increased to prevent and restore age-related memory loss. "We hope this project will significantly advance our understanding of how proteasome dysfunction contributes to age-related cognitive decline," Jarome said. "If successful, it has the potential to contribute to the development of novel therapeutic strategies to prevent or reverse memory loss associated with age and age-associated neurodegenerative disorders that impact the hippocampus." Their work carries significance for understanding and treating not only memory loss from natural aging but also degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia, which affect more than 10 percent of Americans over age 65. "We hope this research will yield the first connection between proteasome dysfunction with age and memory loss with age and that we'll be able to show that by controlling the proteasome we can control memory with age," Jarome said. "If we can fix this one mechanism, we might be able to fix a lot of the things that are going wrong as we age that contribute to memory loss with age. It gives us a therapeutic target we can start to develop strategies around to stimulate and, hopefully, improve memory across the lifespan."

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

<p>Auctions</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction March 22, 2024 at 11am at 1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. E54 F28 1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. TERMS: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING! Call 389-9355</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</p> <p>Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on March 25, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>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 Special Use Permit request:</p> <p>A request by Sara Jones for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a dog grooming business as a Home Business. The property is located at the intersection of Shilo Way (State Route 1106) and Mount Tabor Road (State Route 624). The property is further identified as 1723 Mount Tabor Road, Tax Map 028-1 45,46,49 (Parcel ID: 007792), 2.292 acres,</p>	<p>Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?</p> <p>To place your ad, call 389-9355</p>
---	---	---	--	--

VDOT

from page 1

Cave Road, and Harding Avenue were some mentioned.

A right turn lane for Peppers Ferry Road is in the design phase, Clarke said.

Supervisor Todd King brought up an ongoing request for drainage repair on Poff School Road in the Riner district of the County. Clarke said that some work has been done in that area with putting

down gravel and placement of piping.

Supervisor Anthony Grafsky asked for information on traffic impact in the Merrimac Road area. Clarke said that he wasn't sure what the requirements are specifically at this time, but it would not be on Merrimac Road.

"They are required to put in a commercial entrance, and

we've been working with the developer on whatever that would end up being," Clarke said.

Supervisor April DeMotts said, "You may have already heard because I brought it to our team's attention, because it's rare for me to get any complaints. Off of Route 11 on Walton, the entrance to the New River Recycling site, the

way that that was portrayed to me was that it was creating quite a hazard, that the roadway is always wet there because something, water is coming from somewhere constantly across the roadway there. Now that we're kind of at the other side of winter, it's not as big of an issue, but it was freezing constantly."

DeMotts said that these

complaints came from two different citizens within days of each other. Clarke said that the cracked pavement at the recycling site was under discussion, and they were aware of and had plans to assess the issues to see where the water is coming from.

Supervisor DeMotts also

See Updates, page 6

Airport

from page 1

project was completed, taking the runway to 5,500 feet; a 1,000-foot extension. The project was 98% supported by federal and state grant funding as well.

"So, the addition of that additional 1,000 feet allowed the aircraft, which, many of which were already visiting our airport anyhow to be able to take on more fuel with us," Holt said. "Our fuel sales went from about 116,000 gallons per year to 220,000 gallons per year, so almost doubled our fuel sales."

Holt also pointed out that the Virginia Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport can support Fortune 500 business flight transportation but also sees a lot of local economic support travel that occurs due to the utilization of the airfield, including the Chicken Salad Chick franchise in Christiansburg.

A 2019 report showed an economic impact of \$10.5 million in economic activity, Holt said, and he is looking forward to seeing increases in the new

report. VTMEA becoming self-funded is a goal in the future and Holt said the airport is seeing progress in reaching that goal.

The first electric airplane also recently landed in February at the VTMEA. The airport has an electric airplane charging station, making this new emerging technology available to pilots.

According to the VTMEA's website at www.vtmea.com, recent sealed bids are being accepted for the Apron Expansion

Construction project, through April 16, 2024, at the office of the Airport Manager, 1601 Research Center Dr., Blacksburg.

"Improvements include demolition and removal, excavation and embankment construction, constructing new airfield pavement, new electrical items, erosion and sediment control, stormwater piping, and other ancillary work associated with the improvements," according to the advertisement for bids.

Moss

from page 1

three towering vocalists: Bobby McFerrin, Ella Fitzgerald, and Doug E. Fresh, the original

human beat box. The program also features pieces composed by Sō

Percussion members Eric Cha-Beach and Jason Treuting and American composer Pauline Oliveros.

