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Saturday, April 13, 2024

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Christiansburg Town Council approves grant for cameras for HEAT program

Lori Graham Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Christiansburg Town Council voted 5-1 in approval of grant money received for the Christiansburg Police Department to be appropriated for the use of the installation of crime prevention cameras in the town at its April 9 meeting.

A second grant for the Christiansburg Fire Department to be used in the purchasing of small equipment was also approved with a 6-0 vote.

The Virginia State Police grant called HEAT is to be used for the "installation of cameras to help resolve crime in the amount of \$12,500," the meeting agenda stated.

The Virginia Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) program provides funding to municipalities in setting up a network of cameras that reduce or recover the number of vehicles stolen therefore reducing insurance premiums. The system also has been useful in gathering intelligence on other crimes involving abductions, shootings, hit-and-run incidents, and many other criminal activities. Additional information about the HEAT program is available at www.heatward.com.

Local resident Patrick Melander addressed the council concerning the police department grant.

"I think that's a slippery slope into,

you know, more and more surveillance," Melander said. "I don't even know if Christiansburg already has a bunch of cameras set up...but if we don't, and this is the start of that, I would highly be against it."

Melander said that he recommended changing the wording and not using the money for cameras.

Additional funds of \$7,500 were also received by the town from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Local Emergency Management Program Grants. The Christiansburg Fire Department will utilize this money for small equipment expenses.

A public hearing is not required for the budget amendments because the total amount of \$20,000 is less than 1% of the total approved budget, the agenda stated.

Christiansburg Police Chief Chris Ramsey provided comments and clarification on the camera usage for the town.

"I will have a little bit more information next meeting when I present just about what the police department is doing in general," Ramsey said. "This money would be used to purchase flock cameras...but those are stationary license plate readers, and it puts you in a network with a company that manages the data, holds all the video. At present, Montgomery County, Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, Roanoke



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

Christiansburg Town Council has approved the use of grant funds to install cameras for crime prevention.

County, Pulaski, Roanoke City, there are jurisdictions all over the place that are using this network."

Ramsey also clarified that the cameras do not provide constant surveillance for the police department.

The cameras will allow for crime units and police departments to respond to alerts for specific vehicle's license plates that are identified through the camera

See Cameras, page 8

Solar power purchase agreement approved by Christiansburg Town Council

Lori Graham Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Christiansburg Town Council voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance to execute a solar power purchase agreement (PPA) with Sun Tribe Solar, LLC.

The purchase agreement will provide for "the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of roof-mount solar photovoltaic systems at the Recreation



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CHRISTIANSBURG

Center and at the Aquatic Center," according to the Town Council agenda listed on the www.christiansburg.org website.

The Recreation Center and Aquatic

See Solar, page 8



PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Students walk on the Blacksburg campus amid spring blooms.

Virginia Tech Board of Visitors sets tuition and fees

Faculty members honored as Alumni Distinguished Professors

At its quarterly meeting held Tuesday, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors set tuition and fees for the 2024-25 academic year.

Board members voted to set tuition for resident undergraduate students and mandatory fees at \$15,950 annually for next year. Complete information on 2024-25 tuition and fees can be found on the Virginia Tech News website.

In his remarks to the board, President Tim Sands noted the responsible and effective use of artificial intelligence (AI) will remain a primary topic of interest for university leadership for the foreseeable future. The university has initiated the process of appointing and charging an AI Working Group, and Virginia Tech has been engaged with the Virginia Council of Presidents, the governor's office and national organizations in developing initial guidelines and identifying opportunities for education and investment.

Sands also commented on the rapidly changing landscape of college athletics and noted that the university continues its work to position itself for the strongest possible future in athletics given the many factors beyond the university's control.

In other news, in remarks made during

the Finance and Resource Management Committee on Monday, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Amy Sebring acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Vice President for Finance Ken Miller, who has given almost 36 years of service to Virginia Tech. She also provided the board with updates on several current issues including the potential for leveraging AI in university operations and the reinvestment exercise that campus leaders have been working as part of a multi-year process of optimizing the use of current resources.

Sebring also updated the committee on the status of two vice president searches: Simon Allen will begin on May 6 as the university's next vice president for finance and CFO and on-campus interviews with candidates for the vice president of campus planning, infrastructure, and facilities position will begin later this month.

Also on Monday, Senior Vice President for Advancement Charlie Phlegar updated board members that, for the third consecutive year, alumni giving participation remained at 22 percent, a historic achievement among

See Tuition, page 8

Public hearing set for H20kies Aquatics land lease request in Christiansburg

Lori Graham Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - A public hearing has been set for April 23, 2024 for a proposal request to lease land in Christiansburg by H20kies Aquatics.

Council member Johana Hicks requested additional information about the upcoming public hearing during the consent agenda session of the Tuesday, April 9 Christiansburg Town Council meeting,

"Two things that I want to make sure they have for next meeting is, first of all, are we going to have a rental income from them and second of all, if we were to allow for that to happen what will happen with the current contracts and any future things as the usage of the Aquatic Center for this following year," Hicks said. "Is that going to change the amount of money that we get each year?"

"I wouldn't think so simply because it is not

a lease for operation of services," said Mayor Michael Barber. "This is a lease for the group to build a building on the ground, for the land."

"I had our town attorney take a look at the agreement as they proposed, and he sort of cleaned it up a little bit," said Christiansburg Town Manager Randy Wingfield. "The way he's drafted it is that basically they would pay a rental

See H20kies, page 8



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF H20KIE AQUATICS

# LAND TRANSFERS

The following land transfers were recorded in the Montgomery County Courthouse in January. The names of only one seller and one buyer are listed; others may be involved in the transaction.

## Zero Dollar Considerations:

- Amanda K Osborne to Brandon M Osborne, Lot 12 Highland Park Number 3 Town of Christiansburg
- Odesseas Fthenos to Odesseas Fthenos, 1.8294 Acres Lot 18 Phase 1 Brush Mountain Estates Mount Tabor Magisterial District
- Leonard C Newman to Leonard C Newman Trust, 1.8294 Acres Lot 18 Phase 1 Brush Mountain Estates Mount Tabor Magisterial District
- Mary Jean Frazier to Julie Daugherty, Lot 139 Belmont Farms Unit 6 Town of Christiansburg
- Harry W Fenton to Jordan Stephen Fenton, 0.899 Acre Parcel 1 and 0.052 Acre Parcel 2 Prices Fork Magisterial District
- Paris Mountain Farm LLC to Virginia Outdoors Foundation, 2003021553
- Shirley Ann Huffman Cooner to Shirley Ann Huffman Cooner, 0.25 Acre Lot Layayette Fronting on Water Street
- Shuxiang Yu to Blacksburg Fusion Properties, Lot 24 Phase 5 Oak Manor Townhouses Town of Blacksburg
- James Prescott Wickham to Paris Mountain Farm LLC, See Legal and Exhibit A Mount Tabor Magisterial District
- Nolan Stewart to Paris Mountain Farm LLC, See Legal and Exhibit A Mount Tabor Magisterial District
- James Prescott Wickham to Nolan Stewart, See Legal and Exhibit A
- John Deighan to Lore Morgan Deighan, 3.507 Acres Parcel 1 and 0.633 Acre Parcel 2 Mount Tabor Magisterial District
- Reese Family Limited Partnership to Randall J Reese, 32.245 Acres Mount Tabor Magisterial District
- Reese Family Limited Partnership to Randall J Reese, 153.06 Acres Mount Tabor Magisterial District
- Mickey G Rear to Mickey G Rear, 0.6740 Acre Riner Magisterial District
- David A Linker to F Brad Denardo Trust, 2024000033
- Gloria Ida Baker Moses Trust to Gloria Ida Baker Moses Trust, tract 27 Section 1 Laurel Ridge Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District
- Dale A Hollifield II to Dale A Hollifield II, Lot 11 and Adjoining ½ of Lot 13 Lucinian Heights Town of Blacksburg
- David H Banh to Persson Banh LLC, Condo Unit 803 Phase 1 University Place
- LJCJ LLC to Lawrence J Kyle, 041-20A
- Marshall L McNeil to Teresa McNeil Jones, 10.6 Acres Parcel 3 Metes and Bounds Shawsville Magisterial District
- David C Goodyear to David C Goodyear Revocable Trust, Lot 1 Datesong Heights Section 1 Town of Blacksburg
- Overlook Apartments LLC to S and S Construction LLC, Lot 10 and 11 Regan Heights Town of Christiansburg
- Timothy C Hudson to Maria Ruth Fletcher, Lot 29 Mount Tabor Village Subdivision Mount Tabor Magisterial District
- Megan J Kingrea to Megan J Kingrea, 1 Acre More or Less Shawsville Magisterial District
- Rebecca Wilson to Rebecca Wilson, Lot 2 Blue Ridge Court Section 5 Town of Christiansburg
- Scott C Talbutt to Matt Turner, Lot 18 Phase 1 New River Village Town of Christiansburg
- Ronald W Gibbs Trust to Gibbs Holdings LLC, 0.259 Acre Lot 22 Rose Hill Addition Town of Christiansburg
- John T Kelso to John T Kelso Trust, See DB 113 PG 215 Town of Blacksburg
- Bryan E Mauss to Mauss Living Trust, New Area 1 Acre Prices Fork Magisterial District
- David Mason Zwald Trust to Andrew Zwald, Lot 36 Suburban Hills Town of Christiansburg
- Susan Hansen Donato to Elizabeth Hansen Hinds, 15.342 Acre Riner Magisterial District
- Loy Burch to L & R Burch Properties LLC, 25 Foot Wide Strip of Land Containing 0.325 Acre Town of Christiansburg
- Joyce Meek Etter to Joyce M Etter Trust, Unit 34-2 Phase 17 Section 2 Town of Christiansburg
- Thomas W Angleberger to Thomas W Angleberger Trust, Four Parcels See Legal
- Land Development RVI LLC to R Fralin Construction Inc., Lot 40 Phase 2-A Cloverlea Subdivision Riner Magisterial District
- Donald H Horsley to Donald H Horsley Trust, Lot 29 Oak Tree Townhomes Phase 6
- Mark L Lemon to Anita Lemon, Lot 5 Section 6 Mountain View Estates Number 2
- Mark L Lemon to Anita Lemon, 0.443 Acre Lot 19 Town of Blacksburg
- Grant H Sims to Lucas Rental LLC, Lot 8 Town of Blacksburg
- Deborah Britton Gildersleeve to Nathan Gildersleeve, Lot 20 Prices Fork Magisterial District
- Anna Teresa Mittman to William Wood Ludtke, 1.783 Acres Lot C2 Prices Fork Magisterial District
- Timothy Pratt to Timothy Pratt Trust, 2024000437
- Sharon P Mills to Sharon P Mills Trust, Lot 15 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District
- Donovan Narcise Christman to Donovan Narcise Christman, Lot 45 McBryde Village Section 3 Town of Blacksburg
- Jarrod E Leland to Myra Skidmore Leland, Metes and Bounds See Legal Town of Blacksburg
- Lynn H Wolf to Nicole Jenee Wolf, Lot 1 Apperson Park Section 1 Mount Tabor Magisterial District

