

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00



Door Dash, Wendy's partner with Wing drone service

DoorDash and Wing have announced the launch of their drone delivery partnership in the U.S., starting in Christiansburg.

Select local consumers will be able to order eligible menu items from Wendy's® — the pilot's first restaurant partner — through the DoorDash marketplace and have them delivered via drone. This follows the drone delivery pilot program that DoorDash and

Wing launched in Australia in 2022 and has since expanded to three locations in Queensland with over

60 participating merchants, marking the first time that Wing integrated its drone delivery service within another marketplace.

"We are excited to expand our partnership with Wing in the U.S. to integrate drone delivery into DoorDash's ecosystem," said Harrison Shih, Senior Director of DoorDash Labs.

"At DoorDash, we are committed to advancing last-mile logistics by building a multi-modal delivery platform that serves all sides of our marketplace.

We're optimistic about the value drone delivery will bring to our platform as we work to offer more efficient, sustainable, and convenient delivery options for consumers."

Cosimo Leipold, Head of Partnerships, at Wing said this expanding partnership with DoorDash and launching in the U.S. is a direct result of the success Wing has seen from our initial collaboration in Australia,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOOR DASH

DoorDash and Wing have announced a new drone delivery pilot program in the New River Valley. Wing has been operating for the past five years here in the area.

See Drone, page 6



Pilot Community Center Little Library provides donated books and puzzles that do not have to be returned.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PILOT COMMUNITY CENTER

The Pilot Community Center Art Galley is located on the second floor of the building.

Pilot Community Center Little Library seeking volunteers for book and art studio access

Easter Egg Hunt planned for March 30th at the Center from 2-3 pm

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Pilot Community Center continues to expand in their outreach to the Pilot community with the Little Library's free books and puzzles - and tutoring - in addition to other planned events scheduled for the coming year.

The Little Library is also in need of volunteers to open the building and make books available. Those interested in donating some time to the accessibility of the library should send an email to tbyronk@gmail.com.

According to their website (<https://sites.google.com/view/pcclibrary/home>) the Little Library/Tutoring and Puzzles are available by appointment during the winter months and will resume on Mondays with hours from 3-5 p.m. in April.

Free tutoring is offered for anyone including math, ESL, and English tutoring. Instructors can meet online or at the Pilot Community Center or just stop by the Center on Mondays from 3-5 p.m.

"We hope to have a book box available by this summer so

that community members can take or leave books whenever needed," the website at <http://pilotcommunitycenter.weebly.com> reads.

In partnership with the Montgomery County Public Libraries in Christiansburg, the MFRL Bookmobile is parking at the Pilot Post Office to allow access to community members wishing to check out books and other materials.

"The partnership was created by Pamela Hale, and continued since 2014," PCC Librarian/Webmaster Byron Kelly said.

The Bookmobile has a monthly schedule that can be found on their website at <https://sites.google.com/view/pcclibrary/home>; however, the upcoming dates are March 28, April 18, May 9 and May 30, from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Another aspect of the historical Pilot Community Center is the Pilot School Gallery. Their website at <https://sites.google.com/view/pcclibrary/home> features a Virtual Gallery containing community poetry and artwork of New River Valley members but also internationally. A monthly meeting

for Artists is held at the PCC on the first Monday at 3 p.m. Interested individuals can call about the art space if they are interested.

The Pilot Community Center wants to continue to improve and repair the historical building that was once a community school and is currently in talks with the Appalachian Regional Commission to establish grant money. Restoration so far has been accomplished through support and donations from the surrounding community.

"The community has really rallied around the Center and give it a fresh start. It is really amazing, and I hope we can continue on this road, it has been a good one so far. I have been amazed by the Community Center members," Kelly said. "Who knows what would have happened to this historical building without them."

On March 30, from 2-3 p.m., Pilot Community Center will host an Easter Egg Hunt, weather permitting.

The PCC address is 4449 Brush Creek Rd. Pilot VA and a phone number for the Little Library is 540-585-4448. Please send questions or suggestions to tbyronk@gmail.com.

Radford University BOV sets tuition and fees for 2024-25 academic year

RADFORD - At its March quarterly meetings, the Radford University Board of Visitors voted to authorize a 1.5% tuition increase for all undergraduate students, a 3% increase for all graduate students and a mandatory comprehensive fee increase of 3.59% for the 2024-25 academic year.

The tuition and fee increases apply to all Radford University locations and will allow the university to continue delivering a high-quality experience for all students while it addresses rising operating costs.

For full-time undergraduate students, the in-state tuition increase is \$127 and for out-of-state undergraduates the increase is \$313. For full-time

See BOV, page 5

Virginia State Parks invites visitors to witness solar eclipse, sells solar viewing glasses statewide



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

RICHMOND - On April 8, the skies will offer a rare spectacle as a total solar eclipse crosses North America, the last solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States until 2044.

In celebration of this extraordinary event, Virginia State Parks invites visitors to witness this celestial wonder firsthand.

The solar eclipse, a natural phenomenon where the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, casting its shadow on Earth, promises a breathtaking experience for all who witness it. Virginia State Parks, renowned for their pristine natural settings and commitment to environmental education, provide an ideal backdrop for observing this awe-inspiring event.

With 42 state parks across Virginia, visitors will have ample opportunities to find the perfect spot to witness the eclipse. To enhance the viewing experience, Virginia State Parks will host educational programs led by knowledgeable park rangers.

Some parks are offering eclipse events as early as March 23, giving visitors the chance to learn how to be a safe observer, explore the science behind the eclipse and in some cases, make pinhole viewers. To learn more about the solar eclipse events being offered through April 8, go to dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/solar-eclipse.

What visitors will see during the solar eclipse depends on the weather and the park's location. Many parks, especially those in Southwest Virginia, are expected to experience more than 85 percent sun obscuration, with Wilderness Road experiencing 90 percent. For a breakdown by park of eclipse start, peak and end times and the percent of obscuration, go to dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/solar-eclipse. At Claytor Lake State Park: Eclipse begins: 1:55 p.m. Peak: 3:12 p.m. (86.5% obscuration) End: 4:27 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead and arrive early, as parking and viewing areas may fill up quickly. To ensure guests can view the eclipse safely, parks will have a limited number of solar viewing glasses available for purchase. They cost \$1 plus tax and will be located in parks' visitor centers and gift shops.

For more information about viewing locations and educational programs, go to dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/solar-eclipse.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Blue Ridge Vocal Connection welcomes regional singers to "make beautiful music that people want to hear"

Established in June of 2021, the vocal group continues to expand their horizons with new and challenging music and performances.



IMAGE COURTESY OF BLUE RIDGE VOCAL CONNECTION

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Blue Ridge Vocal Connection (BRVC) came together just after Covid-19, in the summer of 2021, when they started practicing outdoors at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.

Their numbers have grown since then and now average approximately 35 people in the choral group.

A variety of genres are part of their repertoire, challenging performers and exciting audiences. Their first

season of performances were songs from movie hits. They held a more recent performance in Blacksburg doing "a little bit country and a little bit rock-n-roll." Some of their selections are original pieces and others are pieces from Broadway productions. Director Thomas DeBusk also arranges some of their pieces.

"The music we do is challenging," Mark Freeman, group member and assistant to Director DeBusk, said. "We work to make beautiful music

and make music that people want to hear."

"We are trying to brand our group as a regional chorus...we are not just immediately local," Freeman said. "Thomas has high expectations and standards, and the members of the group are willing to meet with those objectives, but also entertaining and enjoyable for the audience."

They perform at multiple events

See Singers, page 5

OBITUARIES

Woolwine, Luther Gilbert

Luther Gilbert Woolwine, 78, of Christiansburg, went to his eternal home on March 20, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Christiansburg, Va., on April 1, 1945, to the late Rev. Charlie Noah Woolwine and Kathleen Vest Woolwine. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Donald Ray Woolwine, David Michael Woolwine, and Joseph Leroy Woolwine; sister-in-law, Patricia Wells Woolwine; and brother-in-law, Paul Edward Hollandsworth.

Luther was employed by the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (Arsenal) for 38 years. Luther worked tirelessly for his fellow employees to improve working conditions. Those who worked with him showed their respect by allowing Luther to represent them. He served as a union steward on the shop floor in the late 1960's and early 70's. In the mid 70's Luther decided to take on additional leadership



responsibilities. For 12 consecutive two-year terms, Luther was elected by his fellow workers as a Committeeman (six terms), Vice President (three terms), and eventually served three terms as their president. Luther retired from the Arsenal in 2004 but was still active in helping fellow retirees and former Arsenal workers with the benefits to which they worked and was entitled until the onset of his illness.

Luther is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Blondene Hollandsworth Woolwine. Luther is also survived by his daughter, Marie Rorrer (Mike); son Eddie Woolwine (Suzanne);

grandchildren, Ashley Apjok (Scott), Kelsey Woolwine, McKinley Rorrer, Ryan Woolwine (Nicole); great-grandchildren, Maggie and Lucas Apjok; sisters-in-law, Shirley Woolwine, Bonnie Woolwine, Maxine Woolwine, Bonnie Smith (Lewis), Sandra Altizer (Fred), and Linda Hollandsworth; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Mar. 25, 2024 at the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Pastor Shake Smith and Rev. Sebert Rorrer officiating. Interment will follow in Sunset Cemetery. The family received friends at McCoy Funeral Home, on Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024.

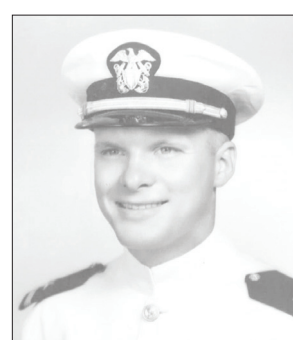
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society. The family would like to thank Dr. Mock and the BRCC Staff, Dawn Fouse, and Good Samaritan Hospice for their care and compassion.