Sō Percussion's commitment to the creation and amplification of new work and its extraordinary powers of perception and communication have made it a trusted partner for artists like Shaw and Shodekeh. A New York-based musician, Shaw became the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2013 for "Partita for 8 Voices," written for the Grammy-winning Roomful of Teeth, of which she is a member, while Shodekeh continues to make musical strides as a

highly adept beatboxer, vocal percussionist, and breath artist, pushing the boundaries of the human voice within and outside the context of hip-hop music and culture.

Related events Sō Percussion, Shaw, and Shodekeh share their perspectives on composition and collaborative performance in an informal audience discussion immediately following the performance on Mar. 20.

The artists also will share their talents and expertise with Virginia Tech students during their visit, both at the Creativity and Innovation District living-learning

community and in music, creative writing, and dance courses. Shodekeh will lead a workshop with students in a Roanoke City after-school program.

Educators and students in grades five through 9 from Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, Pembroke, and Salem, predominantly, will attend a free matinee performance by Sō Percussion and Shodekeh.

Tickets for the performance are \$20-\$55 for general audience and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to

5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Venue and parking information

The performance will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall. Convenient parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street and in downtown Blacksburg. Find more parking details online.

Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech

News Messenger

Established 1869

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

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

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.

Hearings

from page 1

Industrial. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan," according to the agenda provided on www.christiansburg.org.

Trevor Kimzey, Director of Engineering with Foresight Design Services was present for concerns and questions from the Council and citizens. There were no comments from the public.

The applicant has submitted the zoning request along with a second part, also heard by council during the public hearing, to request approval for a conditional use permit (CUP) to purchase property and build a 14,000 square foot building. On Feb. 20, 2024, the planning commission voted 5 to 0 to recommend approval of the request. A list of conditions must be met for the property and

business owner.

Mayor Michael Barber pointed out one condition is that only cars currently undergoing or awaiting repairs by the business will be kept on the property. One area of discussion during the meeting is a set limit of vehicles that can be stored in the fenced area at any given time.

"Vehicles for repair and vehicles from a wreck total 20," Barber said.

Brian Rice, adjacent property owner to the proposed business move, spoke in support of approval for Hy-Tek Collision, LLC's requests.

"We've known that Mike's been out of room for some time and needing more space and I think it'd be beneficial to the town to approve this so that he could keep his business in town," Rice said. "I

think anybody that's ever hit a deer or had a fender-bender and needed some reputable person to work on a vehicle, it's hard to find and Mike's got a great business and we hope he be able to stay here in town."

The owner of Hy-Tek Collision, LLC, Michael Myers was also present to provide more information during the hearing. Myers projects he will be able to employ 20-25 new people with the opening of the new location. Due to the lengthy build time for the project, Myers requested that council members vote on the two requests during the present meeting.

Barber stated that the council has declined to vote immediately on public hearing requests but put the Myers' request for an immediate motion. There was no response from Council members so the vote will happen in two weeks.

CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	11					12					
13	14						15			16	17
18								19			
20				21	22	23			24		
25			26	27				28	29		
30			31								
		32						33	34		
		35		36	37	38	39	40		41	42
		43							44		
45	46	47			48				49		
50				51					52		
53					54				55		
		56				57			58		
		59							60		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Duck cartoon character
 - Town in Guinea
 - Upright posture
 - Rest on your knees
 - Move upward
 - Disposed to take risks
 - Makes a sweater
 - Grooved surface of a tire
 - Identical in kind
 - Radiotelegraphic signal
 - "Picnic" author William
 - Bashkir Republic capital
 - Male highlanders
 - Doing several things at once
 - Title of respect
 - Old world, new
 - "Sophie's Choice" actress
 - Encloses completely
 - Decaliter
 - Makes angry
 - Commercial free network
 - Latvian capital
 - Tycho __, Danish astronomer
 - Leave slowly and hesitantly
 - Harm to property
 - Dining, pool and coffee
 - Remove all traces of
 - Yemen capital
 - Passover feast and ceremony
 - Trenches
 - Proper fractions
 - Ridgeline
 - Marshland area of E. England
 - Flood Control District
 - Canadian province (abbr.)
 - Project Runway designer judge's initials
 - Along with
 - Orderly and clean
 - A short-barreled pocket pistol
 - Extraterrestrial being
 - Ancient capital of Ethiopia
 - Goof
 - Annoy constantly
 - Haitian monetary unit (abbr.)
 - Arrived extinct
 - Belonging to a thing
 - Tounge click
 - Fireman's signal
 - Connecticut
 - 3rd tone of the scale
 - Language spoken in Russia
 - Split occupancy
 - Diacritics for s's
 - Mobile camper
 - Affirmative (slang)
 - Bachelor of Laws
 - ___ Angeles
 - State police
 - U.S. gold coin worth 10 dollars
 - Bets on
 - Million barrels per day (abbr.)
 - Macaws
 - Julie Andrews and Judi Dench
 - Capital of Morocco
 - Oh, God!
 - ___ Carvey, comedian
 - Point midway between E and SE
 - Principle of Chinese philosophy
 - Trauma center
 - Atomic #62

YOUR LOCAL NEWS
JUST THE WAY
YOU LIKE IT!