## Monetary Considerations:

- Steven D Smith to Monica Ruth Walters, 0.556 Acre Lot 33 Mount Tabor Village Subdivision Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$385,000
- Susan R Keen to BCP Development LLC, 0.1734 Acre New Lot 8A Phase 2 White Oaks Town of Christiansburg, \$230,000
- Kyle N Morgan to Ronald L Ramsey, Lot 28 Sturgill Estates Town of Christiansburg, \$415,000
- Kimberly Taylor Reed to Lisa Ann Obiso, 2023003239, \$3,850
- William Ray Hudnall Executor to Susan R Keen, Lot 28 Auburn Acres Phase 3 Riner Magisterial District, \$335,000
- Stateson Homes LLC to Rajshekhar, Lot 141 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$622,574
- Shah Development LLC to David A Linker; 1.754 Acres Lot 11A, 1.478 Acres Lot 11B, 1.2957 Acres Lot 11C Prices Fork Magisterial District; \$100,000
- Lowell Bowman III to David Stephens, 130-A3, \$795,000
- Thomas Bowden to Christopher Keener, 0.296 Acre Town of Blacksburg, \$318,000
- DVD Properties LLC to Ryan Asalone, Metes and Bounds See Legal Town of Christiansburg, \$310,000
- Dale D Wolf and Evelyn Z Wolf Revocable Trust to Restill LLC, Lot 19 Highland Park Addition Town of Blacksburg, \$340,000
- Progress Street Builders Inc. to James Thomas Ryburn, 3 Acres Lot 3 Town of Blacksburg, \$199,900
- David M Kellogg to Carolyn Babcock Torres, Lot 4A Shelor Heights Section 2 Riner Magisterial District, \$310,000
- Emmanuel C Ekwueme to Yuan Liang, Lot 44 Phase 2 Echols Village Subdivision Town of Blacksburg, \$370,000
- Stateson Homes LLC to Jandf Investments LLC, Lot 208 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$391,785
- Stateson Homes LLC to Jandf Investments LLC, Lot 205 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$391,784
- Stateson Homes LLC to Jandf Investments LLC, Lot 206 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$367,957
- Stateson Homes LLC to Jandf Investments LLC, Lot 207 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$388,376
- Diversified Interests OVLK LLC to Overlook Apartments LLC, 0.409 Acre Parcel 1 and 4.8 Acres Parcel 2 and 0.036 Acre Parcel 3 Town of Christiansburg, \$3,500,000
- EMS Trust Dated September 1 1999 to Holly T Casey, 1.512 Acres Lot 1, \$410,000
- Capital Property Acquisitions LLC to Michael Francis Murn, 0.5234 Acre Riner Magisterial District, \$265,000
- Progress Street Builders Inc. to PSB 20 Inc., Lot 123 Heritage Place Phase 4-B Riner Magisterial District, \$79,900
- PSB LLC to PSB 20 Inc., Lot 21 and Lot 22 Riner Magisterial District, \$145,000
- Linden Otoole to Bret W Hrbek, 2.0044 Acres Parcel A Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$55,000
- Progress Street Builders Inc. to PSB 20 Inc., Lot 25 Riner Magisterial District, \$79,900
- Lora D Epperly to Amanda Sue Wen Leong, Lot 24 Oak Tree Townhomes Phase 6, \$262,000
- Debora Roberts Lester AIF to Ronald D Roberts, Tract Number 2 Shawsville Magisterial District, \$23,100
- Cora K Simpkins to Blake Ronald Johnson, Lots 298-301 Crismond Addition Town of Blacksburg, \$350,000
- Stateson Homes LLC to Caroline Saouma, Lot 8 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$726,934
- Frank A Poth to Stephen A Walsh, Lot 27 Section 2 Bethel Woods Subdivision Riner Magisterial District, \$326,000
- Jesse Pedroni to Steven Marshall, Condo Unit 5103 Building 5 Knollwood Condos Phase 1 Town of Blacksburg, \$292,500
- George Wythe Robertson to Jacqueline Marie Hunt, Metes and Bounds See Legal Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$200,000
- Sean Tobin to Rachael Stanton, Lot 24A Robin Hood Estates Subdivision Town of Christiansburg, \$379,000
- Nancy B Denney to Powhite Land Company LLC, 6.015 Acres Lot 1 and 5.4395 Acres Lot 2 Riner Magisterial District, \$240,900
- David M Lane to Christy Dodd, Lot 4 Craig Mountain Section 8 Town of Christiansburg, \$335,000
- Carl J Saunders Jr. to Christopher R Bugaj, Lot 50 Block 5B1 Pheasant Run Townhomes, \$316,000
- Edward Lee Marshall to Kenneth Ramirez, 0.596 Acre Lots 29-34 Triangle Subdivision Section 1, \$225,000
- Edmun Caesar to Unlimited Sky Holdings Inc., 0.244 Acre Lot 26 Sturgill Estates Town of Christiansburg, \$40,000
- David A Morse to Claude Brian Smith, 3.47 Acres Lot 47 Brush Mountain West Phase 6 Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$699,000
- Adam Bethany to Donovan Narcise Christman, Lot 45 Section 3 McBryde Village Town of Blacksburg, \$501,000
- Charlotte D Smith to Joshua M Swift, 0.655 Acre Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$170,000
- Regina J Carico to Sean Lawrence Bohl, 1.386 Acre, \$390,000
- J and M Enterprises LLC to Figi LLC, 0.775 Acre Metes and Bounds Town of Christiansburg, \$400,000
- Ji Woong Choi to Le Le Lam, Condo Unit 432 Building 4 Town of Blacksburg, \$182,000
- Juan P Franco to Mount Tabor Investments LLC, Lot 1 Metes and Bounds Dundas Heights Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$325,000
- Andrew Reddy to Steven Oakey, Lot 142 Oak Tree Townhomes Phase 2 Town of Christiansburg, \$312,500
- Christopher Oneal Burch to Michael Quinones, Lot 4 Town of Christiansburg, \$400,000
- Eagle Construction of VA LLC to Bhaskar Prasanth Kotha, Lot 109 Preserve At Walnut Springs Section 3 Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$325,675
- Kipps Farms LLC to Stateson Homes LLC, 280268, \$279,298
- Carol M Gilbert to Morris D Reece, 0.54 Acre Shawsville Magisterial District, \$70,000
- Gregory L Akers to David Prine, Lot 56 Windsor Estates Phase 3 Town of Christiansburg, \$340,000
- John K Skelton to Xinwei Deng, Fronting 83 Feet on Clay Street Lot 13 and Adjoining 3 Feet of Lot 14 Alexander Black Addition Town of Blacksburg, \$670,000
- Chelsea N Naughton to Corey Michael Maupin, 0.07367 Acre Shawsville Magisterial District, \$117,500
- Aaron Cornett to Stefanie R Collins, 0.536 Acre Metes and Bounds Town of Christiansburg, \$268,500
- Ronald G Flanary II Successive Trust to Sharon Waldorf, Unit 8-3 Phase 5 Villas at Peppers Ferry Town of Christiansburg, \$335,000
- Marvin and Bright LLC to JTCI Electric LLC, Metes and Bounds See Legal Town of Christiansburg, \$52,500
- Deborah E Stike to James M Gibson, 0.86 Acre More or Less Riner Magisterial District, \$144,000
- Stateson Homes LLC to Joy Bennett, Lot 163 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$449,900
- LJCJ LLC to Jitpat Peungarsai, Lot 11 Phase 4-B Cedar Orchard Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$128,000
- Seeds Properties LLC to Chase Nathaniel Basham, Lot 20 Blue Ridge Court Section 5 Town of Christiansburg, \$235,000
- Lennerd H Koland to Shana Murphy, See Attached Plat Town of Christiansburg, \$155,000
- John P Wasielewski to Mark T Smith, Lot 14 The Ridge at Walnut Creek Shawsville Magisterial District, \$417,000
- Thurman C Wyatt to Megan Root, 6.48 Acres Less and Except Shawsville Magisterial District, \$229,900



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See Land Transfers, page 8

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, April 13:

### Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club serving up hot biscuits topped with sausage gravy, or with “world-famous” apple butter, with scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee; 8 to 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser’s Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Club fundraiser to help serve community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. There will be sign-up information available for club’s newest community initiative - Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. This is the last breakfast until October.

### Skipper cannon firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired twice on the Upper Quad of Virginia Tech’s campus between 2 – 4 p.m. as Virginia Tech cadets return from the spring Caldwell March. The actual timing of the cannon’s firing will depend on the length of the march, subject to weather and road conditions.

### Shred-A-Thon

The Town of Blacksburg will host a Shred-A-Thon, 9 a.m. – noon, at 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg. This free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please plan to bring documents in a box, tote, or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Please remain in your vehicle during drop-off. For more information, call the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540-443-1212.