Graybeal, The Honorable John Patrick

The Honorable John Patrick "Pat" Graybeal, 91, a Navy veteran, former judge, and author, passed away Saturday, Mar. 16, 2024.

Born on Mar. 17, 1932 in Emory, Va., he was the son of the late Henry Clay Graybeal and June McConnell Graybeal. On July 18, 1953 in Akron, Ohio, Pat married Jill Lobach. They had two daughters, Sally and Nancy. Sally preceded him in death in 2007.

Pat is survived by his wife of 70 years, Jill; his daughter, Nancy Graybeal and husband William McNeil; son-



in-law: Christopher K. Minnigh (Julia); and other extended family and friends. They will remember him for his quiet dignity, faith, humility and kindness. He was a true gentleman

and respected every person he met. He was a world traveler, a great reader, and a remarkable person - he never met a stranger.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 10 a.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Christiansburg with refreshments following in the fellowship hall. The family has posted a lovely tribute of Pat's life on the website of Brown-Wynne Funeral Home in Cary NC, please visit: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/cary-nc/john-graybeal-11714845>.

Sheppard, Jerry Noel

Jerry Noel Sheppard, 69, of Blacksburg, stepped peacefully into heaven on Mar. 19, 2024.

He was born Dec. 25, 1954. He is preceded in death by his father, Jim Sheppard; brother, James Sheppard; a nephew, Andrew Duncan and his wife, Jeannette.

He is survived by

his mother, Shirley Caldwell Sheppard; sister, Janet Duncan and husband Curtis; brother, Joseph Sheppard and his wife Anne; nephews, James Duncan, his wife Tiffany, and their children, Nathan Benjamin, Lilly, and Hannah; and Justin Sheppard, his wife Tiffany, and their children Starr and Allison; niece, Clarissa Elliott and her husband Raymond.

As a very young man Jerry began working the farm at Whitethorn making sure the cows were milked twice a day and the farm was running smoothly. In his later years, he became a heavy equipment operator and spent 18 years serving in that position at the Virginia Tech Rock Quarry. He retired from there in 2017.

After he retired, Jerry spent many happy years farming cattle with his brother Joe, nephew Justin,

and cousin Frank. He loved the outdoors and spent lots of time with his dog Sam, cutting wood to make sure his house was super warm during the cold months. He liked to spoil his dog Sam a bit with peanut butter crackers and maybe a Slim Jim every now and then. He was kind to everyone and loved to make others laugh. Every weekday morning, he spent time making sure his great-niece, Allison, got on the school bus and had her favorite ice cream waiting on her in the afternoon when she returned from school.

He will be greatly missed by his friends, family, many nephews, nieces, great nephews, and great nieces.

Graveside services were conducted Friday, Mar. 22, 2024, in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Long Shop-McCoy Fire Department.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE County of Montgomery, Virginia Synopsis of Advertised Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

This budget synopsis is prepared and published pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of Code of Virginia, for information and fiscal planning purposes only.

A hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors on April 4, 2024 at 6:45 P.M. at the County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia at which time any citizen of the County shall have the opportunity to attend and state his or her views on the advertised budget.

A copy of the Advertised Budget is available for inspection at the County Government Center, in the County Administrator's Office, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg; the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St., Blacksburg; the Christiansburg Library, 125 Shelton St., Christiansburg; the Meadowbrook Library, 267 Alleghany Springs Road, Shawsville; the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg; the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 1600 N. Franklin St., Christiansburg; the Blacksburg Municipal Building, in the Town Manager's Office, 300 S. Main St., Blacksburg; and the Christiansburg Town Hall, in the Town Manager's Office, 100 E. Main St., Christiansburg.

| EXPENDITURES: | FY 2024 | | FY 2025 | | Increase (Decrease) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| | Budget | | Advertised Budget | | |
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT: | | | | | |
| Board of Supervisors | \$ 283,793 | \$ | 282,248 | \$ | (1,545) |
| County Administration | \$ 4,934,863 | \$ | 2,708,371 | \$ | (2,226,492) |
| County Attorney | \$ 462,310 | \$ | 449,995 | \$ | (12,315) |
| Finance | \$ 1,249,087 | \$ | 1,394,049 | \$ | 144,962 |
| Insurance | \$ 237,256 | \$ | 250,156 | \$ | 12,900 |
| Information Technology | \$ 2,463,808 | \$ | 2,653,847 | \$ | 190,039 |
| Commissioner of the Revenue-State | \$ 788,181 | \$ | 935,258 | \$ | 147,077 |
| Assessment-100% County | \$ 469,732 | \$ | 457,334 | \$ | (12,398) |
| Treasurer-State | \$ 539,502 | \$ | 802,658 | \$ | 263,156 |
| Collections-100% County | \$ 532,966 | \$ | 301,544 | \$ | (231,422) |
| Electoral Board/Director of Elections | \$ 616,381 | \$ | 779,524 | \$ | 163,143 |
| Commonwealth Attorney | \$ 1,766,388 | \$ | 1,910,409 | \$ | 144,021 |
| Courts | \$ 297,118 | \$ | 319,223 | \$ | 22,105 |
| Clerk of the Circuit Court | \$ 896,332 | \$ | 956,166 | \$ | 59,834 |
| Sheriff-State | \$ 9,507,276 | \$ | 9,596,696 | \$ | 89,420 |
| Sheriff-100% County | \$ 8,576,049 | \$ | 9,244,608 | \$ | 668,559 |
| Fire Departments and Rescue Squads | \$ 1,465,993 | \$ | 1,450,196 | \$ | (15,797) |
| Fire and EMS | \$ - | \$ | 2,646,198 | \$ | 2,646,198 |
| Animal Care and Adoption Center | \$ 853,330 | \$ | 931,550 | \$ | 78,220 |
| General Services | \$ 8,255,609 | \$ | 8,786,969 | \$ | 531,360 |
| Children's Services Act | \$ 1,651,969 | \$ | 1,651,969 | \$ | - |
| Human Services | \$ 495,287 | \$ | 581,914 | \$ | 86,627 |
| Public Health Department | \$ 629,014 | \$ | 631,661 | \$ | 2,647 |
| Social Services | \$ 7,461,588 | \$ | 7,293,243 | \$ | (168,345) |
| Parks & Recreation | \$ 1,649,015 | \$ | 1,679,419 | \$ | 30,404 |
| Regional Library | \$ 2,590,167 | \$ | 2,548,896 | \$ | (41,271) |
| Planning & GIS | \$ 934,450 | \$ | 1,180,545 | \$ | 246,095 |
| Economic Development | \$ 586,838 | \$ | 652,892 | \$ | 66,054 |
| Other Agencies | \$ 3,080,357 | \$ | 3,201,537 | \$ | 121,180 |
| Contingencies-General | \$ 651,307 | \$ | 700,307 | \$ | 49,000 |
| Contingencies-Special | \$ 144,395 | \$ | 2,542,845 | \$ | 2,398,450 |
| Revenue Refunds | \$ 227,000 | \$ | 227,000 | \$ | - |
| Subtotal: | \$ 64,297,361 | \$ | 69,749,227 | \$ | 5,451,866 |
| Law Library | \$ 17,600 | \$ | 17,600 | \$ | - |
| SCHOOLS: | | | | | |
| School Operating | \$ 134,532,013 | \$ | 146,201,979 | \$ | 11,669,966 |
| School Capital | \$ 2,350,864 | \$ | 2,987,730 | \$ | 636,866 |
| School Nutrition | \$ 5,205,010 | \$ | 5,677,122 | \$ | 472,112 |
| Subtotal: | \$ 142,087,887 | \$ | 154,866,831 | \$ | 12,778,944 |
| County Capital | \$ 3,735,864 | \$ | 4,372,730 | \$ | 636,866 |
| Debt Service | \$ 25,838,885 | \$ | 25,220,773 | \$ | (618,112) |
| Economic Development | \$ 380,000 | \$ | 380,000 | \$ | - |
| COUNTY TOTAL | \$ 236,357,597 | \$ | 254,607,161 | \$ | 18,249,564 |

| RESOURCES: | FY 2024 | | FY 2025 | | Increase (Decrease) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| | Budget | | Advertised Budget | | |
| REVENUE: | | | | | |
| General Undesignated Revenue: | | | | | |
| Current Property Taxes (1) | \$ 109,866,563 | \$ | 119,323,694 | \$ | 9,457,131 |
| Delinquent/Other Property Tax Revenue | \$ 4,096,000 | \$ | 4,496,000 | \$ | 400,000 |
| Sales and Use Tax | \$ 12,947,491 | \$ | 13,588,174 | \$ | 640,683 |
| Undesignated Consumer Utility Tax | \$ 1,540,000 | \$ | 1,514,000 | \$ | (26,000) |
| Motor Vehicle Licenses | \$ 855,000 | \$ | 855,000 | \$ | - |
| All Other Local Taxes | \$ 1,525,000 | \$ | 1,602,000 | \$ | 77,000 |
| Interest on Investments | \$ 2,778,499 | \$ | 4,039,890 | \$ | 1,261,391 |
| All Other Undesignated Revenue | \$ 717,124 | \$ | 822,024 | \$ | 104,900 |
| Total Undesignated Revenue | \$ 134,325,677 | \$ | 146,240,782 | \$ | 11,915,105 |
| General Designated Revenue | \$ 17,568,563 | \$ | 18,249,454 | \$ | 680,891 |
| Law Library Designated Revenue | \$ 15,000 | \$ | 15,000 | \$ | - |
| School Operating Designated Revenue | \$ 76,510,687 | \$ | 82,310,255 | \$ | 5,799,568 |
| Other School Designated Resources | \$ 5,205,010 | \$ | 5,677,122 | \$ | 472,112 |
| Debt Service Designated | \$ 1,613,900 | \$ | 1,613,900 | \$ | - |
| Total Designated Revenue | \$ 100,913,160 | \$ | 107,865,731 | \$ | 6,952,571 |
| Law Library Fund Balance | \$ 2,600 | \$ | 2,600 | \$ | - |
| Debt Service Fund Balance | \$ 1,116,160 | \$ | 498,048 | \$ | (618,112) |
| Total Fund Balance | \$ 1,118,760 | \$ | 500,648 | \$ | (618,112) |
| TOTAL RESOURCES | \$ 236,357,597 | \$ | 254,607,161 | \$ | 18,249,564 |

(1) Real Estate Tax Rate based on \$0.75 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation.
Personal Property Tax Rate Based on \$2.55 per \$100 Assessed Valuation.