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

- DIGITAL ONLY**
One Year Digital Subscription **\$29.00**
- DIGITAL & PRINT**
Yearly Print & Digital Subscription **\$72.00**
- PRINT ONLY**
Yearly Print Only Subscription **\$55.00** Virginia • **\$59.00** Out of State

Subscribe online at montcova.com or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed _____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER,
P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

OBITUARIES

Carden, Monica Wynn

Monica Wynn Carden, 64, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Mar. 11, 2024.

She was an employee at New River Community College with almost 44 years of service. She was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Lydia Carden; sister, Linda Carden; brother-in-law, Ricky Quesenberry; and parents-in-law, James Sr., and Norma Quesenberry.

Survivors include her husband, David Quesenberry; baby dog, Molly; sisters, Lynn Carden and Cathy Higgins; brother and sister-in-law, Clint Carden (Carol); brothers-in-law, James, Jr. and Danny Quesenberry; and many other relatives and friends.



The family will receive friends 5 - 7 p.m. Monday, Mar. 18, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2024, at the funeral home with Pastor Doug Testerman officiating. Interment will follow in Thornsprng Cemetery in Pulaski County.

Flowers will be appreciated or donations may be made to your local SPCA.

The Carden and Quesenberry families are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Marunich, Sr., George Milton

George Milton Marunich, Michael (Jessica), Haven (Alex), Sr., 73, passed away Sunday, Mar. 10, 2024, at his home in Dublin. He retired from Pulaski County High School where he was a teacher for many years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sanfert and Edna Marunich; his wife, Violet Catherine Marunich; and brothers, Sanfert, Jr., Louie Marunich, and Eric Marunich.



Survivors include son and daughter-in-law, George Jr. and Jennifer Marunich of Radford; daughter and son-in-law, Deanna Marunich and Michael Raines of Dublin; grandchildren,

Jeffrey (Katherine), Kimmie, Lakita, Maurice, Milena, Emily, Asia, Cordell, Colton and Charlie; great grandchildren, Kayden, Oliver, Clara, Amilio, Luis, Avery, Molly, Elijah, and Lilith; sister, Shelby Lucas; brother, Vada Marunich (Jocelyn); sister-in-law, Regina Marunich; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be held at a later date.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Read Joshua 14:1 through 17:18

Sometimes, in the pursuit of God's will, we "spiritualize" our natural desire for comfort. We make "faith statements," claiming that if God is leading us, every problem should resolve itself. That is not the reality of godly living. Scripture is filled with examples of God's people encountering obstacles while following divine directives.

Division of the Promised Land among the Israelites came with the responsibility of engaging enemy nations. Israel's record in fulfilling that responsibility is spotty. As just one example, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasse claimed their inheritance was too small.

"If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites" (Joshua 17:15).

Joshua reminded the descendants of Joseph that much of their inheritance in the Promised Land remained to be conquered. They needed to step up to that challenge.

Prayer Suggestion: As God shows you what He wants you to do, pray in faith that He will help you overcome the obstacles.

Quicklook: Joshua 17:14-17

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

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

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

LUTHERAN

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

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

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

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

MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

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

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

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

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Rev. Mike 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. All are welcome. Website: www.stpaulvaumc.org

WESLEYAN

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

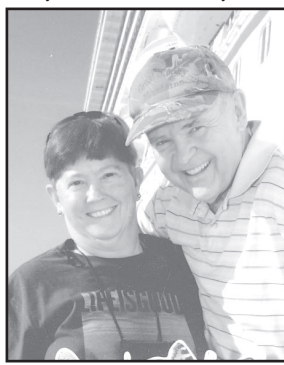
Obituaries from page 5

Quesenberry, Debra Altizer

Debra Altizer Quesenberry, 70, of Fairlawn, passed away Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2024.

She was a legal secretary with Turk and Turk Law Offices and a member of New River Fellowship. Debra was preceded in death by her mother, Arlene D. Altizer; and brother, David Carlton Altizer.