## Sunday, April 14:

### Skipper cannon firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired once between 11:55 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. new the Tech Softball Park as part of the opening celebration for Virginia Tech Softball’s Military Appreciation game.

## Thursday, April 18:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse

Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly’s Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Friday, April 19:

### Skipper cannon firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired once between 5 – 5:30 p.m. on the Drillfield during the opening ceremony for Relay for Life; Skipper will fire at the end of the national anthem. Relay For Life at Virginia Tech is a student-run yearlong fundraising initiative for the American Cancer Society focused on raising funds for critical research as well as lifesaving patient support programs.

## Saturday, April 20:

### NAACP Young Adults Meet and Greet

At the Christiansburg Library; 6 – 7 p.m. Geared toward 25- 50 years olds. Learn about the NAACP, meet people and learn about professional development and social opportunities. Giveaways and appetizers. For more information crashatowndsend@gmail.com.

### Arbor Day Celebration

Join Blacksburg Parks and Recreation as a volunteer, 9 a.m.- noon for an Arbor Day Celebration and plant a tree or two! Participants are encouraged to bring a shovel and gloves. This event will be held rain or shine at 615 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg.

### “Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species”

At the Lyric Theater; 2- 4 p.m. Town of Blacksburg, Fralin Life Sciences Institute Global Change Center at Virginia Tech and the Invasive Species Collaborative (ISC) at Virginia Tech will host a screening of the film “Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species” at the Lyric Theater. Film introduces concept of invasive species and explains how strategies can prevent the spread of harmful species. Following the screening, a panel of professionals will answer audience questions. Participants can also expect complimentary popcorn and drinks. To register, for questions or more information, contact Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Manager, Carol Davis at 540.443.1617.

## Monday, April 22:

### Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

## Tuesday, April 23:

### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

### Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

## Saturday, April 27:

### Children’s Consignment Sale

The spring children’s consignment sale will be held 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St SE. (note different location).

See Events, page 8

#### Auctions

##### Storage Auction at Tuckit In Storage

Sale April 13, 2024 at 9am. 3950 South Main St Blacksburg (540)953-4022

- Unit I 24- Amanda Powell
- Unit B 1-Tim Lytton
- Unit C 15-Samantha Meyer
- Unit B 18- Tehya cummings
- Unit D 39- Beverly Handy
- Unit I 51- Teneh Banyu
- Unit C 9- James Sanders
- Unit F 25- Kristen Beavers
- Unit J 36- Laura Perry
- Unit B 25- Jessica Shelton-Riddle
- Unit B 32- Aimee Fisher
- Unit A 1- Austin Davis
- Unit C 30- Angela Clark
- Unit J 90- Stephanie Lewis
- Unit B 5- Karen Sewell
- Unit I 55- Lee Naff
- Unit I 29- Lee Naff

#### Legals - City of Radford

##### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

##### WASTE WATER, BASE ELECTIC RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Pursuant to Section 15.2-107 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. April 22, 2024 on the proposed Water, Waste Water and Electric Rates for Fiscal Year 2025.

Interest parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present their views. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street.

FURTHER, pursuant to Section 15.2-2209 of the Code of Virginia notice is given that the Council’s intention to propose an increase in the following Water, Waste Water and Electric rates and fees for Fiscal Year 2025:

- 1.Waste Water rates are programmed to increase from \$14.24 to \$16.24 for 2,000 gallons.
- 2.Water Connection Fee is programmed to increase from \$1,300 to \$2,000.
- 3.Electric Base Rates

#### Legals - City of Radford

(Energy + Customer Charge) are programmed to increase from \$104.65 to \$107.97 for 1,000 kwh customer. Summary of rates only. Please see original schedules for terms and conditions.

Residential: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$7.02 Energy Charge all metered kWh) \$0.10095

Sanctuary Worship Service Basic customer charge: (per month) \$7.02 Energy Charge (all metered kWh) \$0.10155

Small General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$9.25 Energy Charge (all metered kWh) \$0.10464

Medium General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$15.00 Demand Charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$4.45 Energy Charge (All metered kWh) \$0.08696

Large General Service: Basic custoemr charge: (per month) \$50.00 Demand charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$13.13 Reactive Demand Charge (all kVar of lagging reactive demand) \$0.4500 Energy Charge (All metered kWh) \$0.05699

Large Power Service: Basic custoemr charge: (per month) \$275.00 Demand charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$13.98 Reactive Demand Charge (all kVar of lagging reactive demand) \$0.9900 Energy Charge (All metered kWh) \$0.05520

School & City Services Basic Customer Charge: (per month) \$5.79 Energy Charge (all metered kWh) \$0.96690

Outdoor Lighting (per month) 48 Watt Residential LED \$10.65 54 Watt Commercial LED \$12.50 160 Watt Commercial LED \$21.75

#### Legals - City of Radford

Installation charge for metal pole for underground sodium lighting \$425.00

Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (per kwh) \$0.0560870 Fuel Adjustment Charge (per kwh) \$0.003377

Rate Tariffs for all customer classes are available for review on the City’s website at www.radfordva.gov.

#### BY THE ORDER OF RADFORD CITY COUNCIL

#### Legals - Montgomery County

##### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

##### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

##### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Howard M. Thornton, Jr. and Gayle W. Thornton, Property Owners, and PCKK Partners, LLC, Applicant, to allow for a Contractors Equipment Storage Yard in the General Business District B-3 zoning district on property located at 520 and 540 Depot St. NE, identified as Tax Parcel 497- ((A))-40; (Parcel ID 007903), and consisting of approximately of 2.409 acres. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. B. Rezoning request by Johnny C. Martin, Jr. and Amelia F. Martin, Property Owners and Applicants, to rezone property identified as all of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-6, (Parcel ID 007453), and consisting of approximately of 1.595 acres located at

#### Legals - Montgomery County

3345 Roanoke Street; and an approximate 5.955 acre portion of property located at 3301 Roanoke Street, identified as a portion of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-5C, (Parcel ID 090517) from Agricultural District (A) to General Business District (B-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. C. Conditional Use Permit request by Johnny C. Martin, Jr. and Amelia F. Martin, Property Owners and Applicants, to allow for an amendment of an existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the expansion of a Contractors Equipment Storage Yard on property located at 3345 Roanoke Street and a portion of property located at 3301 Roanoke Street, identified as all of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-6, (Parcel ID 007453), consisting of approximately of 1.595 acres, and a portion of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-5C, (Parcel ID 090517) consisting of approximately 5.955 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, the Town’s Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public

#### Legals - Montgomery County

##### hearing for Monday, April 22, 2024, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the intent to adopt a resolution amending the FY 2023-2024 budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget not to exceed \$7 million by appropriating funds to various County Capital Improvement Plan Projects.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Angela M. Hill County Administrator

##### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INVITING BIDS ON AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING TO GRANT A NON-EXCLUSIVE LEASE OF ATTACHMENT LOCATIONS AND GROUND SPACE AT THE WATER TANK SITE LOCATED AT 110 RIDGEWOOD LANE IN THE CITY OF RADFORD FOR CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS PURPOSES

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1800, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on April 22, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at 10 Robertson Street to receive public comment on an ordinance proposing to grant a non-exclusive lease of attachment locations and ground space at the water tank site located at 110 Ridgewood Lane in the City of Radford for cellular telecommunications purposes. A copy of the full text of the ordinance, including the terms of the

#### Legals - Montgomery County

proposed lease agreement, may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603.

In addition, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2100 et seq., bids are hereby invited for the lease proposed to be granted under the ordinance. All bids must be in writing and submitted to the Office of the City Clerk at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 or at Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov. ALL BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 22, 2024 AT 12:00 P.M. Bids will be opened and read aloud during public session at Council’s regular meeting on April 22, 2024 at 7 PM. After the reading of the bids, Council will proceed with consideration of the proposed ordinance and lease. Council reserves the right reject any and all bids and to defer action until a subsequent meeting.

##### TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The Town of Christiansburg Virginia as a recipient of block grant funding is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prepare and adopt a multiyear Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans to solicit citizen views on proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program activities contained in these documents. The proposed plan is for the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan to provide information on the program and the goals for the upcoming year. Based on last year’s allocation, the estimated amount the Town may receive is approximately \$130,000.

Activities proposed include the East Main Street sidewalk project located in the Town’s qualifying low to moderate income census

#### Legals - Montgomery County

tract block group and a town-wide income-qualified emergency home repair program.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION Draft copies of the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan are available for review. Copies can be obtained from the Christiansburg Town Manager’s Office, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, the Christiansburg branch library at 125 Sheltman Street or on the Town’s website at www.christiansburg.org. The 30-day comment period will run through Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

PUBLIC MEETINGS Two Public Meetings with Town staff to discuss and receive comment on the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM and Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the Admin Conference Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia. An electronic (Zoom) option is available for both meetings. Please contact staff for further information.

PUBLIC HEARING A Public Hearing for the adoption of the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

Provide any questions, comments, or suggestions by mailing the Town Manager’s Office, Town of Christiansburg, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029, by e-mailing awarren@christiansburg.org or by phone at (540) 382-6120 x 1130.

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# Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library enhances digital news archive with Montgomery County newspapers

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is now offering an expanded set of digitized newspaper content available on their Digital News Archive.

Over 150,000 new pages of content from the News Messenger/ Montgomery News Messenger have been added to the Archive.