By Order of the Board of Supervisors:
Angela M. Hill, County Administrator
County of Montgomery, Virginia

★ ★ ★ PREMIER LAND ★ ★ ★

AUCTION

Fri, Apr.19 at 12:30PM at the
Hampton Inn, 380 Arbor Dr, Christiansburg, VA

Mature Timber, Prime Hunting, Residential

285 Acres

Copperhead Rd, Shawsville, VA (Montgomery Co)
Convenient to Roanoke, Christiansburg, and Blacksburg, this scenic acreage offers big timber, hilltop views, lush valley fields, buffered privacy, and bountiful hunting.

- 285 acres offered in 2 tracts and as a whole
- Easy access from US-460 / US-11 and I-81
- Majority in mature hardwoods - timber cruise available
- Very accessible. Excellent road through the valley from the gated entrance to the end of property with atv trails throughout
- Beautifully wooded peaks offering distant views and a unique buffer from the outside world for a serene seclusion within
- Prime hunting with long shooting lanes. Ideal for hunt clubs.
- Timber Est. of 1,644 Int.(mbf) / 1,123 Doyle (mbf) / 8,352 tons with estimated value of +/- \$300,000

For details, call Mike at 434-847-7741 or visit trfauctions.com
PREVIEWS: Tue 4/2 4-6pm | Sun 4/7 1-3pm | Sun 4/14 1-3pm
Thu 4/18 3-6pm | Self-guided tours ok anytime

DIR: From Christiansburg, US-11N/US-460E 7mi to L on Friendship Rd (636). 1.1mi to L on Copperhead Rd. 0.3mi on left.

TERMS: 10% deposit. 5% buyer's premium.
Close on or about 30 days. Full terms online.

TRFAUCTIONS
Torrence, Read, & Forehand
VAAF501

Details, photos, & terms online
434.847.7741 | TRFAuctions.com

MHC
Monroe Health Center

JOB VACANCY

Seeking a Full-time Radiologic Technologist for a position at the Craig County Health Center in New Castle, Virginia. This position requires current Rad Tech License. At a minimum 1 year experience, experience with electronic health records, great communication skills, ability to establish a good rapport with patients and staff. Clinic hours are Monday through Friday 8am to 4:30 pm. No Weekends. Benefits include, Retirement Plan, Health Insurance, Disability Insurance, 11 Paid Holidays, Paid Time Off, Radiologic Technologist License renewal reimbursement.

Candidates should send a current resume along with a completed employment application to Monroe Health Center, Attn: Stephanie Aliff, HR Director, P. O. Box 590, Union, WV 24983. We value diversity in backgrounds and experiences. Monroe Health Center is an equal opportunity employer. Learn more about us, visit www.monrohealthcenters.com

OPINION

Governor continues to mull over state budget

We are now a full week into the intermission between the regular and reconvened Virginia General Assembly legislative sessions, and the state of play between Governor Glenn Youngkin and the Democrat-led House and Senate majorities remains tenuous at best.

The Governor has now had a chance to review the budget presented to him by the General Assembly, and, to put it mildly, he is not pleased with the priorities laid out by House and Senate Democrats.

The Governor has the ability to offer amendments or line-item vetoes to the budget recently presented to him. With over \$2 billion in higher taxes, the potential release of thousands of dangerously violent felons from prison, and Virginia's mandatory re-entry into the expensive Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), Governor Youngkin has yet to rule out a veto of the entire budget document. A full budget veto would likely be a last resort that would occur after the reconvened session meets in April to consider a series of amendments designed to remove the previously mentioned parts of the budget the Governor so vehemently opposes.

Governor Youngkin has been taking his message to the public in recent days, conducting a "road show" by meeting with voters, business owners, and other



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

groups that will be impacted by the higher cost of living that the current budget would inflict on hard working Virginia families. You can expect more public events in the coming days and weeks as he seeks to educate Virginians on the budget's harmful aspects.

Meanwhile, the governor has been actively reviewing legislation sent to him by the General Assembly in the 2024 regular session. So far, he has issued more than 20 vetoes to legislation. Vetoes include bills that would create class-action lawsuits in state courts, diversity, equity, and inclusion standards for Major Employment Initiative grants, and more. I am hopeful that the governor will soon veto the many bills passed by General Assembly Democrats that seek to erode our 2nd Amendment rights.

At the end of the day, it's incumbent upon Democrats to work with their Republican colleagues and the governor to pass a budget that works for all Virginians, not just those who share a progressive ideology or live in the Commonwealth's highest population centers. As mentioned in last week's column, I believe there are core functions of government that must be addressed and fully funded in any compromise budget. This includes – among other items – increased pay for law enforcement, pay raises for our teachers, and additional investment in I-81 and secondary road improvements. I will continue to support these measures of local and statewide significance while fighting to eliminate items that will make electricity, goods and services, and life in general more expensive for Virginians.

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 DelBallard@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.

A virgin no more – my first cruise (aboard Virgin Voyages)

Last week I went on a cruise, the first cruise of my life, a Caribbean cruise of sorts. My only other time out on the open seas was years ago when my daughters were very young and we sailed down the Waccamaw River out of "Port Calabash" in North Carolina.

This time it was the real deal - out of Miami with ports of call for parts of the day in Cozumel and Bimini. We left Miami on Sunday night and returned and disembarked on Friday morning. Five nights and four days, pretty much as short a cruise as you can take from what I could tell, and the recommended length of a "maiden voyage" per my old Christiansburg friend Martha, a veteran cruiser and my travel advisor.

I had heard various things about cruises, from how wonderful they were to how "I took two at the same time, my first and my last." Several of my Wednesday



Evans "Buddy" King

Columnist

after work "Brickside guys" had done them, one saying he almost jumped overboard and swam to shore (of course he was sailing in a family group that included his brother-in-law and everyone on the ship probably felt the same way) and one said, "be prepared to gain 20 pounds" (close Tony, not quite enough time or I would

have made it!).

I have to admit that I fall closer to the former opinion than the latter - it was a fun experience, relaxing and entertaining and something I would do again. Almost a full week away from looking at my cell phone every five minutes and basking under gorgeous blue skies on the deck of a ship in 75 degree weather and drinking boat drinks and Mexican beer and having unlimited ice cream and pizza and dining in five-star quality restaurants and listening to live music every time you turned a corner can only be so bad, right? Probably the only negative was that when we flew back into Pittsburgh we arrived to 35 degree temperatures. Spring was supposed to have arrived in our absence.

Again at the advice of my friend Martha, my friend

See Cruise, page 10

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

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

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Strategies to protect your goals from consistent inflation

If you're like most investors, you've noticed the impact of higher inflation in recent years – whether at the gas pump or the grocery store. American investors are experiencing the effects of prolonged inflation for the first time since the early 1980s. As a result, many are concerned about how inflation levels will impact their ability to reach their long-term financial goals. While it may not be possible to avoid the effects of inflation altogether, there are several strategies investors can utilize to mitigate the impact of inflation on their financial plan. Here are three investment considerations that may help address inflation concerns and better prepare your goals for long-term success.

1. Keep your money invested

When the inflation rate soared in 2022, stock and bond markets declined. Some investors responded by pulling money out of the market. This can be counterproductive as investors too often miss much of a market's recovery gain before they put their money back to work. For example, the U.S. stock market (as measured by the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index, an unmanaged index of stocks often used as a benchmark of market performance), declined 25% between January and October 2022. But by the end of 2023, the S&P 500 regained nearly all of the ground lost in the bear market. It is normal for markets to go through ups and downs. Investors that stay



Josh Smith, CRPC

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

the course and keep their money invested commonly see their investments make up gains that were lost in a sudden downturn. While it may be tempting to remove yourself from the market during volatile periods, it could be helpful to stay invested at a level that reflects your risk tolerance.

2. If time is on your side, take advantage of stocks

Over time, stocks have historically outpaced inflation, an important consideration as you try to build wealth to achieve your ultimate financial goals with more confidence. This doesn't mean that year-in, year-out, stocks will keep you ahead of inflation. 2022 is a good example of a year when stocks declined as inflation rose. But if you have time to let your money work for you, stocks have historically outpaced the rise in living costs. According to data collected since 1871, stocks have grown faster than inflation for holding periods of 20 years or more. Investors who can ride the highs and lows of markets are often better suited to keep up, if not pass, the rate of inflation.