Survivors include her husband of 40 years, Jerry Quesenberry; father, Teddy C. Altizer; brother and sister-in-law, Darryl W. and Lisa Altizer; nieces and nephews, Amanda Talbert (Josh), and Carlton Bruce Altizer (Nicole); great nieces, Harper and Kylee Talbert, and Addisyn and



Emersyn Altizer; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 12 - 2 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Jordan Secrist officiating. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

Flowers are appreciated or donations may be made to New River Fellowship, 2455 Peppers Ferry Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

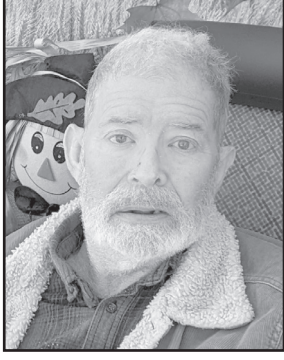
The Quesenberry family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Smith, III, Robert Ramsey

Robert "Bobby" Ramsey Smith, III, 65, of Radford, passed away Sunday, Mar. 10, 2024.

He was a chef and served in the U. S. Navy and Navy Reserves. He was a 1976 Radford High School graduate and also graduated from Old Dominion University. Bobby was preceded in death by his father, Robert Ramsey Smith, Jr.

Survivors include his twin daughters, Emily Boyd (Sidney) and Jessica Denny (Jon); grandchildren, Caleb, Jake, Charlie,



and Lily; mother, Jean W. Smith; brother, Ed Smith (Becca); and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Mar. 14, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Todd Millsapps officiating. Interment followed in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

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

Terry, David Eugene

David Eugene Terry, 63, went to be with the Lord on Mar. 7, 2024.

David was a proud Marine serving overseas for three years from 1979 - 1981.

He is preceded in death by his infant son David Ryan Terry; father James Terry; sister Angie Lynch; mother and father-in-law Louise and Bill Hamblin; as well as his beloved dog, of 14 years, Tanner.

David is survived by his wife of 38 years, Kay Terry; son Derek and wife Brittany; mother Nina Miller; brother Steve and wife Lynn; grandchildren Brooklyn, Victoria, Liliana, and



Liam; a special niece Marti Hamblin "Loulou" and her son Kamron; sisters-in-law Donna and JD Duncan and Peggy Wickline; special uncles Wilburn Miller, Willis Miller; aunt Nancy Puckett and husband Larry; along with many nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and loved friends.

Services were held Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2024, at the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Brother Jerry Shepherd and Jube Burke officiating. A visitation preceded the service at McCoy Funeral Home.

Bird feeding may give humans something to chirp about

Ashley Dayer hopes to peck away at the notion that bird feeding is simply for the birds.

An associate professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech, Dayer is the lead author of an article published in People and Nature that argues not only for the acknowledgment of the activity's benefit to humans, but that it should play a role in public guidance and policy. "Wildlife agencies and others making decisions on managing bird feeding need to be considering not only what the science is behind what's going on with birds, but also the science behind what's going on with people," Dayer said.

The article also encourages additional research to better understand how human well-being is impacted by regularly feeding birds, and Dayer and a team of researchers both in and outside of Virginia Tech are leading the way. The group is conducting what is perhaps the first large-scale bird feeding research that also incorporates observing humans.

"People are not only reporting what they see at their bird feeders, but also their emotional responses to it," Dayer said. "It's pretty fun because most citizen science projects focus just on the natural or physical science, but we're now able to look at the human piece of it."

Funded recently as part of a more than \$1.5 million National Science Foundation grant led by Dayer and Dana Hawley, professor of biological sciences, the four-year project aims to engage more than 10,000 bird feeders across the United States.

Other collaborators on the article and project include:

Christy Pototsky, a graduate student studying fish and wildlife conservation at Virginia Tech

Richard Hall, associate professor at the University of Georgia

Alia Dietsch, associate professor at Ohio State University

Tina Phillips, David Bonter, Emma Greig, and Wesley Hochachka of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Dayer said interest in the topic began in 2021, when the researchers began to notice state agencies advising people to stop feeding birds in response to various avian disease outbreaks. After looking into it, they found that 23 states had made such recommendations without evidence it would decrease disease spread, with varying levels of pushback, and with no real method of gauging compliance, much less its impact on people.

The new project is an extension of the work Dayer and Hawley began about six years ago with the help of a joint seed grant from the Global Change Center of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute and

the Institute for Society, Culture, and the Environment.

Hawley said the lack of information about humans related to bird feeding was something she'd not previously considered, and she found it a strong motivator for this project.

"In all my years of studying how bird feeding impacts wild birds, I didn't give much thought to how it can also impact the people that spend their time and money feeding and watching birds," Hawley said. "I get calls every year from people who see a sick bird at their feeder and want to know how they can help prevent disease spread. All in all, this made me wonder about how policy decisions that aim to minimize disease spread can inadvertently impact the people who feed the birds."