The new digitized content is available to anyone with an Internet connection and adds to the library's existing

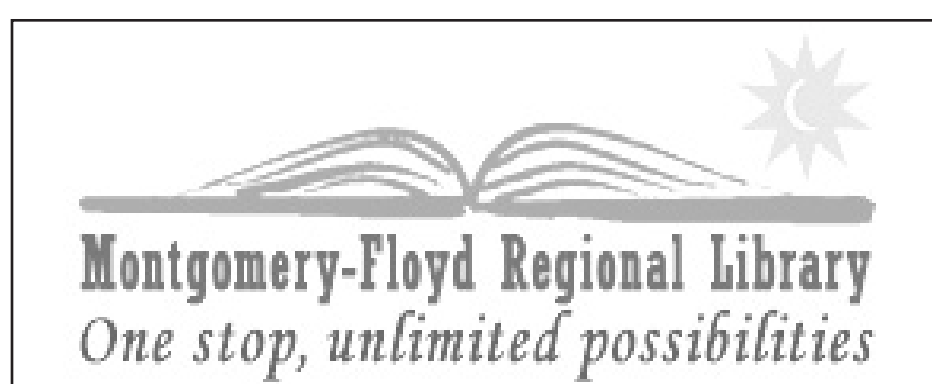
Floyd County newspaper collection online. Over 100 years of Floyd Press, and 50 years of Montgomery News Messenger/News Messenger can be searched, viewed, and saved as images.

Digitization of the Montgomery County newspaper content has been made possible by the generous support of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Foundation. Floyd County

digitization was supported by donations from the Floyd County Library Building Fund, Inc.

"We have these resources available on microfilm for library visitors," said Library Director Karim Khan, "but we hope that many more users can use the online resource to learn about this history of the New River Valley and the people who lived here."

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library's Digital



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MFR

News Archive is available from the library's homepage at [www.mfml.org](http://www.mfml.org).

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

## Virginia Passenger Rail Authority hosts open house, public survey events

*Events scheduled for Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Radford*

On Thursday, April 18, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) will host a second open house to gather further input regarding the expansion of passenger rail service to the New River Valley through planning, design, and construction of rail infrastructure improvements.

The open house will be held from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center in Christiansburg.

During this second round of engagement, VPRA is asking community members to rank their preferred passenger rail site location via survey. The survey will go live on April 17 and will be available to fill out in person at the below events, as well as online on VPRA's

website. The survey will be available until May 17.

VPRA will be present at the following events, and will have information and the survey available:

April 17: Blacksburg Farmers Market (2 – 6 p.m.)

April 18: Radford Public Library (10 – 12:30 p.m.)

April 18: OPENHOUSE Montgomery County Government Center (4:30 – 7:30

p.m.)  
April 20: Blacksburg Fork & Cork Festival (12:30 – 5:30 p.m.)

To access the survey, and 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/>.

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

### News Messenger

Established 1869

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P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

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Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

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

### Carilion Clinic again earns Fortune Magazine's "America's Most Innovative Companies" honor

Carilion Clinic was again named to Fortune magazine's "America's Most Innovative Companies" list.

Compiled with market research and data company Statista, the 2024 list identifies 200 companies chosen for "transforming industries from the inside out."

Carilion ranks #122 on the list, 18 spots higher than 2023. This year's list was trimmed from 2023's 300 companies, and 21 hospitals and healthcare systems among 44 healthcare honorees. It's the second consecutive year Carilion has been honored, and Carilion is the only Virginia hospital or healthcare system in the 2024 rankings.

Fortune evaluated companies from mid-September through late November 2023. Thousands of employees, management consultants, patent attorneys, recruiters and human resources experts were surveyed about how companies spark innovation through research and development, product invention, process streamlining and collaborative and thoughtful leadership.

The ranking is based on a methodology resulting in scores in three categories:

Product innovation — A company's products and services, covering attractiveness, design, usability, uniqueness and other criteria

Process innovation — Analyzing all company processes, from sourcing and production to marketing, sales and support.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CARILION CLINIC

Innovation culture and allows ideas to be implemented.

— Measuring to what extent a company fosters a spirit of entrepreneurship and creativity internally

Carilion Clinic

[www.montcova.com](http://www.montcova.com)

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
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52	53	54				55			56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63		
64					65						66		
67					68						69		

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Type of footwear
  - 5. Studies a lot all at once
  - 10. Adventure story
  - 14. Hundred thousand
  - 15. Former U.S. Vice President
  - 16. Ruler
  - 17. Indian city
  - 18. Similar
  - 19. Ship as cargo
  - 20. Volcanic craters
  - 22. Boxing's "GOAT"
  - 23. Bullfighting maneuvers
  - 24. London soccer team
  - 27. Score perfectly
  - 30. No (Scottish)
  - 31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)
  - 32. Woman (French)
  - 35. Unwanted attic "decor"
  - 37. Peter Griffin's daughter
  - 38. Broad, shallow crater
  - 39. Large instruments
  - 40. Low bank or reef
  - 41. \_\_\_\_\_ and Venzetti
  - 42. Oil group
  - 43. Father
  - 44. Aggressive men
  - 45. Pairs well with green
  - 46. Travelers need it
  - 47. Digital audiotape
  - 48. Midway between northeast and east
  - 49. Chemistry descriptor
  - 52. S. China seaport
  - 55. Sound unit
  - 56. Heavy cavalry sword
  - 60. Thick piece of something
  - 61. Spa town in Austria
  - 63. Boyfriend
  - 64. Norse personification of old age
  - 65. Type of box
  - 66. Tie together
  - 67. Fiber from the coconut
  - 68. Chicago mayor
  - 69. Old English letters
  - CLUES DOWN
  - 1. Type of sauce
  - 2. Pattern of notes
  - 3. Plant with long seedpods
  - 4. Map out
  - 5. Numbers cruncher
  - 6. Make a mental connection
  - 7. Italian tenor
  - 8. N. America's highest mountain peak
  - 9. Witness
  - 10. Arabic given name
  - 11. Music awards
  - 12. "The Immoralist" author
  - 13. Area units
  - 21. Units of loudness
  - 23. Political action committee
  - 25. Bar bill
  - 26. Witch
  - 27. A theatrical performer
  - 28. 2-door car
  - 29. \_\_\_\_\_ and flowed
  - 32. Papier-\_\_\_\_, art
  - 33. City in Georgia
  - 34. Irregular
  - 36. College sports conference
  - 37. Angry
  - 38. Partner to cheese
  - 40. S. American mammal
  - 41. Self-immolation by fire rituals
  - 43. Split pulses
  - 44. Disfigure
  - 46. Cow noise
  - 47. Erase
  - 49. Chadic language
  - 50. Reward for doing well
  - 51. Paid TV
  - 52. Millisecond
  - 53. Other
  - 54. Colombian city
  - 57. Necklace part
  - 58. Every one of two or more people
  - 59. Regrets
  - 61. They come after "A"
  - 62. Horse noise



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# Expert shares advice for dealing with seasonal allergies this spring

Many who suffer from seasonal allergies might be experiencing more severe symptoms this year due to the early start of spring. Rebecca Schapira, D.O., an assistant professor at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and an allergist with Carilion Clinic, provides insight on how to detect early allergy symptoms and prepare for their impact on your overall health.

“Our shifting climate has brought us an earlier start to spring. This means earlier tree pollination and therefore earlier development of allergy symptoms,” said Schapira. “Sneezing, runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, and itchy or watery eyes are common symptoms.”

Over-the-counter allergy medicines are popular among those who suffer from allergy

symptoms. Steroid nasal sprays are the first-line treatment for seasonal allergies in patients over age 4 but will take 2-4 weeks to achieve the best effect, so starting these medications about a month before your symptoms usually occur is advised,” said Schapira. Your local pharmacist can help you find the over-the-counter steroid nasal sprays in the medication aisle, as not all nasal sprays should be used long-term. “Antihistamines taken by mouth will work the same day, but in general are less effective at reducing nasal symptoms than steroid nasal sprays.”

For those whose allergies are more severe, Schapira suggests seeing a local allergist. “It is important to know what seasonal allergens you are allergic to. Testing can help identify your

allergens, and then your allergist can work with you to individually tailor medications and develop a plan to help you stay outside.” Symptoms of seasonal allergies can often be similar to those of a cold. Schapira offers insight on how to differentiate between the two. “Environmental allergies are symptoms triggered by your immune

system’s response to pollen or other allergens. These reactions are typically reproducible, and therefore predictable. Symptoms often last for several weeks,” she said. “On the other hand, a cold is due to a viral illness encountered by the immune system and is often accompanied by similar symptoms as environmental allergies, but may also be

accompanied by a fever. Symptoms often last 1-2 weeks and then resolve.” Schapira also says that allergens can change with age. “Seasonal allergies occur when the immune system identifies an environmental airborne allergen, such as pollen, as a foreign invader. It develops an allergic antibody against that pollen as a self-protective response,” she said. “With

more advanced age, the immune system becomes generally less reactive, and therefore more tolerant of foreign invaders such as pollen. Alternatively, your immune system may not grow into this tolerance and begin reacting to pollen.”

*Sarah Hern for Virginia Tech*

Many who suffer from seasonal allergies might be experiencing more severe symptoms this year due to the early start of spring.



COURTESY OF PIXABAY VIA VIRGINIA TECH

# ‘Creating Connections’ campaign launches to promote freight rail in

The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), is launching a marketing campaign, “Creating Connections: For the Long Haul”, aimed at showcasing the vital role of freight rail in Virginia’s transportation infrastructure. This campaign focuses on raising awareness about the efficiencies, sustainability, and economic advantages offered by freight rail transportation as well as the DRPT programs that support freight rail throughout the Commonwealth.

Through a series of multimedia components that include video, digital ads, and engaging social media content, “Creating Connections” will share the benefits of businesses with rail connectivity, innovations driving

efficiency, and the environmental benefits of choosing rail over traditional modes of transport.

DRPT Director Jennifer DeBruhl expresses enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, “Virginia’s freight rail system plays a critical role in our economy, supporting businesses, creating jobs, and reducing road congestion. By highlighting the benefits of our freight rail programs and the businesses utilizing rail, we hope to inspire companies to explore the opportunities and advantages that rail transportation can offer.”

“Creating Connections” will launch with a dedicated webpage providing a wealth of information, resources, and testimonials. The public is invited to explore the site to learn more about the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), is launching a marketing campaign, “Creating Connections: For the Long Haul”, aimed at showcasing the vital role of freight rail in Virginia’s transportation infrastructure.

benefits of freight rail and its impact on Virginia’s economy and sustainability efforts.