3. For short-term money, seek higher yields

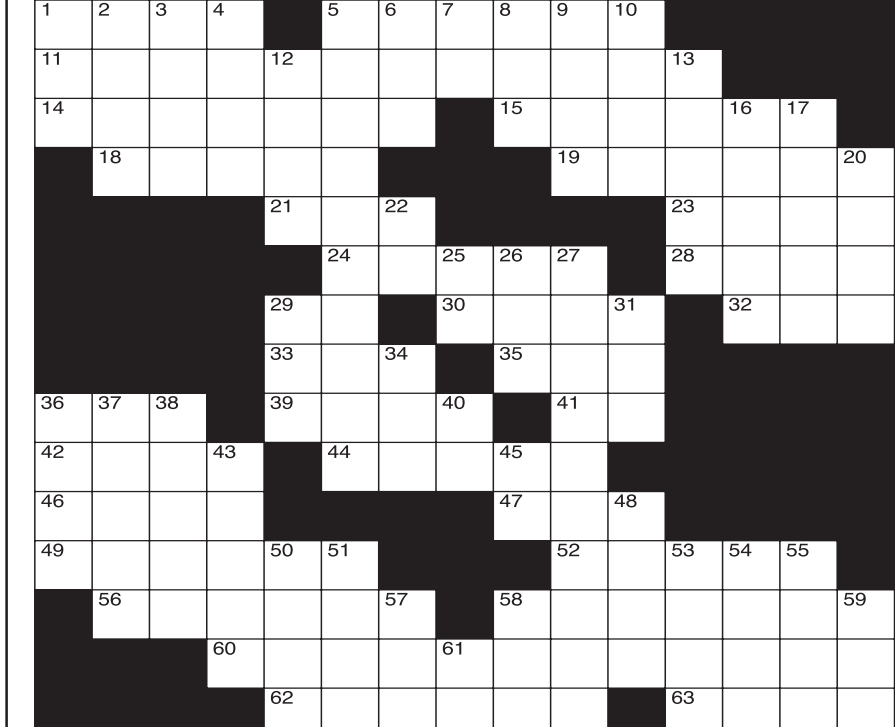
You may have money set aside for short-term needs, such as your emergency fund or to cover upcoming expenses. In these times of elevated inflation, you'll want to find ways to earn more competitive yields on your short-term savings. Search out options such as money market funds, CDs, short-term U.S. Treasury securities and other savings vehicles that offer yields that may keep pace with inflation. Utilizing these tools may allow you to stay more liquid with your investments while hedging against the impacts of inflation.

Whether an economic cycle brings conventional or elevated inflation it should be considered as a factor of your long-term financial plan. A financial advisor can help develop a comprehensive strategy that addresses the inflation environment today and over the long term.

- 1 S&P Dow Jones Indices.
- 2 NBER, Bloomberg, American Enterprise Investment Services, Inc.

Josh Smith, CRPC® is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Radford, VA. To contact him, visit https://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/joshua.l.smith/, call 540-639-5153 or visit 202 Third Ave. in Radford, VA. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for three years.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Millisecond
 5. Narcotic drug
 11. Accident
 14. Formal submissions
 15. Popular 70s rock band
 18. Discourage from doing
 19. More socially elite
 21. Arid
 23. A way to look
 24. Heroes
 28. A surfer rides it
 29. Potato state
 30. Insect repellent
 32. Cool!
 33. Have already done
 35. Collegiate women's fraternity
 36. To the ___ degree
 39. Gasteyer and de
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Woman (French)
 2. Province of Pakistan
 3. This (Spanish)
 4. Transportation device
 5. Greater in importance or priority
 6. The human foot
 7. Within 8. Consumed
 9. Respectful Malaysian term
 10. Therefore
 12. Ceased to exist
 13. Type of macaroni
 16. English composer
 17. Wooded tract
 20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
 22. 36 inches
 25. Take too much (abbr.)
 26. Allow
 27. Individually
 29. Journalist Tarbell
 31. Bar bill
 34. Hong Kong food
 - stall: ___ pai dong
 36. Not messy
 37. Species that includes reedmae
 38. Former MLB catcher Ed
 40. Northern U.S. state
 43. Wilt
 45. Commercial
 48. Bolivian river
 50. Nursemaid
 51. A car needs four
 53. Guns (slang)
 54. American slang
 55. Clusters of fern fronds
 57. Body part
 58. A person's brother or sister
 59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
 61. Of I



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Family Fun Festival to be held at NRCC April 6

A "Family Fun Festival" will be held at New River Community College in Dublin Saturday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Family Fun Festival will include a variety of activities for adults and children. Children's activities will include face painting, a bouncy house, a mechanical bull, a scavenger hunt, early childhood programming, fun science experiments, raffles, and children's book giveaways. Live animal and insect exhibits will provide hands-on learning experiences for kids of all ages. Community resources, health screenings and wellness information will also be available to attendees. Several classroom labs will be open for tours including criminal justice, welding, and instrumentation.

NRCC's Campus Cruise In car show will be going on during the Family Fun Festival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in parking lot E. The Campus Cruise In will feature classic cars from regional car club members. The event is sponsored by the automotive

technology department, is family-friendly, open to the public and free of charge.

NRCC's Cyber Day event hosted by the Computer Club will also be part of the Family Fun Festival. Cyber Day is an event where anyone can bring their laptops, desktops, tablets and phones for a free tune up and virus scan. There will be several students and Dr. David Filer, NRCC information systems technology professor and club advisor, working on the systems at the event. Any Windows or Android device is welcome.

The Family Fun Festival event is sponsored by NRCC in partnership with the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. The event and all activities are free and open to the public. Food trucks will have meals available for purchase on campus during the event.

For more information, contact Stephanie Addikis at saddikis@nr.edu or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4579.

New River Community College

Upcoming Events

from page 2

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.

Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will convene for its regular meeting at 6 p.m. at the School Administration Building. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at www.rcps.org.

On-going:

Radford Noon Rotary Club's Field of Honor

The Field of Honor will be installed on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery prior to Memorial Day and will be displayed until the Fourth of July. The Radford Noon Rotary Club is looking for people to sponsor

BOV

from page 1

graduate students, the in-state increase is \$284 and for out-of-state students is \$500. The mandatory comprehensive fee increase is \$135 for all full-time students.

The board proactively worked to reach a consensus and schedule a timely vote, allowing current and prospective students, and their families, to make informed decisions about the upcoming year.

Additionally, the board's Business Affairs and Audit Committee is committed to monitoring the ongoing situation with the Commonwealth of Virginia's 2025 fiscal year budget and will bring any additional recommendations to the board at future meetings.

"The most important responsibility that we have as a board is to set tuition and fees, which ensures that a Radford degree is affordable and that students have a best-in-value experience," said rector Debra K. McMahon. "It was essential for the board to act quickly, and we were able to do so thanks to careful planning, and the quality of information we received from vice president (for finance and administration) Rob Hoover and his staff during our budget workshop on Feb. 28."

Two top priorities for decision making on tuition and fee increases were affordability and fiscal stewardship. By keeping its debt burden low and continuing sound financial planning practices, Radford University can maximize

resources and address mandatory cost increases while remaining one of the state's most affordable higher education institutions.

"At Radford University, we are committed to providing a high-quality, engaged student experience that remains affordable," said President Bret Danilowicz. "Part of the reason that we can limit cost increases for students and families is that the funds provided to our institution by the Commonwealth of Virginia allow us to enhance our university experience while at the same time, developing robust financial aid programs for our students."

In 2023-24, Radford University offered the fourth-most affordable four-year undergraduate total costs for in-state students among Virginia public institutions, at an average of \$23,850. Total costs include tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees.

Over the past year, Radford has significantly enhanced its commitment to providing an affordable educational pathway for Virginians with the introduction of the Radford Tuition Promise, which takes effect for current and prospective students in 2024-25. The Radford Tuition Promise guarantees full coverage of tuition costs for in-state undergraduate students (in-person) whose Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is \$100,000 or less.

The tuition increase for the 2024-25 academic year will be covered by the

flags. Individual flags are \$50. Corporate Sponsorship is: Bronze - \$250; Silver - \$500; Gold - \$1000; and Platinum - \$2500. Money raised through the project will benefit scholarships to Radford High School students attending Radford University, and other Rotary initiatives. All flags are made in the USA. For further questions, and to register, contact rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com.

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/>.

Radford Tuition Promise.

In addition, Radford University automatically considers both new freshmen and transfer students for merit-based scholarships, such as the Highlander Distinction Program and the Transfer Excellence Scholarship. Along with direct institutional support, the Radford University Foundation awards over 600 unique scholarships totaling over \$3 million annually.

Radford University

Singers

from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUE RIDGE VOCAL CONNECTION

On Jan. 1, 2024, the Blue Ridge Vocal Connection performed at the Biltmore Estate's Candlelight Christmas Celebration in Asheville, North Carolina.

all year, allowing the opportunity to perform their well-rehearsed music programs for diverse audiences. DeBusk shared that their Spring and Summer music are even performed up to 15 times through the various events they attend. Blue Ridge Vocal Connection also performs their Christmas selections for many local and regional events.

BRVC is a 503© organization, and many performances are free to the public, except for fundraising events. Their schedule is constantly updated on their website at www.blueridgevocalconnection.com.

"What I find is constantly fulfilling, the people that I work with that when you issue the challenge they step up and deliver. I always get a front row seat...over and over again, I have this wonderful presentation," said DeBusk.

In addition to their performances around the New River Valley, the group has traveled and performed at the Roanoke Hotel and Conference Center, Primland Resort, the Biltmore Estate, and will be traveling to Lincoln Theater in Marion, Virginia, to perform this coming summer.

"We have been to the Biltmore Estate twice as part of their Candlelight Christmas Celebration and you have to audition for that," DeBusk said. "The sounds on the first floor are amazing."

Events for 2024 include performing at the Huckleberry Park concert on Memorial Day weekend. Steppin Out, and Slusher's Chapel Ruritan Fish Fry in September, to name a few.

Last year the choral group partnered with Wilderness Road Chorus, an all-female a Capela group, for a vocal performance at Warm Hearth Village. The event drew approximately 100 people.

Mark Freeman also serves on the

Board of Directors at Mountain View Humane Spay and Neuter Clinic in Christiansburg. In December of 2023, Blue Ridge Vocal Connections held a Christmas concert fundraising event at the Lyric Theater in Blacksburg. Attendees could enjoy donations of food and drinks while experiencing the vocal entertainment of the group and an opportunity to participate in the concert as audience members. The fundraising event netted \$3,500, sharing the proceeds with the Mountain View Humane Society.