To help find those answers, the research team will utilize Project FeederWatch's existing network of bird enthusiasts. Operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada, FeederWatch has tasked people with asks participants to observe and report what they see at their feeders from November to April for the past 37 years.

"FeederWatch is such a versatile data set even though, at its core, it is based on simple bird counts," said Emma Greig, co-author and project leader for FeederWatch. "When you overlay information about behavior, disease, habitat, and climate change with those bird counts, we can get amazing insights into ecology and evolution."

During this project, FeederWatch participants also will be asked to observe their own well-being. Dayer said about 8,000 submissions came in in from the first week of this season alone.

Such passion for birds is something Dayer understands very well. She said her mother always made sure they had bird feeders outside their family's home, and when she became an "empty nester," the birds became almost like children.

"She'll go on vacation and cut the vacation short because she needs to go home and feed her birds," Dayer said. "So I've lived with someone who was really into bird feeding and have seen how important it can be to them."

But Dayer believes the positive impact of bird feeding isn't limited to enthusiasts and is important in proving one of the most widely accessible connections to wildlife.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation is in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. The Department of Biological Sciences is in the College of Science.

Krista Timney for Virginia Tech

Updates from page 4

pointed out that further down on Crab Creek, a bridge is deteriorating. Clarke said the bridge is slated to be replaced with a larger bridge.

On Alleghany Springs, just prior to Flick Drive, is

a patching issue according to Supervisor Steve Fijalkowski.

"Speaking of Alleghany Springs, you'll see a big group out there at some point here in the next week or two looking at that Smart Scale project that the

county was successful in getting at the intersection of Route 11 and Alleghany Springs," Clarke said. "We're going to have a bunch of people out there walking around trying to figure out exactly how to, how to get that project to get it

started. It's in design now."

Fijalkowski said that he thought a lot of people had hoped for a traffic light as this is a dangerous spot and difficult to see oncoming traffic.

County Administrator

Angie Hill introduced the new Community Resource Officer Daniel Williams. Williams was able to be hired due to budget monies made available for this position, working with Sheriff Hank Partin and his office.

H20kies from page 1

meets with the needs of the evolving sports of swimming while also providing a place for community youth to have a safe space to practice or utilize the center.

"We are not asking Christiansburg to pay for any of this...we are not asking the town to pay with any of their tax money," Baldwin said.

Balzer and Associates, Inc., a design, and construction development company, has been working with the Aquatic Center in the process of this facility's construction, upon lease approval.

Since 2010, the Center has given over \$60,000 in donations to continued operations for competitive swimming and will

continue to do so.

Town Council Member and Christiansburg Aquatics Center Council Representative Samuel Bishop questioned Baldwin on whether the town will be paid anything for the lease.

"For the last over 12 months we have sent the ground lease back and forth, back and forth, and you know lease or rent was never brought up," Baldwin said. "So, we wanted to come here tonight and highlight, you know, a lot of the things that we are doing already behind the scenes that make this facility as successful as it is."

Baldwin added that 8,600 volunteer hours go into supporting swim meets that include parents contributing their own time and energy for free, asking that council considers this when considering a paid rent or lease agreement.

"I am thrilled that you want to do this for the athletes that you guys train and that all you're asking for is a small parcel of land to build a building on to do this is pretty

amazing to me," Council member Tim Wilson said.

Citizen comment was opened to the public by Mayor Michael Barber following the presentation of the Aquatic Center Director.

"My question is, if you are going to do a lease, then have it be a lease and there will be money involved. If not, call it what it is, you're ceding the town's property for 30 years. Why not sell it? And I would encourage everyone to watch the budget work session, because ya'll look like ya'll are ready to spend money like drunken sailors on shore leave, you know, shifting money from one pot to the other. I see tax increases in our future," Christiansburg resident Chris Waltz said.

"The fact there is we continue to own the land. We're not going to give it away, we're going to own the land and the building..." Mayor Barber said.

The land proposal public hearing will be set for the next council meeting, on March 26.

A unanimous vote by

town council approved "a conditional use permit request by Roger Woody, registered agent, RWW 36 LLC, property owner, and Denise E. LaCour, Managing Director, Denstock LLC, applicant, to amend a previously approved planned housing development ("The Verge Apartments") from 209 multi-family residential dwelling units to 206 multi-family residential dwelling units and to change the proposed layout on approximately 18.82 acres located at the terminus of Farmview Road, N.E. (all of Tax Parcels 436 - ((A)) - 37, 39, 40, and 41; Parcel IDs 032861, 021679, 021680, and 017576 and a portion of Tax Parcels 436 - ((A)) - 35, 36, and 38, Parcel ID 033701, 021677, and 021678) zoned B-3 General Business. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing was held on February 27, 2024," as stated in the Town's

agenda.