For more information on “Creating Connections” and to stay updated on

the latest resources and information, visit [connectingva.org](http://connectingva.org).

*Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation*

# Celebrate Earth Day at one of Virginia’s 42 state parks

In recognition of Earth Day, Virginia State Parks are hosting more than 50 events to celebrate and preserve the natural wonders of the commonwealth.

From educational programs to hands-on conservation efforts, the parks invite visitors of all ages to join in honoring our planet and taking action for a sustainable future.

“We believe that Earth Day is not just a day to celebrate, but it’s also a day to act,” said Virginia State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker. “Our goal is to empower individuals to make a positive impact on the environment, both within our parks and beyond. By coming together as a community, we

can create lasting change for the betterment of our planet.”

With a mission to conserve and protect Virginia’s natural resources, Virginia State Parks have long been at the forefront of environmental stewardship. On Earth Day, they reaffirm their commitment to conservation through a range of engaging activities and initiatives.

From April 20 through April 28, visitors can participate in a variety of Earth Day service projects, including trail cleanups, invasive plant removal, seed and tree planting, and bird box building. Additionally, educational programs will be offered to raise awareness about environmental issues and

inspire visitors to take action in their communities.

There will be something for everyone this Earth Day at Virginia State Parks. To learn more, go to [virginiastateparks.gov/earthday](http://virginiastateparks.gov/earthday).

Locally, Claytor Lake State Park will host events Friday, April 26 at 1 p.m. – Saturday, April 27 at 8:30 p.m.

“Help us celebrate our planet with some special Earth Day programming,” Claytor Lake State Park announced. Friday, April 26, at 1 p.m., there will be a Tree Identification Hike at the Howe House.

“Join us for a scenic hike around the historical Howe house and learn how to identify

some of our native trees,” the park announced. The remainder of the events include:

Friday, April 26:

4 p.m. Claytor Crafts - Tree Cookies at the Interpretive Campfire Circle in Campground D. Create something special with natural materials found around the park.

7 p.m. Animal Invaders Campfire at the Interpretive Campfire Circle in Campground D. Have a s’more and relax by the campfire as we talk about invasive species, what they are, and how they spread.

Saturday, April 27:

2 p.m. Invasive Species Removal at the Interpretive Campfire Circle in Campground

D. Help us control some of the invasive plant species at the park. Gloves are recommended for this program.

4 p.m. Shoreline Cleanup at the Beach Building. Show your appreciation for the planet by helping us clean our shoreline. Gloves are recommended for this program.

7:30 p.m. Owl Prowl at the Interpretive Campfire Circle in Campground D. Join us for a short walk in the woods as we discuss the owls common to our park and attempt to call them in to join us.

*Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*

# Clouds fail to eclipse excitement over historic solar show

RADFORD - Cleanup in the scene shop can wait when there is a much bigger event taking center stage, high above the Earth.

“We were at work and thought, ‘Wait, this could be way more interesting,’” said Angelina Capots, a sophomore theatre major from Fredericksburg, about the partial solar eclipse hanging over the Radford University campus.

Capots and a group of theatre majors, along with their instructor Kate Burnham-Hull, had been tidying up from a recent musical on campus when they decided to take a break and scurry outside in the early afternoon on April 8 to join hundreds more Highlanders and community members gathered on the Artis Center for the Sciences patio and parking lot, all hoping to catch a glimpse of the rare solar occasion.

“We didn’t want to miss out on that because it is such a cool event,” Capots said.

Heavy cloud cover over a 64-degree day in Radford nearly spoiled the show.

“My weather app says the clouds may clear a little,” a hopeful skywatcher said.

And they did clear somewhat. Three or four times throughout the afternoon, the clouds scattered apart briefly, and the sun and moon played peek-a-boo with those starring up from below.

One of the times was at near-peak solar coverage. At 3:10 p.m., umbraphiles-for-a-day slid over the eyes of their university-provided solar glasses, lifted their heads skyward and uttered a collective and loud “ooooooh!” at the awe-inspiring event.

“I was blown away, to be honest. I was speechless,” Jasmine Graham, a sophomore from Richmond, Virginia, said moments later.

As the eclipse reached its pinnacle, which was about 87% in Radford, views through the solar glasses displayed a dark



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIV.

During breaks in the clouds, the eclipse could be seen in Radford.

See Eclipse, page 7

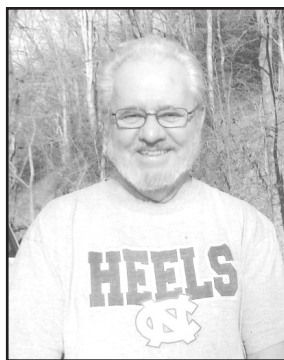
# OBITUARIES

## Harrell, Kenneth Ralph

Kenneth Ralph Harrell, 82, of wife of 55 years, Carolyn Graham Snowville, passed away Monday, April 8, 2024.

He was a proud U.S. Marine, serving from 1961 until 1965. Kenneth retired from the United States Postal Service where he worked as a clerk. He was a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Radford, the Snowville Ruritan Club and the Pulaski County High School Band Boosters, as well as a huge influence on the creation of the Snowville/Hiwassee Recreation Department. Kenneth was well known for his barbeque and his strong sense of community through volunteerism. He had a love for the UNC Tarheel sports, coaching recreation sports, gardening, bird watching, baking desserts and Elvis. He was preceded in death by his parents, George Washington and Ethel Rodgers Harrell; and his sister, Rachel Harrell Pearson.

He is survived by his loving



Harrell; daughter, Dawn Harrell-Riddle; sons and daughters-in-law, Paul Harrell (Luciana), and James Harrell (Kellie); four grandchildren; one step grandchild; two great-grandchildren; brothers and sister-in-law, George Harrell (Ora Lee), and John Harrell (Brenda); sisters, Edna Skinner and Carolyn Flora; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Kenneth always had a joke at the ready, ready to share. His sense of humor will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The family will receive friends 10 - 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. with Pastor Mike Coleman officiating. Burial with full military honors will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery in

Dublin.

The family would like to thank Intrepid Hospice, Amy Bain, the Snowville Ruritan Club, Judy Thornton, Debbie Rabideau, and many other friends in the Snowville community for the love and support

they have shown to the family and the care provided to Kenneth.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Snowville Ruritan Club, 4867 Lead Mine Road, Hiwassee, VA, 24347.

## Ratcliffe, Essie Irene Wade

Essie Irene Wade Ratcliffe, 105, back and received her high school diploma, a Graduate of Biblical Studies, and a Doctorate Degree in Biblical Studies.

She was born in Floyd County March 26, 1919, to the late Charlie Lee Wade and Leona Harriet Dulaney Wade. She was the widow of the late Rev. Paul E. Ratcliffe. She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Carrie Phillips, Ola Cox, Velma Reed, and India Goad; and brother, Denver Wade.

Essie was a member of the West Radford Church of God since 1964. She worked at Kenrose and the box factory until about 70 years of age. After retirement, she then went



Survivors include

two special nieces, Barbara Farmer (Dallas) of Riner, and Bessie McCormick (Howard) of Dublin; nephew, Denton Reed of Dublin; and she was a special aunt to many

nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Commonwealth Senior Living Radford and Medi-Hospice for the loving care given to Essie.

See Obituaries, page 7

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

### BAPTIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### ECKANKAR

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

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## GOODBYE TO GUILT

Read Psalms 101:1-8; 103:1-22

Do you feel guilty long after a situation has been resolved? Do you continue to mentally kick yourself for rash words uttered in anger? Do errors you could have avoided keep you awake at night?

Such lingering self-reproach is unhealthy. When you realize you've made a mistake, take the necessary steps to correct it; then let it go. Focusing on past problems will not lead to a productive future.

If you have repented of sin and confessed it to the Lord, do not doubt God has forgiven you. His Word makes that emphatically clear.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:12).

God totally wipes clean our forgiven past. He not only removes the guilt of our sin, but the punishment we deserve. Because Jesus died for our sins, we can live eternally. He set us free from sin and guilt.

Guilt exposes the wrong committed. A forgiven sinner has no reason for guilt to remain (1 John 1:9). If you struggle with guilt, ask God to help you find release.

Thought for Today: Let guilt guide you to God. He has the solution.

Quicklook: Psalm 103:1-12

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

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

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

### LUTHERAN

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

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Celebrate Word and Sacrament as we worship with varied liturgy, hymns and music. Join our inclusive community in person or online Sundays at 10:00 am (youtube.com/@OSLCCburg), followed by refreshments and fellowship. Ministries include Bible study, choir, food ministry, and crafters. Little Free Pantry and Library available 24-7 by the parking lot. Parent's Morning Out offers faith-based activities and play for children 16 month - 5 years select weekdays. Wheelchair accessible. Learn how you may contribute to our ministries at www.oslc-cburg.org. 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where

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

### MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor

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

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

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

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

### UNITED METHODIST

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

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

### WESLEYAN

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

# Music connects cultures, inspires climate action in 'Small Island, Big Song'

Featuring a roster of renowned first nation artists from across the Pacific and Indian Oceans, "Small Island, Big Song" combines music, spoken word, and incredible panoramic video of the artist's homelands, delivering a powerful and timely cultural message about the impact of the changing seas.

Culminating a series of 2023-24 Moss Arts Center season events curated to invite consideration of environmental landscapes and the impact of climate change, the center presents the performance on Wednesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Drawing from a shared seafaring heritage to unite the Pacific and Indian oceans, this performance brings together some of the most prominent artists of Taiwan, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Papua New Guinea who have made a choice to maintain the cultural voice of their people, to sing in the language, and to play the instruments of their land. These lineages mixed with their diverse contemporary styles — roots reggae, grunge, R&B, folk, and spoken word — establish a musical dialogue between

cultures, drawing on their ancestry to confront contemporary issues with a hope-driven vision of the future.