"It is an overt part of our plan to partner with other community groups to accomplish good things. We are happy to partner with other community groups to raise awareness and raise funds," DeBusk said.

Individuals interested in singing, even if they do not have any prior experience, should come out to practice, DeBusk said. Rehearsals are Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm at Northside Presbyterian Church located at 1017 Progress Street, NW, Blacksburg.

"We provide the tools for people to learn," DeBusk said.

A recent all-day BRVC-sponsored workshop was all about giving people, some that had never sung before, and others that maybe want to hone their skills, an opportunity to work and learn from vocal coaches.

There are no age limits to join the choral group; however, rehearsals are on average two hours long. Families are encouraged to attend and participate together with the consideration of the length of practice. At least one adult will be required to stay the duration of rehearsals with their child or children.

Additional information about Blue Ridge Vocal Connection can be on their Facebook page.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING SOLID WASTE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL SERVICE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES TO BE IMPOSED BY THE MONTGOMERY REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held on April 18, 2024 at 1:30 pm at the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority, 555 Authority Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073 concerning MRSWA's proposed rates, fees and charges for solid waste and refuse disposal services. Such proposed rates, fees and charges are as follows:

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

| | |
|---|--|
| Clean brush, wood & pallets | \$65.00 per ton (\$3.25 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.) |
| Construction waste | \$52.00 per ton (\$2.60 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.) |
| Dead animals | \$74.00 per ton (\$3.70 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.) |
| Industrial waste | \$52.00 per ton (\$2.60 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.) |
| Leaves | \$74.00 per ton (\$3.70 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.) |
| Municipal solid waste – jurisdictional | \$74.00 per ton (\$3.70 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.) |
| Municipal solid waste - commercial | \$52.00 per ton (\$2.60 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.) |
| Sludge | \$74.00 per ton (\$3.70 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.) |
| White goods/appliances– containing freon and propane tanks containing propane | \$19.00 per unit freon/propane surcharge |
| Direct Haul – non friable asbestos | Contact NRRA |
| Mulch sold to public | \$22.00 per ton |
| Untarped/unsecured loads | \$10.00 per load (in addition to the per ton material fee) |
| Member clean-up events | \$74.00 per ton |

Special waste: Must be of a type allowed by law and acceptable to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority. Rate charged will be a rate set by the New River Resource Authority plus cost of transportation and handling.

RECYCLING SERVICES

Tires \$0.20 per pound (\$4.00 minimum charge up to 20 pounds)

Single Stream recycling processing fee: \$74.00 per ton charge for loads of single stream recyclables unless contaminated and rejected then the processing fee is \$79.00 per ton.

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

Faith Christian Church presents outdoor Easter immersive experience

CHRISTIANSBURG - Faith Christian Church invites the community to experience the profound journey of Jesus Christ through a captivating live drive-through Easter presentation, "Road to Calvary."

This immersive event will take place on March 29 and 30 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Faith Christian Church, 305 3rd St., Christiansburg.

The event includes:

Live Easter presentation: Witness the life of Jesus on the Road to Calvary unfold before your eyes in a unique and immersive drive-through experience.

From the manger to the cross: Journey through pivotal scenes including the manger, the bustling streets of Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the solemn Road

to Calvary, the heart-wrenching Crucifixion, the silent tomb, and the glorious Resurrection.

Live animals: Encounter the authenticity of the biblical narrative with live animals enriching the scenes along the way.

Over 30 volunteers: Dedicated volunteers have poured their hearts into bringing this powerful presentation to life, ensuring every detail reflects the significance of Easter.

Communion opportunity: Attendees are invited to partake in a moment of reflection and communion, deepening their connection to the Easter story.

"Our aim with the "Road to Calvary" drive-through event is to offer our community a powerful and

immersive experience that brings the Easter story to life in a tangible and unforgettable way," said Pastor Robbie Johnston. "We believe that through this presentation, hearts will be touched, and lives will be transformed as we reflect on the profound sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

"It's been an incredible journey bringing this event together, and we're excited to share the passion and dedication of our volunteers with the community," organizer Grace Sarver added. "We invite everyone to join us for this special presentation and encounter the life-changing message of Easter."

Faith Christian Church

NRCC sees enrollment increase for Spring 2024

Enrollment has increased this semester at New River Community College (NRCC).

At this point in the spring semester, headcount enrollment stands at 3,754 compared to 3,565 at the same time last spring, an increase of 5.3 percent.

NRCC also saw a 3.3 percent increase in the fall semester.

These increases build on a modest growth seen in 2022, reversing a years-long trend of declining enrollment similar to those experienced throughout the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and in two-year colleges across the nation.

While students continue to return to the classroom in person after a couple of years battling the pandemic

may be part of the increase, the college's efforts to reach out to the community have been concentrated and intentional.

NRCC's outreach includes attending community events and high school athletic games as well as hosting outreach hours at local libraries and community organizations. The college's popular Access to Community College Education (ACCE) program, which provides a debt-free path to college education for local high school students, has also been a factor. NRCC will also be bringing back a previous event, NRCC Family Fun Fest, on April 6.

New tuition assistance programs like the statewide G3 program also encourage students to return to college

by helping with tuition. G3, which launched 2021, is a last-dollar tuition assistance program for low and middle-income Virginians focusing on early childhood education, health care, information technology, public safety and skilled trades.

Data for this report were based on information available on Mar. 19, 2024. Final spring semester enrollment information may change slightly. For more information about NRCC or how to enroll in classes, visit www.nr.edu. Registration for fall semester classes begins April 9.

New River Community College

NRCC Professor wins WWPB Nonfiction Award

New River Community College Professor of English Megan Doney recently won the Washington Writers' Publishing House Nonfiction Award for her memoir "Exit Wounds."

Washington Writers' Publishing House (WWPB) sponsors three annual fiction, poetry, and nonfiction manuscript contests for writers living in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Doney submitted the manuscript for her memoir, "Exit Wounds," and won the competition's nonfiction category award of \$1,500. In addition, WWPB will publish Doney's memoir, for which she will receive editorial and launch support.

"Exit Wounds" will be published by WWPB on Oct. 8, 2024.

Doney has taught composition, literature, and creative writing at NRCC since 2008. Her work has been published in "Ilanot Review," "New Limestone Review," "Rappahannock Review," "Creative Nonfiction," "Earth & Altar," and "Inside Higher Ed," as well as in the anthologies "Allegheny" and "If I Don't Make It, I Love You: Survivors in the Aftermath of School Shootings."

Doney earned an MFA from Lesley University.

Kyle Scarrette, NRCC Public Relations & Marketing intern



Megan Doney

PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Drone

from page 1

where the company has served tens of thousands of customers via the DoorDash app for over a year now.

"Wing has now made over 350,000 deliveries across three countries and looking ahead we are focused on providing a fast, affordable and safe service to our partners so they can better serve their customers. This moment continues our meaningful expansion of this service in the U.S. and advances our shared goal to better the last-mile delivery ecosystem," he said.

Beginning this week, when DoorDash customers with an eligible address in Christiansburg place a qualifying order in the DoorDash app from the Wendy's located at 2355 N. Franklin St., they will see the option to have their meal delivered by drone on the checkout page.

Once they select drone delivery and place their order, it will be prepared and packaged at the Wendy's location and

delivered via a Wing drone, typically in 30 minutes or less.

Christiansburg and Wing have been a partner for the past five years. Wing's service in Christiansburg was the first in the U.S. to deliver goods directly to residences on demand. That made it the litmus test for whether drone delivery — a ubiquitous fixture of an imagined high-tech future — was viable in the present.

Small packages traveling short distances — the proverbial "last mile" — account for a large segment of urban deliveries. For these trips, drones are generally quicker and safer than ground transportation, and have a lighter carbon footprint. A study by researchers at the Center for Economic and Community Engagement in Outreach and International Affairs found that after five years of operating in a large city, a hypothetical drone delivery service would reduce vehicle

miles enough to eliminate up to 580 crashes and 113,000 tons of CO2 every year. Customers would save time, businesses would increase revenue, and social benefits like improved access to prescription medication would raise the overall quality of life in the community.

Turning that ambitious idea into a real service delivering real snacks and sunscreen and coffee in a real city meant clearing some daunting engineering and regulatory hurdles. The service in Christiansburg was made possible by tens of thousands of test flights all over the world and exhaustive testing with Virginia Tech to build up the volume of safety and performance data required to clear the high bar the FAA had set for approval of the new technology.

"Christiansburg is in many ways the birthplace of U.S. drone delivery," said Jonathan Bass, Wing's head of marketing and communications.

Through this new partnership, DoorDash says it aims to provide access to an innovative delivery solution for consumers and merchants, complementary to traditional Dasher-fulfilled orders.

The new offering provides a quick and sustainable delivery option for small, short-distanced orders while creating the potential for incremental order growth across the platform.

The pilot will initially be available in Christiansburg with plans to explore other cities in the U.S. later this year.

The drone delivery partnership with Wing was born out of DoorDash Labs, DoorDash's robotics and automation arm. DoorDash sees automation as a means to develop the right platform solution to satisfy consumer demand, while improving efficiencies within the platform.