A 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, N.E., was also approved with a 6-0 vote by Council members. The Public Hearing was held on February 27, 2024.

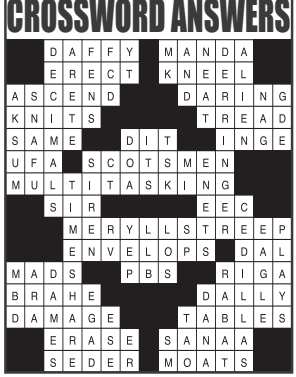
In another 6-0 united vote of approval by town council, a code amendment request by Joe Simmons, applicant, and Jack Martin, registered agent, amended the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-9. According to the town's agenda, the code section in question is for lighting and minimum off-street 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. The public hearing was held on Feb. 27, 2024.

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, N.W. (Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741) zoned B-3 General Business, as stated in the town's agenda, was approved with a 6-0 vote by town council. The public hearing was held on Feb. 27, 2024.

Council member Johana Hicks had one exception to approve the request, in that the agreement from last year's carnival contract would be accepted without any additional changes. The request was approved 6-0 by council.

A Hickok Street closure, from West Main Street to Commerce, request by NRV Cares for Hickok Street, from 1:30 - 7:30 p.m. on April 11, 2024, for the Spring Family Fun Festival was also approved.



MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Hokies kick off spring practice

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Virginia Tech football coach Brent Pry began his first spring press conference Tuesday by congratulating Kenny Brooks and the ladies' basketball for a successful season.

The praise turned to phases as Pry pointed to the next one for his team.

He said following a successful Phase One, which occurred during the winter and focuses on fundamentals, strength and conditioning, mental toughness and competition, the script now flips to Phase Two.

Phase Two, commonly referred to as spring ball, provides the coaching staff the opportunity to install their base schemes and employ more strategic player development.

The third-year head coach is optimistic about what is happening in Blacksburg. This season received a boost with the return of 86 percent of its

productivity from last year. A large number of players decided to return to Blacksburg, something Pry is happy about. He is also happy that 11 members of the coaching staff receiving contract extensions through at least 2026.

"I'm just as excited about the retention of our staff as I was about the retention of our players," Pry reflected during Tuesday's press conference. "Stability, and consistency, especially when you believe in a process is critical."

His attention now turns to work on the field. The program will have 15 practices during the spring to evaluate talent and focus on specific areas of improvement. Spring practice began Friday, March 15.

"Spring ball is Phase Two. Fundamentals, techniques, base installation of schemes, improve on things that we didn't do

well enough," said Pry. "We've identified those through film study, whether it's a technique issue, whether it's a schematic issue, where we need to be better. February, there was a lot of professional growth and development. For instance, the defensive staff from Iowa was in town for a couple of days. You trade ideas, you swap ideas, you grow, you learn. So, implementing some of the things in all three phases that we learned through our professional development."

His defensive coordinator Chris Marve agreed.

"What we're looking for this spring from an objective standpoint, is certainly we want to establish an identity," defensive coordinator Chris Marve stated. "One that plays consistent, that plays together, plays extremely fast and creates mayhem in ways that I know that we can."

Alongside fellow coordinators Tyler Bowen and

Stu Holt, there will be chances to leverage the talent and production returning from last season and discover what newcomers can offer. The Hokies welcomed 15 signees and four transfers during National Signing Day back in December.

Of the new additions, 16 student-athletes arrived as mid-years and participated in Hunger Drills. The newcomers were able to establish their competitive spirit in front of teammates and coaches.

But the key could be continued play of quarterback Kylon Drones.

Offensive Coordinator Tyler Bowen pointed to the fact his QB1 will be getting most of the reps in the spring, thus helping the second-year player with his continued development.

"Yeah, Kylon's going to get the ones reps and continue with the continuity, the development, the operation of what we're doing offensively.

But I'm excited of the way William "Pop" Watson III and Dylan Wittke have competed during Phase One. And those guys will get an even split. Some days guys going with the twos, some days that rotating back with the threes to make sure that they're getting reps with the right guys so we can make a true evaluation," Bowen said.

The Baylor transfer Drones played in all 13 games, starting 11 at quarterback. He set a Virginia Tech bowl record and Military Bowl record with 176 yards rushing in a 41-20 win over Tulane and also passed for 91 yards and two touchdowns and was named Military Bowl MVP.

He finished the season 166 for 285 with 2,085 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also rushed 166 times for 888 yards.