Motivated by shared concern for the ocean, the "Small Island, Big Song" co-founders — Taiwanese theatre producer BaoBao Chen and Australian music producer and filmmaker Tim Cole — quit their jobs after hearing the predicted effects of climate change to oceanic nations. Chen and Cole spent the following eight years recording and filming with over 100 artists on 16 island nations, layering up songs from island to island. Outcomes include two award-winning albums, a feature film, an impact program, and two world-touring productions.

Toured to 15 countries across four continents, over 170,000 people have seen "Small Island, Big Song" live since its premiere at SXSW 2018. Encores often spontaneously erupt into a shared celebration, with instruments, voices, and dancing bodies rising from the seats. Support for "Small Island, Big Song" is provided by the Charles and Dorothy Lambert Endowment for the Arts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GELÉE LAI

An Indigenous woman dances onstage during a live production of "Small Island, Big Song."

This engagement of is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Tickets for the performance are \$20-\$55 for general audience and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under.

Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours. The performance will be held in the center's Anne

and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall. Convenient parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street and in downtown Blacksburg. Find more parking details online. If you are an individual

with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact Jamie Wiggert at least 10 days prior to the event at 540-231-5300 or email wiggertj@vt.edu during regular business hours.

Katie Gebert for Virginia Tech

## Spotted lanternflies are about to reappear

The battle to beat the bug is back. Spotted lanternflies, which have overwintered in egg masses, are about to hatch and make their reappearance as nymphs in mid- to late April, said Virginia Tech entomologist Eric Day. The spotted lanternfly is well-established up and down the East Coast and in Virginia," said Day, who

manages the Insect Identification Lab in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Department of Entomology. "It's really a perfect invasive storm. We are moving from detecting and reporting it to managing it and reaching out to those who are potentially impacted."

As Virginia prepares to receive its unwelcome guests, Day offers several

updates on the upcoming season and reminders on how to help contain the spread.

Twelve Virginia counties and 10 cities are currently under quarantines, which means vehicles moving goods across city and county lines must be inspected by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the lanternfly and its eggs.

Day expects spotted lanternflies to

spread to more counties, but how many will appear and where is anyone's guess. He notes that some areas of Virginia that were initially infested have reported fewer sightings.

"Winchester saw lower numbers last year," he said. "Eventually, native predators start to find them delicious. Also, the spotted lanternfly gets a fungal

See Lanternflies, page 8

## Eclipse

from page 5

circle with a bright orange sliver of the sun peeking out to its left.

Physics major Bryce Pappas, of Roanoke, caught a few eclipse glimpses of the moon-blocked sun with a large telescope equipped with a solar lens. "I loved it. I loved it," he said. "It's really amazing."

Graphic design major Trey Terry felt the same. "Wow, it's amazing," he said as he stood beside Graham. "I can't even put it into words."

Graham witnessed the 2017 partial solar eclipse at her grandmother's house, viewing it through a shoebox lens. She doesn't remember much about it, which is one reason she came out for the campus event.

"This is so cool," she said, glasses in hand, waiting for one more

chance to see the eclipse. "When you look around, you see everybody's outside, and everybody is looking up to the sky. Everyone seems to be having a good time."

There was more to the event than sky gazing. The event, organized by the Radford University Planetarium in collaboration with the Artis College of Science and Technology, offered an exceptional lineup of engaging eclipse-themed activities in the Center for Sciences lobby. There were crafts and even cookies placed in moon-and-sun eclipse formations. The planetarium offered shows every 30 minutes, and the Museum of the Earth Sciences opened for visitors to explore the wonders of the Earth.

More than 1,200 solar glasses were issued; 1,000

of those came from the Planetarium and about 200 more from physics majors Kaleb Martin and Daquez Branch through their ambassador designation with the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and NASA.

Kolten Turner enjoyed his time inside the Center for the Sciences just as much as he did outside. So much so, the nine-year-old already can see Radford in his future "because it has a lot of technology," he said, standing with his family outside with rain sprinkling the dispersing crowd as the main attraction waned. "It can teach me a lot of things, and it has cool things inside, like the planetarium."

The main attraction, however, remained the sun and the moon ... and the clouds, which threw more



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIV.

Eclipse watchers look to the sky at an event held by Radford University for Tuesday's eclipse.

shade on the event than everyone had hoped.

But that was OK with Terry. "It was just amazing

to see," said the junior from Newport News.

"This just feels like a moment in history."

Chad Osborne for Radford University

## Obituaries

from page 6

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main St., Radford, Virginia 24141.

The family received friends Friday, April 12, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral

services followed with Pastor Danny Newman officiating. Interment followed in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

### Wade, Jr., William H.

William H. Wade, Jr. (Bill) John and Carrie Hopkins. He was passed away peacefully at Kroontje Health Care Center in Blacksburg April 8, 2024.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 62 years, Lois B. Wade. He is also survived by his brother-in-law: Reverend David Bayse. He is survived by three nephews: John Bayse (Kelly), Paul Bayse (Diane), and Timothy Bayse (Jocelyn). Also, two cousins: Fredene Poff and Reginald Gentry. Also surviving are his extended family: Betty Greene (William), Lesley Mitchell (Jeff), Abi Lester (Darrell), and Ernestine Weeks. Also, nieces by marriage: Aldene Bradley (Jay) and Anette Lloyd (Mark). Special friends left to cherish his memory are Sandy and David Price, Wanda and Cam Chalmers, Sandra Smith, and Pastor



the Army Engineering Aviation Battalion in Korea. While in service, he attended the ETA Jima Specialist School in Japan. Upon returning from overseas, he received his AAS degree in Architectural Drafting from New River Community College in 1975. Bill held various positions throughout his career, including Project Engineer at Hubbell Lighting and serving as Project Manager for the Horton Center for the Virginia

Tech Foundation. He was a faithful attendee of Blacksburg First Wesleyan Church since he was a child, enjoying assisting with sound equipment for services as a young adult.

Bill and Lois were married Feb. 10, 1962, in Roanoke. They began many travels and have been to 48 states, as well as Canada. In their later years, Bill and Lois served as primary caregivers to many dear family members. Bill was a wonderful and dedicated supporter of Lois in her love for nursing home ministry. Bill greatly enjoyed spending time on the enclosed porch, enjoying the sun, beautiful views, and watching the deer from his home, despite his struggle with dementia and his eventual stay in Kroontje Health Care Center.

A note of special thanks to Carilion New River Valley Medical Center,

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, Dr. Schano, Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and Christiansburg Rescue Squad. Also, to the three main caregivers: Fredene Poff, Anette Lloyd, and Darrell Lester. Thanks to McCoy Funeral Home, following his passing, Bill was able to make his final trip through Vicker, VA, followed by his wife, Lois, his cousin, Fredene, and his niece, Anette.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to Blacksburg First Wesleyan Church Outreach Project, a project begun by Bill and Lois to help others: Blacksburg First Wesleyan, 1406 Giles Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Visitation was Friday, April 12, 2024, at McCoy Funeral Home, followed by a short service in the mausoleum at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg, VA, with Pastor John Hopkins officiating, assisted by Reverend David Bayse.

Put The Classifieds To Work!  
Call 389-9355

#### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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## Lanternflies from page 7

disease that takes them out. It's possible that some natural enemies are helping to cull them."

Industries including agriculture, forestry, logging, trucking, and construction are the most heavily impacted by the spotted lanternfly, which can damage trees and crops and hitch rides to new locations on machinery and equipment.

The bug threatens crops such as grapes, peaches, and hops along with about 70 tree species, including pines, walnuts, maples, and oaks. Its preferred host is another

invasive species called the tree of heaven.

For homeowners, the spotted lanternfly is mostly a nuisance. From November through April, when spotted lanternflies are in their egg stage, Day recommends checking your property for egg masses and destroying them. If you see nymphs or adults, kill them on sight.

Also, be sure to check cars, trailers, or other equipment for the pests before moving them to another location to avoid inadvertently spreading them. Outdoor items such as grills, fencing, kids' playhouses, and patio

furniture also can be easy locations for egg masses to hide.

Virginia Cooperative Extension's recent publication Homeowner Suggestions for Managing Spotted Lanternfly offers more helpful tips for managing the pests. If you find spotted lanternflies in a new area of infestation for Virginia, report it to your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office or online.

*Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech*

## Events from page 3

Families can get great deals on seasonal kids' clothes and shoes, toys, books, baby gear, sports equipment, maternity clothing and more. Many items are like-new (some even brand-new). Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. but you will want to shop early for the best selection! Cash or checks only. No card or electronic payments. There is space for new consignors. For more information,

email [bumckidsale@aol.com](mailto:bumckidsale@aol.com).

## On-going: Radford Noon Rotary Club's Field

## of Honor

Field of Honor will be installed on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion prior to Memorial Day until the Fourth of July. Radford Noon Rotary Club is looking for people to sponsor flags. Individual flags are \$50. Corporate Sponsorship is: Bronze - \$250; Silver - \$500; Gold - \$1000; and Platinum - \$2500. To register, contact [rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com](mailto:rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com).