Staff report

Virginia gas prices on the rise

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 7.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.45/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 25.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 14.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 2.0 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.02 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.99/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.50/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.99/g while the highest was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.50/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 6.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.51/g today. The national average is up 27.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 8.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| March 25, 2023: | \$3.31/g (U.S. Average: \$3.42/g) |
| March 25, 2022: | \$4.14/g (U.S. Average: \$4.24/g) |
| March 25, 2021: | \$2.75/g (U.S. Average: \$2.86/g) |
| March 25, 2020: | \$1.93/g (U.S. Average: \$2.03/g) |
| March 25, 2019: | \$2.44/g (U.S. Average: \$2.65/g) |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| March 25, 2018: | \$2.45/g (U.S. Average: \$2.60/g) |
| March 25, 2017: | \$2.10/g (U.S. Average: \$2.28/g) |
| March 25, 2016: | \$1.88/g (U.S. Average: \$2.03/g) |
| March 25, 2015: | \$2.22/g (U.S. Average: \$2.42/g) |
| March 25, 2014: | \$3.35/g (U.S. Average: \$3.53/g) |

GasBuddy

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Peer-to-peer payment scams

Many of us have used a peer-to-peer (P2P) payment app to split a bill or send money to a friend, and some people even use them for traditional shopping. However, there are inherent risks that exist on these payment apps that everyone should know about.

First and foremost, because they're as fast and convenient for criminals as they are for consumers, P2P apps — like Zelle, Venmo and Cash App — are favorite tools for modern-day scammers. It's also important to know that, even though they may be associated with your bank account, no fraud protections exist on P2P apps. Once you press send it is virtually impossible to get your money back.

The keys to staying safe when sending money this way is to avoid out of the blue requests for money and make sure you know the person on the other end. Think of P2P apps as cash. Before you hand over cash that you will never get back you always want to know exactly who you are giving it to.

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

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

AARP Virginia

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SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

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A '91 Redman and 14 x60, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 2 decks. Must move. \$8,000. Julie 540425 2657

Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE 194 Spangler Drive, Buchanan, VA 24066

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated December 14, 2004 and recorded December 16, 2004 in Instrument Number 040008376 in the Clerk's Office for the Botetourt County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$110,683.24. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the Botetourt County courthouse steps located at 1 W Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090-0219.

April 25, 2024 at 2:00 PM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND EASEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING, LYING AND BEING IN THE BUCHANAS MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, BOTSTOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN SET AT THE NORTHERLY CORNER OF A PARCEL PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO RANSONS; THENCE WITH THE FOLLOWING THREE COURSES AND DISTANCES: N 43-14-24 W 223.66 FEET TO A FENCE CORNER POST; N 42-37-32 W 357.00 FEET TO A 24-INCH LOCUST AND A FENCE CORNER; N 14-33-15 W 68.91 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SIDE OF A LARGE ROCK; THENCE WITH SIX NEW DIVISION LINES THROUGH THE PROPERTY OF BRUGH; S 45-26-45 W 125.12 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE S 44-33-13 E 33.40 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE S 33-97-50 W 222.39 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE E 44-33-15 E 41.95 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N 67-26-19 E 324.62 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N 46-10-48 E 47.18 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N 54-17-35 E 148.24 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 2.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY BY CHARLES R. MCMURRY, C.L.S. DATED OCTOBER 15, 1983, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF, AND BEING IN PART OF TRACTS II AND IV OF DEED FROM DARNELL E. BRUGH, JR., ET UX, DATED THE 6TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1979, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE BOTETOURT COUNTY IN DEED BOOK 158, AT PAGE 200. TAX MAP OR PARCEL ID NO.: 65-163 AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder,

Legals - Botetourt County

the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement.

Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

ABC NOTICE

ICHIBAN STEAKHOUSE & SUSHI BAR DALEVILLE LLC., trading as ICHIBAN STEAKHOUSE & SUSHI BAR DALEVILLE, 470 Roanoke Road, Daleville, Botetourt County, Virginia, 24083-3020

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverage On and OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Qiang Jiang, Owner

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

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. **CL23-522** VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, v. ELSIE E. EDWARDS, ET AL, Respondent(s).

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Botetourt, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Botetourt, Virginia, described as follows:

Tax Map No. 109-220D Account No. 16274 All that certain lot, piece, or parcel of real property, lying and being situate in Botetourt County, Virginia and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: BEGINNING at an iron pin at the northeasterly corner of 1.22-acre tract now or formerly of Henry V. Edwards on the southerly line now or formerly of V. G. Ferris property; thence with the line of Ferris property, S. 66° 13' 20" E. 170.54 feet to a point; thence with two new division lines through the property now or formerly of Gordon Lee Edwards property, S. 32° 01' 10" W. 200.79 feet to a point; thence N. 66° 13' " W. 170.54 feet to an iron at the southeasterly corner of the Henry V. Edwards property; thence with the line of same, N. 32° 01' 10" E. 200.79 feet to the BEGINNING and containing 0.778 acres and being designated as Tract "C" on map platted from records by T. P. Parker & Son, Engineers and Surveyors, Ltd. dated December 22, 1986.

And being a portion of the real property conveyed to Gordon L. Edwards and Elsie D. Edwards, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety from Henry V. Edwards and Linda R. Edwards, divorced, by Deed dated February 18, 1993 and recorded April 1, 1993

Legals - Botetourt County

in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia in Deed Book 429 at Page 625.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 274 at Page 265.

Tax Map No. 109-220B Account No. 16272

All that certain lot, piece, or parcel of real property, lying and being situate in Botetourt County, Virginia and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: BEGINNING at an iron pin on the northwest corner of the property now or formerly owned by Gordon Lee Edwards and Elsie D. Edwards, corner to property now or formerly of V. G. Ferris and N and W Railway Co. right-of-way; thence S. 66° 13' 20" E. 325 feet to an iron pin; thence S. 32° 01' 10" W. 200.79 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 52° 52' 10" W. 335.41 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 37° 44' E. 124.94 feet to the place of beginning and being Tract "A" and containing 1.222 acres, more or less, all as shown on plat of survey by John T. Parker, C. L. S., dated November 3, 1981, a copy of which is of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia in Deed Book 274 at Page 263.

And being a portion of the real property conveyed to Gordon L. Edwards and Elsie D. Edwards, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety from Henry V. Edwards and Linda R. Edwards, divorced by Deed dated February 18, 1993 and recorded April 1, 1993 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia in Deed Book 429 at Page 625. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 274 at Page 265.

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: Gordon L. Edwards, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is c/o Henry Edwards 164 Wandas Lane, Dante, Virginia 24237-7102; Elsie E. Edwards, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is c/o Henry Edwards, 164 Wandas Lane, Dante, Virginia 24237-7102; Wanda Edwards Moore, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Daniel Moore, whose last known address is unknown; Kevin Moore, whose last known address is 71 Lois Lane, Roanoke, Virginia 24019; Mary Lou Edwards Arnold, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 3228 Plantation Road NE, Roanoke, Virginia 24012; Birchnie Dawn Bowman, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Donnie Vest, whose last known address is 4333 Electric Road, Apt 2, Roanoke, Virginia 24018; Barry Vest Jr., whose last known address is 2577 Volunteer Pkwy, Apt 1, Bristol, Tennessee 37620; Stephen Gilmore Vest, whose last known address is unknown; Jasmine Bowman a/k/a Jasmine Bowman Vest, whose last known address is 2631 Durham Street NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24012; Melinda Arnold Froelicher, whose last known address is 725 Murray Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24013; Christopher Arnold, whose last known address is unknown; Eric Leon Edwards, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Henry V. Edwards, whose last known address is 164 Wandas Lane, Dante, Virginia 24237; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action

Legals - Botetourt County

individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before April 12, 2024 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

I Ask For This: Seth R.Konopasek, Esq. (VSB No. 97065) John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805) Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591) Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409) Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372) Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609) Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158) Garrett W. Patton, Esq. (VSB No. 98345) Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800, Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804) 864-0080 Facsimile: (804) 545-2378 TACS No.: 924036

Entered on the 5th day of March, 2024.

The Honorable Tommy L. Moore, Clerk

Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEE'S 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 CLERK'S 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 AFORESAID 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 5th DAY OF APRIL, 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,

Legals - City of 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: APRIL 5, 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 Salem

Notice

is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on April 10, 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 Philip M. and Rachel C. Knouff, property owners, for the amendment of a Home Occupation Permit to allow retail sales at the cut flower farm (garden) on the property located at 275 Ft Lewis Blvd (Tax Map # 130-2-22).
2. Consider the request of PHC of Virginia, LLC/Acadia Healthcare, Mt Regis Center, property owner, for the amendment of the Use Not Provided For permit to allow additions to the outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment center on the property located at 125 Knotbreak Road, (Tax Map # 148-1-5).

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 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

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. **CL24000383** ROANOKE COUNTY Circuit Court, 305 EAST MAIN STREET, SALEM, VA 24153 in re LILLIAN MAY RICHARDSON The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE FOR MINOR. It is ORDERED that AMBER MARIE RICHARDSON AND WILLIAM JOSEPH RICHARDSON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on MAY 9, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

MARCH 22, 2024 Jennifer J. West Deputy Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT: 4916 Pilot Road, Pilot, VA 24134 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Parcel ID: 012435/Tax Map# 131-A-90 IN EXECUTION OF A DEED OF TRUST IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$93,000.00, DATED THE 22nd DAY OF APRIL, 2021, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2021-4295, DATED APRIL 22, 2021, DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED IN THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE SECURED THEREBY, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOLDER OF THE NOTE, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2021-4295, DATED APRIL 22, 2021, DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED IN THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE SECURED THEREBY, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOLDER OF THE NOTE, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2021-4295, DATED APRIL 22, 2021, DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED IN THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE SECURED THEREBY, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE 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TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

Ordinance 2048: An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025; Adopting the Real Estate Tax Rate; and Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Year. The proposed

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ordinance would approve the Town's 2024/2025 operating budget and maintain the existing tax rate. This is described in more detail in the stand-alone advertisement published in the Roanoke Times on March 24, 2024.

Ordinance 2049: An Ordinance Amending Blacksburg Town Code Sections 18-201, 18-400, 24-301, 24-306, 24-314, And 24-602 to Increase Fees for Water and Sewer Services and Meter Fees. The ordinance increase the amounts of the referenced fees; the increases are described in more detail in stand-alone advertisements published in the Roanoke Times on March 24, 2024 and March 31, 2024.