Tech will have 14 practices before the 2024 spring game on Saturday, April 13. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. ET in Lane Stadium.

Blacksburg downs Auburn in baseball



Blacksburg senior Conner Smith scores on an RBI by Major Marshall against Auburn. The Bruins would win their season opener 6-3 over the Eagles.



Auburn's Brody Hensel takes a lead after reaching first base in the Eagles' visit to Blacksburg on Monday afternoon.



Blacksburg starting pitcher Brice Abbott earned the win for the Bruins, with seven strikeouts in four innings against Auburn.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



PHOTO COURTESY OF VA. ELITE WRESTLING

Local youngsters claim state wins

Virginia Elite wrestling from Christiansburg sent 22 youngsters to the recent Virginia Wrestling Association state tournament with 14 making their way to the podium. The team finished 11th overall out of 138 scoring teams. The group brought home the first place banner in the girls' 9U division with Sylvia Brillhart (left), Roselyn Nowlin (middle) and Raelynn Nowlin all bringing home gold in their individual weight classes.

- Staff report

RU, Tech scratching heads over men's basketball



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Both Radford University and Virginia Tech have not had the men's basketball season they had hoped for.

2023-2024 came to a screeching halt for Radford this past week. Tech still has an outside shot at running the gauntlet during this week's ACC tournament, but this season has been rocky.

Tech Coach Mike Young did manage to win the tourney three years ago, but the wins and success has hit a speed bump.

Meanwhile Radford University's Darris Nichols has reached for the gold ring but keeps missing in the Big South Conference.

Nichols just finished his third season. The native son of Radford is the eighth head coach in program history at RU.

Nichols' plan

to return the Highlanders to their winning ways came to fruition in just his second season at the helm, leading the program to a 21-15 overall record, including a 12-6 mark in Big South play, during the 2022-23 campaign. Radford came one point away from playing in the conference championship, but still earned a bid to the College Basketball Invitational.

This included a 11-18 record in his debut season. Before returning to the New River Valley, Nichols spent six seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Florida. While at Florida he helped coach the Gators to a 123-75 record that included four straight 20-win seasons. Nichols and the Gators also tallied four straight NCAA Tournament bids.

The 2016-17 season was one of the best, while Nichols was at UF. Florida earned a

27-9 record and reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament. The Gators finished second in the SEC with a 14-4 record, matching the second-most conference wins in team history. Florida climbed as high as 12th nationally in both the AP and coaches polls and hit No. 3 in RPI and KenPom rankings.

Nichols, a member of Coaches 4 Change, garnered a spot in ESPN.com's 40 Under 40 in the summer of 2020, rated #17 on the national list that included both head coaches and assistant coaches. He was also rated the #2 assistant coach in the SEC in a Stadium poll of coaches around the league.

Young also came to the New River Valley with lots of optimism. He is also a native of Radford.

Initially, he was hired in 2019 and steered the Hokies to their first-ever ACC men's basketball championship by winning four games in four days in Brooklyn,