## Land Transfers from page 2

- James R Trump Jr. to Thomas E Kidd, Lot 14 Town of Christiansburg, \$190,000
- Micheal L Baesler to Kelly Burdette, 1.011 Acres Parcel 1 and 0.79 Acre Parcel 2 Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$365,000
- Jason Thompson to Brantley Thomas, Metes and Bounds See Legal, \$5,000
- Stateson Homes LLC to Sharon P Mills, Lot 15 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$809,624
- Mary Jo Musselmann to Elite Estate Solutions LLC, Two Parcels Remaining 0.92 of an Acre Riner Magisterial District, \$30,000
- Simon Lawrence to Anne-Sophie Lachenal-Chevallet, Lot 56 McBryde Village Town of Blacksburg, \$345,000
- James W Pease to Susan Cronier, Lot 17 Countryside Estates Town of Blacksburg, \$530,000
- Mark W Kingery to Jeremy Scot Cumbee Jr., Lots 81 and 82 Shawsville Magisterial District, \$22,000
- Equity Trustees LLC to Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 2023006863 Substitute Trustees Supplemental, \$10
- Kathleen Herzog to Elizabeth Ann Young, 17,449 Square Feet Lot 29 Windmill Hills Phase 2 Riner Magisterial District, \$404,000
- Stateson Homes LLC to Erin Martin, Lot 43 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$646,935
- Ray Leo Est Price to Derrick R Lancaster, Three Parcels Riner Magisterial District, \$140,000
- R W Management LLC to Mabe Property Management LLC, 0.6473 of an Acre Riner Magisterial District, \$420,000
- Richard C Briele to Sarah Catherine Casteriana, Lot 13 Kensington Phase 1, \$369,950

- R Fralin Construction Inc. to Charles Devin Durham, Lot 40 Phase 2-A Cloverlea Subdivision Riner Magisterial District, \$389,950
- LBA2020 Properties LLC to Nailaja Mingo, Condo Unit 832 Phase 6 University Place Town of Blacksburg, \$240,000
- JC Cornerstone Builders Inc. to Sharon P Pitt, Lot 6 Maple Ridge Village 4 Town of Blacksburg, \$583,400
- Theodore R Carr III to Raymond L Bishop, Metes and Bounds See Legal, \$21,000
- Pitchayaporn Tantihkarnchana to Jonathan Dan Jacobs, Lot 2 section 2 Northside Park Town of Blacksburg, \$448,000
- Stateson Homes LLC to Kristen Benson, Lot 132 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$508,499
- Joan G Efird to Robert O Efird, Lot 52 Phase 2A Town of Blacksburg, \$420,000
- ANB Investments LLC to Joseph M Falvella Sr., Lot 3 Westview Subdivision Town of Christiansburg, \$235,000
- Kimberlyn C Lancaster to Albert D Kim, Condo Unit 835 Phase 2 University Place, \$238,000
- FCHB Inc. to Professional Finishing LLC, Lot 12 Maralee Lots Less and Except Riner Magisterial District, \$200,000
- Kipps Farms LLC to Stateson Homes LLC, Lots 177-180 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$279,298
- Jeffrey M Lloyd to John Lynn, Lot 49 Clover Valley Estates Town of Blacksburg, \$280,000
- Joshua R Bellefeuille to Mark Hawley, 1.213 Acres Lot 9 Town of Christiansburg, \$383,915
- Last Resort Inc. to Joshua R Bellefeuille, Lot 15 Phase 1 Diamond Pointe Town of Christiansburg, \$734,500

## Tuition from page 1

public universities in the United States. Phlegar also noted that the university has surpassed the original Boundless Impact capital campaign of \$1.5 billion goal and that he expects the revised goal of \$1.872 billion will be achieved two years before the campaign's conclusion.

In remarks at the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee, Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke provided an update on the Northern Virginia Steering Committee chaired by Julie Ross, the Paul and Dorothea Torgersen Dean of Engineering. The committee was charged to review and assess the instructional, research, and outreach activities in the area with a special emphasis on those activities that leverage opportunities afforded by operating in the nation's capital. Clarke noted significant progress has been made and anticipates a detailed report at the next board meeting.

Clarke also noted that the searches to replace Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, the retiring commandant of the Corps of Cadets and Alan Grant, dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, are progressing and finalists will be visiting campus before the end of the semester. He thanked them for their many years of dedicated service to the college and university.

Clarke also provided a brief enrollment management update. With with a record number of applications

received this year, as of April 7, freshman enrollment is very close to target — about 100 fewer acceptances than last year to date, which had the same target of 7,085. He also noted a decline in acceptances from traditionally underserved students, including underrepresented minorities, first generation, Pell, and veterans, and delays in Institutional Student Information Records resulting from changes to the FASFA application process has complicated admissions modelling as well as timing of financial aid packages.

The board announced the selection of the two student representatives for the 2024-25 academic year. Leslie Orellana, a senior majoring in real estate in the Pamplin College of Business and building construction in the College of Engineering, will be the undergraduate student representative. William Poland, a master's degree candidate in electrical engineering in the College of Engineering, will be the graduate and professional student representative.

Each will serve a one-year term beginning July 1. A story introducing the new student representatives to the community will be published later this month in Virginia Tech News.

The board also honored three faculty members — Anthony Kwame Harrison, the Edward S. Diggs Professor in Humanities with a joint appointment in Africana Studies in the College of Liberal Arts

and Human Sciences; Raman Kumar, the R.V. and A.F. Oliver Professor of Investment Management in the Pamplin College of Business; and Patricia Raun professor of theater arts at the School of Performing Arts in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design — as Alumni Distinguished Professors. The professorship is a preeminent faculty appointment recognizing those who demonstrate extraordinary accomplishments and academic citizenship through substantive scholarly contributions across all three of Virginia Tech's core mission areas of teaching, research or creative activity, and engagement.

In addition, resolutions appointing 11 faculty members to endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships; 36 individuals to emerita or emeritus status; and 84 faculty research leaves were approved by the board.

Individual stories on the new Alumni Distinguished Professors, the professorship and fellowship appointments, and emerita/emeritus honors will be published in Virginia Tech News.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will be June 10-11 in Blacksburg. More information on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors may be found online.

*Mark Owczarski for Virginia Tech*

## H20kies from page 1

income, although we would forgive basically or refund the income based on them staying a nonprofit status. That's more or less in keeping with the way they drafted it, although that's completely at town council's discretion as to how you would want it drafted."

Hicks commented she would like the council to consider how this might work for other nonprofits as well.

"This can open the door for many other organizations to

do the same and how are we going to be able to tell them no," Hicks said. "That's just something for us to think about for the next couple weeks."

New River Valley Agency on Aging Executive Director Tina King also addressed council and community members during the meeting. King thanked the council for providing support to the agency through meeting financial needs, providing excellent board members and many other ways of assisting

their group in meeting with the community's needs.

"The Agency on Aging has been around since 1975 and we're one of 25 area Agencies on Aging in the state of Virginia," said King. "We serve the whole New River Valley, which are the counties of Giles, Floyd, Montgomery, Pulaski, towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pulaski, and the City of Radford."

The core goals for the agency are to support, educate, and

advocate for New River Valley residents. These core goals are established through programs and volunteer work, donations, supplies, and funds for seniors and their pets, King said.

"My husband and I've been in elder care for 30+ years now and when I first got involved in that I actually did some of that volunteering," Council member Kim Bowman said. "It was quite alarming some of the situations that you would go into, but I've also worked with your

ombudsman, and I cannot say enough good things about Janet Brennan. She has been an ally and a friend over the years and she's doing outstanding work as are you for seniors in the New River Valley."

The New River Valley Agency on Aging is located at 44 Third Street NW, Pulaski, and can be reached by phone at 540-980-7720. Additional information may be found on their website ([www.nrva.org](http://www.nrva.org)).

## Solar from page 1

Center are currently at a rate of 9.16 cent per kilowatt hour, according to Wayne Nelson, Special Projects Coordinator who presented at the council meeting. The current electricity provider is American Electric Power which has historically had a 15-year average increase of 3.9%. This information presented at the town council meeting

also showed a total carbon emissions avoidance amount of 11,480 tons.

Two options were considered by council members, one with greater savings early on but with a 2.5% escalation rate over 25 years, and the second option carrying a 0% escalation rate over 25 years.

"A savings total of 1.73 million versus

1.39 million...once they get the system in place, they're going to be testing the system, and do a, once they have actual design, see what type of power they are generating," Nelson said. "In the year 25...we'll still be paying the same rate if you chose 0% escalator."

Council member Tim Wilson made the first motion to approve the PPA at

0%.

"This has been two years in the making," Wilson said. "We've been working on this and a couple of guys from our sustainability committee that started this project are here and so I just wanted to publicly say thank you for all of you being part of the committee and making the town better."

## Cameras from page 1

network. Ramsey said that this system has already been useful in the immediate area with responding to Amber Alerts and in events like the shooting of two journalists in Roanoke County on Aug. 26, 2015 ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)).

A 5-1 vote in approval of the police department grant appropriation of funds was carried, with Councilwoman Kim Bowman voting against the

budget amendment.

In another action by the council, members voted unanimously to approve a resolution declaring April 14-20, 2024, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Also at the April 9, many announcements for activities happening in Christiansburg were shared by Town Manager Randy Wingfield.

A Leaf Giveaway is happening at the Public Works Complex at 250 Scattergood Drive, April 12 and 13.

April 15-26 will mark the Spring Clean-up for the Town of Christiansburg this year.

Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Center will be holding a spring kickoff festival on Saturday April 20, 6-9 p.m.



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS



This season, Hokies are set up for continuity in kicking units.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

## Spring Football Preview: Special Teams

Having already taken a look at what Virginia Tech looks like on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball, there's still plenty to break down with special teams before the 2024 campaign.

The Hokies bring back some familiar faces, with lots to like about the group as a whole. Let's take a quick glance at what Tech could look like on that side of the ball.

### Placekicker

There's no doubt that special teams coordinator Stu Holt has to feel good about the kicker position heading into the upcoming season.

Tech returns incumbent starter John Love to the fold following a successful redshirt freshman season in the maroon and orange. The Spartanburg, South Carolina, native went 22-of-24 on field goal attempts in 2023, connecting on 91.7% of his kicks, which was good for sixth in the country.

Love also knocked through all 47 of his extra-point tries, solidifying himself as one of the better kickers in the country. Kyle Lowe also comes back for the

Hokies this upcoming year. The redshirt junior proved to be key in handling kickoff duties a season ago, booting 54 kicks through the end zone for touchbacks, good for 71% of the time, and helping the team recover 2-of-3 attempted onside kicks.

### Punter

Three-year starter Peter Moore is back for his fifth year with the program in 2024, while redshirt junior Nick Veltsistas and redshirt sophomore Bryce LaFollette add some depth as well.