Ordinance 2050: An

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Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Appropriate \$2,500,000 of Bond Proceeds to the General Capital Improvement Fund. Ordinance 2050 will appropriate funding for the potential purchase of several parcels of land. The funding for this purchase will be included in the 2024 bond offering.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m.

Legals - Montgomery County

and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public-hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

ABC NOTICE

NEW RIVER BARBECUE LLC, trading NEW RIVER BARBECUE, 3205 ROANOKE ST. CHRISTIANSBURG, VA

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24073. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for RESTAURANT, ON AND OFF PREMISES BEER AND WINE license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES B. SHERMAN-OWNER

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, the Radford City Council hereby gives notice of a joint public hearing with Planning Commission to be held on April 8, 2024 at 7:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA, in order to hear citizen comments regarding City Council's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by K&J Properties (applicant) on behalf of Islands on the New, LLC (owner) for a Special Use Permit to allow for a RV Resort. The use is defined as "Recreational Vehicle Park" in the Zoning

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Ordinance, which is allowed in the M-1 Zoning District and within the CD Zoning District only by an approved Special Use Permit. The property is located at 3080 Little River Dam Rd, further identified as Tax Parcel 24-1-8, with 36 acres, zoned CD Conservation and M-1 Light Industrial. The property is designated as Low-Density Residential in the Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plan, applications, ordinances may be examined at the Community Development Office, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Looking back: How it started

Liz Kitley began playing basketball in high school, but she didn't always gravitate toward the court.

She played several sports, most prominently softball, so when coach Tom King (current teammate Cayla King's father) approached Kitley with a basketball jersey – essentially recruiting her to the team – she was terrified. But eventually, the idea grew on her. And soon after, her talent caught the eye of Virginia Tech women's basketball head coach Kenny Brooks.

Kitley gives Brooks a lot of credit for how she played the game.

"He just completely changed how I played," Kitley said. "The challenge was even greater for him, because I didn't even play my senior year in high school, because I tore my ACL. I came here not having played in a year."

Kitley remembers being nervous to come to college after losing the opportunity to grow during her senior year. But, in her eyes, everything worked out and she learned to appreciate the sport more.

And, as for Kitley's progress, she jokes about her pre-college highlight reel, acknowledging her immense growth since her junior year of high school.

Kitley doesn't need a highlight reel to prove her progress.

She's already earned her spot with numerous accolades over the years, beginning with the 2019-20 ACC Freshman of the Year award to her name and most recently becoming the first-ever Hokie to earn Preseason AP All-America. Kitley wears No. 33 proudly.

"I'm not waiting for this list to come out," Kitley said. "I have no idea when that stuff is happening, and when it does, it's nice to be recognized. But mainly because it brings more attention to Virginia Tech and our program."

Kitley credits Brooks and her teammates with the program's success

and praises his care for the team. When Coach Brooks saw Kitley's talent, he didn't just recruit Kitley – he recruited her whole family.

Kitley's sister Raven is her best friend. Raven also has autism. Brooks made sure Raven had a lanyard at basketball games and the program hosted an autism awareness game that first year.

"It just made her year – made her life probably," Kitley said. "That's just really cool and also goes back to show how special the program is. I know Coach Brooks and everyone would know how much that would mean to me, because it's something that I hold very close to my heart. For them to recognize her and take her out on the court, it shows how much they care for me and my family, and not just from a basketball point of view."

Though Kitley praises her sister for the fresh perspective that she's given her on life, Kitley also inspires young women in the field.

Kitley frequently receives direct messages on social media from young women in middle school and high school that ask for advice as they try out for their school's basketball teams.

"It's just really important for girls, especially girls in sports, to have other women to look up to, because, obviously, all of the big faces – most of the big faces – in sports are men," Kitley said. "So, to keep them encouraged within their sport and keep them passionate about it ... it is really cool to be able to be a source of that."

Kitley has also found an unmatched sense of community and rhythm on the court with her teammates. Kitley reflects on the difference between this season and previous seasons, noting that usually the team's only new members are freshmen. But with transfers, every team and year means a new chapter and team dynamic.

Virginia Tech Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Liz Kitley leaves Virginia Tech with almost every basketball record.



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Liz Kitley walked onto the court at Cassell Coliseum this past weekend for the last time, but it might not have been what she had originally expected.

She sat at the end of the bench after walking to the court with the aid of crutches. A knee injury suffered in the ACC tournament meant her season ended a lot sooner for her, the team, her coaches and fans.

She will finish as a three-time ACC player of the year. She becomes the third woman in ACC history to win the award in three consecutive seasons, joining Alana Beard (Duke) and Alyssa Thomas (Maryland).

The Summerfield, North Carolina native ranks second in the conference in scoring (22.79), second in field goal percentage (55.6%), first in rebounds (11.38), second in blocks (2.07), first in double-doubles (19) and first in 30-point games with eight.

She won ACC Player of the Week six times, the most of any athlete, including a stretch of four consecutive weeks in February. The six POW honors ties Beard for the most in any single season in conference history.

With her Player of the Year Award comes a fourth first team All-ACC nod, just the second player in conference history to accomplish the feat (Duke's Elizabeth Williams). Kitley was also recognized as an All-Defensive Team member for the third consecutive season.

Nationally, Kitley ranks second in field goals, trailing only Iowa's Caitlin Clark. She is sixth in points per game, rebounds per game and double-doubles.

She has claimed the top spot in several categories in the Virginia Tech annals this

season including starts, minutes played, double figure games, 30-point games and rebounds, which is also an ACC watermark.

In terms of single-season achievements, the 2023-24 season has seen Kitley produce the highest scoring average in program history, score the most field goals and come within six points of the record for single season scoring.

These are some things we have to remember Kitley.

Maybe, we should write her a thank you note.

Dear Liz (Kitley),

Thanks for the memories of you shooting a soft jumper inside the paint.

Thanks for all those blocked shots.

You have changed the way everyone looks at women's college basketball. Those packed houses proved that.

Your personality has brightened our day, and your smile has caught the attention of people of all ages.

But most importantly, young girls are now getting excited about Hokie basketball and maybe some day being like "Liz".

While we know the Cassell will never be the same without you, we will always cherish those memories.

Also, thank you for introducing us to your family and a special sister named Raven. We will truly miss her flaming orange hair in the stands cheering you on.

Good luck Liz, in whatever you do in the future. We know you will succeed whether it be on the court or maybe in the medical field.

Thank you. Signed: A fan.

P.S. Also, thank you for the relationship you have with your point guard and best friend, Georgia Amoore. The "Queens of Cassell" exist because of you two.

Maybe Dr. Seuss said it best: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

No matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere. That is true with Liz.

CHS baseball team promotes reading



Member of the Christiansburg High School baseball team joined students at Christiansburg Elementary for Dr. Seuss reading day.



Christiansburg baseball players helped to promote reading during national reading day at the local elementary schools.

Bobcats prevail over East Mont softball

The Radford Bobcats faced the Eastern Montgomery Mustangs Friday, Mar. 22 at East Mont with the final score Radford 11, East Mont 6.

Three homers powered Radford's win over East Mont with (left to right) Quinn Burton, Kathryn Price and Addie Saunders all homering in the win, driving in seven of the 11 runs. Price drove in four runs to include a three-run homer in the fourth to lead the Bobcats to the victory. Kayence Rollins, Ella Cox and Ariel Sutphin all had multiple hits in the win. Quinn Burton was the winning pitcher going four innings with five strikeouts, with Kathryn Price picking up the save. For East Mont, Alexis Artip went two for three with two RBI to lead the Mustangs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BURTON

(Left to right) Quinn Burton, Kathryn Price and Addie Saunders.

Staff report

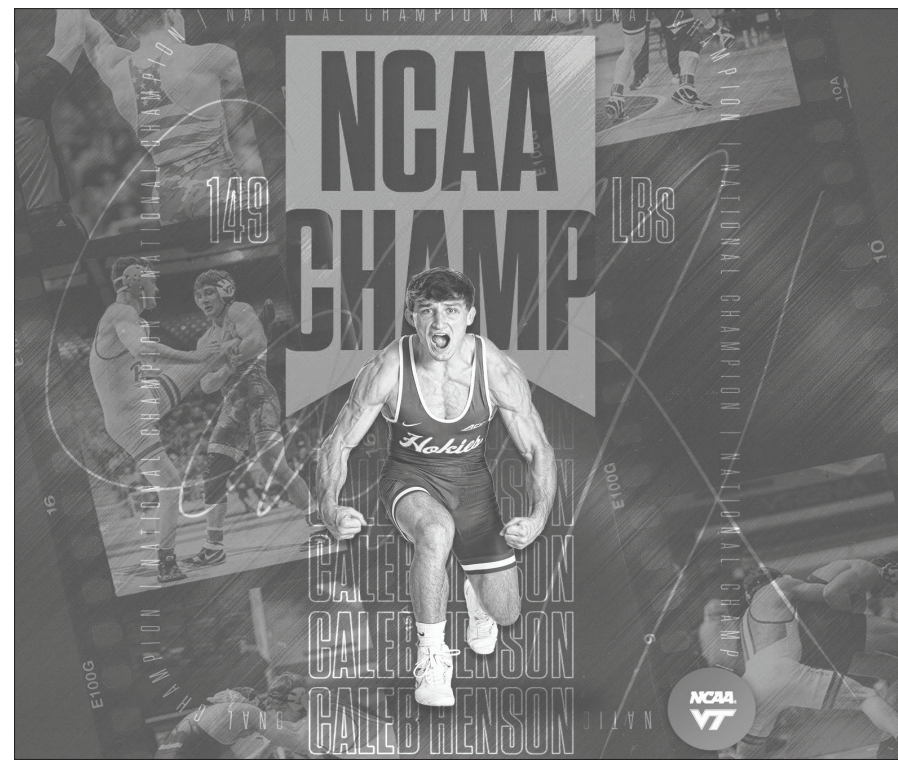


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

This weekend, Caleb Henson became second-ever Hokie to earn NCAA wrestling title.