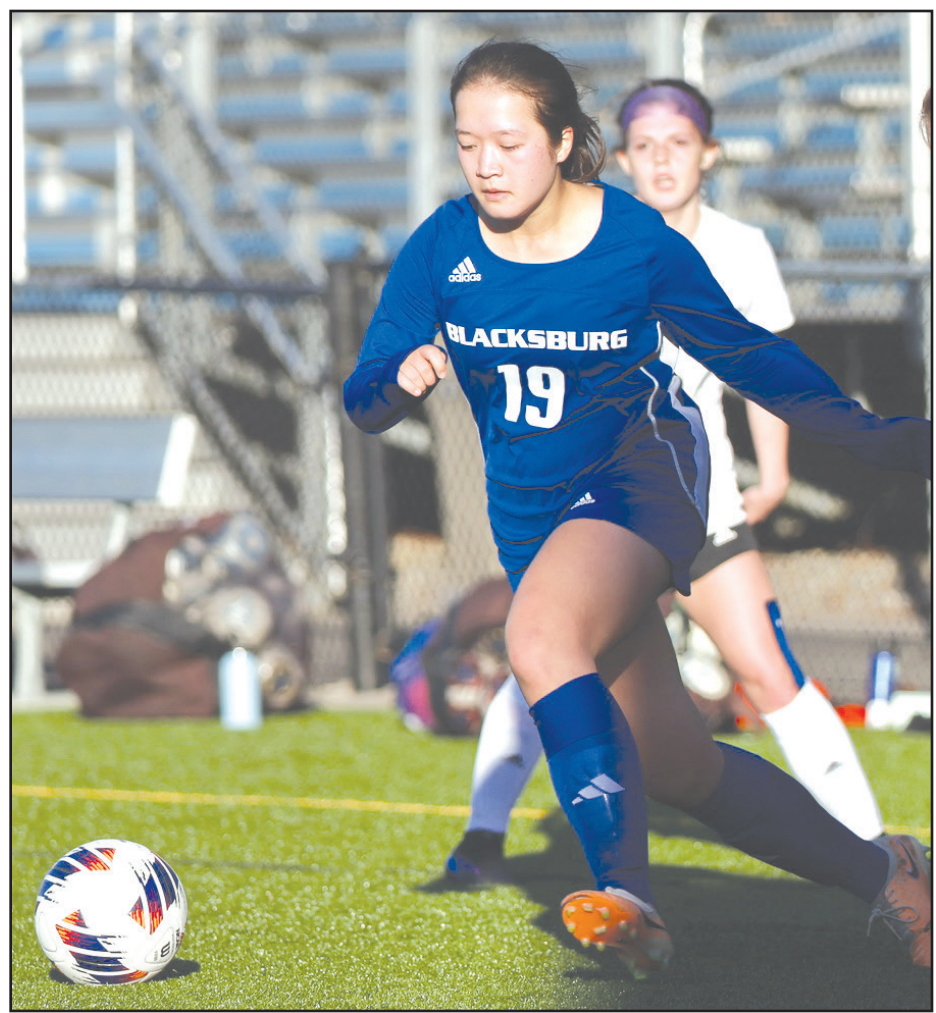
See Sidelines, page 8

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Blacksburg girls down Botetourt



Blacksburg senior keeper makes a save against Lord Botetourt in a season opening 2-0 win for the Bruins on Monday. Erin Bishop scored both goals off assists from Claire Langlinais in the second half. Blacksburg outshot the visitors 21 to 3.



Blacksburg's Isabel Vikesland dribbles in from the corner against Lord Botetourt during the first half.



Lord Botetourt's Katherine Woodward keeps the ball away from Blacksburg's Ginny Crawford with a first half header.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Elayna Weatherspoon takes a shot against Lord Botetourt in Monday's season opening match.

ONLINE AUCTION

Cabin for Sale at Auction in Pulaski VA
Ends Wednesday, March 20th at 3 PM
2937 Haynes Rd., Pulaski, VA 24301

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Looking for your new weekend getaway? Check out this small cabin for sale in Pulaski VA! This 1 bedroom, 1 bath cabin features 783 sq ft of living space on +/- 3.14 acres. The inside has been updated with new appliances, an open living room, and large kitchen and bath. This property is an outdoor enthusiast's dream as it adjoins the Jefferson National Forest! The cabin is located minutes from downtown Pulaski and within a short 10 minute commute of Interstate 81. Make this your dream hunting cabin or weekend getaway!

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$2,500 per tract is required on the day of sale. Close on or before April 19th, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on March 20th, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Bruce Morris at 540-808-9103 or email BruceMorris.Realtor@gmail.com

102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
VAAuctionPro.com
Lic# 2907004059



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

Sidelines

from page 7

New York in March 2022.

His resume includes some very successful times at Wolford.

He has made the NCAA Tournament in seven of the last 13 seasons, including being the fastest Virginia Tech coach to make The Dance.

Under his watch in 2020-21, he led Tech to being 4-0 versus the AP's Top 25, with the four wins being tied for the most ranked wins in a season in school history.

This all includes being very successful in beating some big time programs and their legendary coaches like Mike Krzyzewski, Jay Wright, Tom Izzo, Jim Boeheim, Roy Williams and Tony Bennett.

He joined the Hokies after a record-setting 17-year tenure as the head coach at Wofford. The Terriers posted a 30-5 overall record in 2018-19, including a perfect 18-0 mark in Southern Conference play, and registered a convincing 84-68 win over Seton Hall in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament.

The 2019 Sporting News Coach of the Year, Young built the Terriers into one of the Southern Conference's preeminent programs and a perennial NCAA Tournament participant. He guided Wofford to five NCAA Tournament berths over the past 10 seasons and five Southern Conference championships. In addition to the on-court success of his teams, 100 percent of Young's student-athletes at Wofford who completed their eligibility graduated.

This year, Tech has only managed to stave 18 wins and fell to near the basement of the ACC conference. A late season surge of winning did push them back to the middle of the pack. But that's where they remained.

Already fans are asking if changes need to be made to one or both programs. Both Young and Nichols deserve another year to right the ship.

The future has not been written, and with the idea of the transfer portal, things could change on its own. But with this, both programs are hungry - hungry for winning ways.