Moore, a former All-ACC honoree and Ray Guy Award Watch List member, punted the ball 60 times — with no blocks — for 2,588 yards a season ago, averaging a solid 43.13 yards per kick and placing the ball inside the 20-yard line 17 times in his redshirt junior campaign.

### Long Snapper

It's hard to ignore the long snapper position when looking at the success of a special teams unit as a whole.

Gone is fifth-year man Justin Pollock, who helped steer the ship at the position

the past few years, but back is redshirt sophomore Christian Epling, who snapped on field goals a year ago.

Redshirt senior Griffin Armstrong is also back for another season in the long snapping corps, while Tech welcomed in Massachusetts transfer Tate Kendall this spring as well.

### Kick Returner

The return of Bhayshul Tuten allows the Hokies to maintain a dynamic presence in the return game for 2024. Tuten ran two kickoffs back for touchdowns a season ago, becoming one of five players nationally to house multiple returns for scores.

Standing at 5-foot-11, 209 pounds, Tuten averaged close to 29 yards a return — good for fifth in the country — and went for 550 yards on 19 attempts over the course of the campaign.

That's not without mentioning Malachi Thomas there to help out as well. The Hartwell, Georgia, product assisted Tuten on kicks a year ago, taking it out on five separate occasions that went for 81 yards.

### Punt Returner

There's certainly no shortage of talent when it comes to what Tech can trot out onto the field to return kicks this upcoming season.

Junior Tucker Holloway is back for another season after taking the reins for the majority of the past two years. The Andrews, North Carolina, native returned 20 punts for 258 yards in 2023, averaging almost 13 yards per attempt — the seventh-highest in the country.

That's not to say standout receiver Jaylin Lane couldn't play a role either. The second-year member of the maroon and orange had five opportunities to return punts a year ago and served as the primary punt returner during his Middle Tennessee days back in 2022.

Overall, the depth and talent across each special teams unit will provide opportunities for student-athletes to make an impact and work their way onto the field during game day.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

## What to expect from VT's Spring game



### From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Hokie fans can catch a glimpse of the new and improved Virginia Tech football team later today, Saturday, April 13, during the annual Spring Game.

The Hokies are coming off a 7-6 campaign in 2023 during Head Coach Brent Pry's second season, winning six of their last nine games, including the Military Bowl, 41-20 over Tulane.

It was Tech's first bowl win since 2016 and Pry's first win over a ranked team as head coach.

Quarterback Kyron Drones was named Military Bowl MVP after rushing for a Military Bowl record and Virginia Tech bowl record 176 yards.

Drones and nearly the entire offense return in 2024, along with several key contributors on defense. Up to 20 starters in 2023 will have the opportunity to make an impact and provide continuity in all three phases.

The question for onlookers is what we will see when the Hokies take the field for the end of Spring workouts. There are concerns over who will be QB2, will the team have depth at running back and who will stand out in a very crowded receiver room.

On defense, many new faces have slid into spots on the line and what can a couple of transfers bring to the table at linebacker.

The coaching staff will also be centerstage after a slow start on both sides of the ball this past season.

Pry said the format for the game will be four quarters.

"Yeah, we're going to continue with what we've done. We're going to play four quarters. Right now, the first quarter, our plan is to be 15 minutes; in the second quarter, 12 minutes, true clock, both quarters. Then, in the third and fourth quarters, twelve minutes of running clock. Sometimes injuries and other things can affect that, but that's the plan right now," Pry said.

The second-year coach hopes to make the game more competitive while exploring talent.

"I do, and that's one of the reasons we're going to continue with the plan to make it competitive. I don't know if that was the right thing to do last year for that reason. But I do think we're in a better place from a depth standpoint on both fronts. Really across the team to play competitively for four quarters, with the team split, which is, you know, if we can go do that, that's a good sign," Pry said.

The real question is what fans should expect from the field.

Linebacker Jaden Keller told reporters earlier this week that are plenty of excitement around the Spring game.

"Oh, man, that's the best thing I can wait for. After the season ends, all you can wait for is for that first game back. So, we're doing all this hard work, all this hitting, all this stuff. But really, the main goal is to get back in there. So just prepare every day until I come back," he said.

If you're keeping a report card, the defense needs to show an increased "killer instinct". Pry's expertise has been touted as this side of the ball, and now is the time for them to show some improvement.

Meanwhile, Kyron Drones has been



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

## In Memoriam: Remembering Don Vaughn

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to a cherished member of our Virginia Tech Athletics family, Don Vaughn.

His passing has left a void that cannot be filled, as his presence touched the lives of many in profound ways. Don Vaughn, a beloved colleague, friend, and mentor, passed away Monday afternoon.

Don's contributions extended far beyond his professional endeavors. For nearly 30 years, he demonstrated unparalleled dedication, passion, and expertise as part of our game operations team. His commitment to excellence was evident in every project he undertook, inspiring those around him to strive for greatness. Don's

legacy will continue to shape our athletics department for years to come.

Beyond his professional achievements, Don was known for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering support for others. He had a rare gift for making everyone feel valued and heard, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him. Whether offering words of encouragement or lending a helping hand, Don's compassion knew no bounds.

Those who were fortunate enough to call Don a friend knew him as someone who brought joy and laughter wherever he went. His infectious smile and sense of humor could brighten even the darkest of days.

Don's passing leaves

behind a profound sense of loss, but his memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. As we mourn his absence, let us also celebrate the remarkable life he lived and the countless lives he touched along the way. Though he may be gone, his spirit will continue to inspire us to live with purpose, kindness, and compassion.

In honoring Don's memory, let us strive to emulate the qualities that made him so beloved—a dedication to excellence, a commitment to kindness, and a genuine love for others.

Rest in peace, "Hokie Don." You will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

See Spring game, page 10

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Blacksburg girls lose a close one



Blacksburg's Karlyle Gresham races ahead of Virginia Episcopal School's Frances Fenton to start the Blacksburg offense. Blacksburg would fall to Virginia Episcopal School (Lynchburg) by the score of 17-18.



Blacksburg's Charis Krouscas reacts after scoring a second quarter goal to help spark a comeback against Virginia Episcopal School on Monday night.



Blacksburg's Azalee Chasea collects a loose ball and converts it to a Blacksburg score to gain a second half lead against Virginia Episcopal School.



Blacksburg's Hayli Williams scores in the waning minutes against Virginia Episcopal School (Lynchburg), but it would not be enough as the Bruins lose a close game, 17-18.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Radford Bobcats narrowly defeated by Glenvar

On Tuesday night the Radford Bobcats opened district play against the Glenvar Highlanders.

Radford and Glenvar traded leads three times in a game played under the lights due to a rain delay. The Highlanders took the lead for good in

the bottom of the fourth inning when Hannah Street singled, scoring two runs. The Bobcats collected 12 hits on the day with Kira Rollins and Addie Saunders going three for four from the plate with Rollins driving in four of the five Radford

runs on the day. Quinn Burton and Ariel Sutphin also collected multiple hits for the Bobcats and Saunders, Rollins and Ella Cox each doubled during the game. Quinn Burton took the loss for the Bobcats, spreading out seven hits over six innings and striking out seven. For Glenvar, Hannah Street went two for four and picked up the save. Teubert collected the win going six innings giving up 12 hits and five runs. The final score was 6- 5, Glenvar.

Sam Burton



Kira Rollins, up at bat, was responsible for four out of five runs for Radford.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BURTON

### THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is developing its 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP provides an annual schedule of activities, lists planning tasks and studies, and identifies funding sources. A draft plan is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Montgomery and Pulaski County offices. It is also available on the MPO website:

www.nrvmpo.org

Deadline for written comments: 5:00 PM April 17, 2024

Oral comments will also be taken at the MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM on May 2, 2024 at the Montgomery County Government Center.

Comments can also address transit projects for which Federal operating and capital assistance will be sought under 49 USC Section 5303, as well as other transportation modes.

The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.



## Tickets available for ACC baseball tourney

Single-session tickets for the 2024 Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball Tournament, scheduled for May 21-26, at Truist Field in Charlotte, N.C., are now on sale.

In addition to single-session tickets, all-session passes and weekend passes are on sale for the ACC Baseball Championship. All-session passes begin at \$170 for field box and \$225 for club seats. Weekend passes begin at \$50 for outfield seats, \$60 for field box and \$80 for club seats. All full ticket books include

admission to each of the 15 tournament games, including the championship game on Sunday.

Tickets are priced as follows: Tues. - Fri. (Fri. day games only): Club - \$22; Field Box - \$17 Fri. night, Sat. and Sun.: Club - \$27; Field Box - \$22; Outfield - \$17; and Standing Room Only - \$12

All-Session Books: Club - \$225; Field Box - \$170

Weekend Pass (Fri. night, Sat. and Sun.): Club - \$80; Field Box - \$60; Outfield - \$50

Fans will have the opportunity to purchase two outfield tickets to the games on Tues., May 21 for just \$22. On Thurs., fans can snag a Bojangles Four-Pack, which includes four tickets and a Bojangles gift card for just \$54.

Additional promotions will take place throughout the entirety of the ACC Championship.

Atlantic Coast Conference

## Spring game from page 9

given the key to the convertible, and he must show a leadership role from the QB1 position. This is even more important this off season as there is real no quarterback battle for him to deal with. Instead, the second level is the key as Drones must avoid injury or else. The "or else," who is his backup? Expect Dylan Wittke and Pop Watson to see lots of action during this spring game.

The Hokies must also set the foundation for a better running game. This will help take the pressure off of Drones and enable him to shine in his second season in Blacksburg.

The overall expectations must remain guarded at least for the near future. Long-term, we simply don't know how this coaching staff will handle a very talented roster.

The future schedule is setup to allow for this development and should give fans a taste of winning for the first time in four years.

Kickoff for the Spring game is set for 3 p.m. ET in Lane Stadium and as always is free admission. The Hokies open the 2024 season on Aug. 31 at Vanderbilt with their home opener against Marshall on Sept. 7.