Henson claims 149-pound national title

Another national title for Virginia Tech wrestling was added to the trophy case Saturday night, as fourth-ranked Caleb Henson claimed the 149-pound weight class national title by defeating sixth-ranked Austin Gomez of Michigan 15-7 at

T-Mobile Center.

The sophomore from Cartersville, Georgia becomes just the second Hokie

See Henson, page 10

Henson from page 9

to accomplish the feat on the mat, joining Mekhi Lewis (2019; 165 pounds) and the first national champion hailing from Georgia. Henson is also just the fourth Hokie and just the fifth time for a Hokie to make an NCAA finals appearance.

Henson was relentless all bout from the first whistle. The Hokie would surrender the first takedown but would work a quick escape before hitting a bodylock off a Gomez attack for the five-point move to put him up 6-3. Henson would add four more points with a suck back for four back points to increase the lead still in the first period.

Gomez would get an escape before Henson countered a cement mixer to go up 13-4 with 1:17 riding time at the end of the first. The Hokie would rack another escape to start the third to increase his lead even more. Another attack by Gomez would cut the lead but the Hokie worked another escape to lead 15-7 at the end of the second period. Gomez would elect neutral to begin the final frame.

Despite numerous scoring attempts the score stood at 15-7 as the Hokie star and newly minted champion defeated Michigan's multiple-time All-American and 2024 Olympian on an unforgettable Saturday night in T-Mobile Center.

Last season, Henson would win his first bout then rattle off five victories on the backside to find the podium after a second-round loss. This year, Henson would take the direct path to the podium and began his championship run with a dominant win over No. 29 Alek Martin of South Dakota State with a 18-3 tech fall in the opening round with an offensive burst of five takedowns and two-point nearfall to pick up the victory.

The Hokie would advance to the Round of 16 to face a familiar foe from their high

school careers in No. 20 Jordan Williams of Oklahoma State. Henson would tally two takedowns and an escape in a controlling bout, making his way to the quarterfinals.

Waiting for him was Big 12 champion, No. 7 Ty Watters of West Virginia with the winner securing All-American honors and a ticket to the semifinals. Henson would strike first with a takedown, but Watters would keep it interesting with a reversal to bring the score within one in the third period. The Hitman would keep on the gas and garner an escape before racking another takedown to ice the bout and advance to the semifinals while picking up his second All-American status in the process.

Awaiting in the semifinals was No. 1 and former national finalist, Nebraska's Ridge Lovett. The two had one previous meeting, a controversial 4-3 victory for the Cornhusker in this year's Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational finals back in December.

Henson could pick no better time to flip the script as the stakes could not be higher. It was a chess match of a first period with multiple scoring attacks from Henson and heavy handfighting but just couldn't find a score as the opening period ended. Henson would select neutral to begin the second and it was more of the same with Henson just seconds from scoring yet again as time expired. With their previous matchup in mind – a riding time point proved to be the difference in Las Vegas – Lovett elected to begin the third period on top.

The Hokie would strike with an escape to take the lead with just under one minute remaining. Henson would still threaten with potential attacks, but the escape would be the lone score, sending him to the finals for the first time in his young career.

Virginia Tech Athletics

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.

Spooky does not live up to his name. He's not spooky at all! In fact, he's pretty sweet. This feline enjoys cuddling with his favorite humans. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet lovable Spooky. He could be your purrfect match.



Meet Toby! He's a friendly, energetic dog who enjoys a good belly rub. When the mood strikes, a zoomie or two is not out of the question. Toby is crate trained, house-broken, and a smarty pants—knowing how to sit and lay down on command.

Sports notes: Bulls re-sign Green

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Chicago Bulls announced today that the team has signed guard/forward Javonte Green to a 10-day contract.

Green, 6-5, 205, rejoins Chicago after appearing in 10 games this season with the Santa Cruz Warriors, the G League affiliate of the Golden State Warriors, where he averaged 12.8 points, 6.8 rebounds, 1.3 steals and 0.7 blocks in 22.0 minutes per game.

The four-year NBA veteran was originally acquired by Chicago via trade in March of 2021 and posted averages of 6.0 points, 3.4 rebounds and 0.9 steals in 18.8 minutes through 113 games (46 starts) over two-plus seasons with the Bulls. He tallied 21 total games of double-digit scoring, alongside 27

games with two or more steals during his previous tenure.

The Petersburg, Va. native has taken the floor for both Chicago and Boston during his four-year NBA career, averaging 5.1 points (53.4 FG%), 2.8 rebounds, 0.7 assists and 0.8 steals in 15.8 minutes. Green has seen action in 186 games (50 starts) during his career and wields playoff experience with both Chicago (2021-22) and Boston (2019-20), holding the most steals in a single playoff game in Bulls team history (seven – at MIL, 4/27/22).

Prior to signing his first NBA contract with Boston in 2019, Green played four seasons overseas, including stints in Spain (LEB Silver), Italy (Serie A2) and Germany (G-BBL).

Preceding his professional career, Green played four seasons at Radford University

while averaging 14.4 points, 8.0 rebounds, 1.1 assists, 1.8 steals and 0.7 blocks in 25.4 minutes across 133 games (122 starts). Green was a three-time All-Big South honoree (2013, 2014, 2015), including two first team selections, and was named Big South Defensive Player of the Year in 2015. Green left Radford as the program's all-time leader in games played (133) and steals (243) and ranks second all-time in total points scored (1911). Radford retired Green's No. 2 jersey in 2021.

Esports, Big South at RU
This past weekend, the Big South Conference's Esports tournament came to the Radford University campus.

Teams from High Point University, Charleston Southern, University of North Carolina Asheville and Presbyterian College will compete with the Highlanders March 23-24 in Radford's Esports Center. Seventy-five competitors are expected on campus to battle for championships in four different game titles: Rocket League, Overwatch, League of Legends and Valorant.

Radford students organized and ran the tournament. A year ago, Radford students operated the Big South's inaugural Esports tournament between games of the conference's men's and women's basketball tournaments inside the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Cruise from page 4

Jo and I chose Virgin Voyages, the creation of one of the world's great entrepreneurs, Sir Richard Branson, famous for Virgin Airlines and for trying to establish "cruises to the moon." I am pretty certain that if Sir Richard ever starts commercial moon trips, they'll be fun, with pizza and taco bars and live music on board. And unlimited boat drinks.

One of the keys to the "Virgin experience" is that Richard's cruises (he has three ships, Valiant Lady, Resilient Lady, and Scarlet Lady, the one we were on of course since it was named for my cat) are "adult only." I had been "warned" by a few friends that this was likely to be problematic "for people your age" since most of our fellow travelers would be "much younger." I took this as a challenge rather than a deterrent. While my body and mind might have high mileage counts, part of me has never gotten past my sophomore year of college and I think of myself as young in spirit. And my friend Jo is even more so, after 40 years of teaching health and phys ed she is the living embodiment of Peter Pan.

To paraphrase Toby, "we're not as good as we once were, but we're as good once as we ever were". And perhaps not intended as a compliment, many of my friends marvel that I CAN still party two nights in a row. So, I was

not intimidated by the challenges Sir Richard's party boat cruises present. Nor was Jo.

I would summarize the "Virgin experience" as "to the edge of the envelope, but not beyond" - there was partying but not excessive, a bit of Mardi Gras but no one out of control, lots of dancing and music but what's wrong with that? - particularly since Jo and I were mainly observers to the "Tuesday night dance party", which ended with hundreds in the pools on the top of the ship. We stayed on a deck above and swayed.

The times in port were great fun too - we did a "cantina crawl" in Cozumel and met several fun folks and felt like we were in a Jimmy Buffett video. And on Bimini, a country of 2400 and where Hemingway got his inspiration for The Old Man and the Sea, we were at a private beach club and treated to more "almost out of control" dancing and my favorite food of the entire trip - Caribbean jerk chicken and red snapper/mango salad and black beans and rice and roasted corn on the cob. On the beach in Bimini was my first experience of standing in perfectly clear ocean water. The clear water and white sand also allowed Jo to find "sea glass," which I understand is ocean detritus that most likely came from pirates who didn't respect the ocean by tossing their empty rum bottles overboard 200 years ago.

Another aspect of an "adults only" cruise was that the Scarlet Lady's passengers were a diverse and eclectic group - we had spring breakers (we hung out with several delightful couples, including a defensive back from Ohio State and his cheerleader

girlfriend, straight out of central casting from a 1950's movie) and young parents relishing being "sans kids" for a little while and romantic couples of all persuasions and singles looking to meet someone new and snowbirds like Joanne and me, trying to escape the last days of winter. We even met a guy who was building a house in the same neighborhood in Chicago where my daughter Laura lives.

One final observation - there appeared to be "no adult supervision" on the Scarlet Lady, no Gavin MacLeod like on Love Boat, walking around in a snappy white uniform and inspiring confidence that the "boat" was in shipshape condition and that someone knew where we were headed. And there was no cruise director, like the perpetually perky Lauren Tewes on the same show, always organizing and orchestrating and irritating the passengers. None of that.

What I did see (occasionally) was a bunch of folks in coveralls on the lower level who must have been doing something to move the ship forward and (frequently) 10 more or less college age kids known as the "Happenings cast" who took the place of a cruise director and whose sole job was to help you have fun. At times I laughed to myself that no one seemed in charge, that if we hit an iceberg who would be the voice of reason and calm? But it was all good. We saw no icebergs and someone found our way back to port.

PS: I learned that if you have the luxury of spontaneity, the closer to sail date you book the lower the price. Sir Richard hates empty rooms.

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