



# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, April 20, 2024

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## We Remember memorial events observed at Virginia Tech

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG – On April 16, 2007, a tragic loss of life occurred on the campus of Virginia Tech, forever changing the families, friends, and communities that hold the Hokie Nation so dear.

Now, 17 years later, a community once again comes together to remember.

An abundance of sunshine was present Tuesday, April 16, 2024 as Hokies gathered on campus to participate in memorial events. The weather was in stark contrast to the dark day that unfolded in 2007, when a cold, blustery day with a few snowflakes blowing in the spring air was met with a horrific attack, resulting in the deaths of 32 students and faculty and injuring numerous survivors.

A whole generation of time has passed, but the events of that day and the remembrance of those impacted by



People gather at the semi-circle of memorial stones engraved with each name of students and faculty who lost their lives on April 16, 2007.

the horrific events is still at the heart of every Hokie.

A memorial in front of Burruss Hall was erected in memory of the lives lost, with each name engraved in stone. The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets stand at attention overlooking the site adorned with flowers

and a memorial candle centered among the stones. Streams of people quietly walk past each name, some laying flowers on the sacred ground, others with tears

See Memorial, page 4

## Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hold special meeting to discuss FY 2024-25 budget

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY CO. – A special meeting was held by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors April 15 to discuss budget items and questions that factor into the upcoming vote on the FY 2024-25 budget.

County Administrator Angie Hill introduced Marc Magruder,

Director of Budget and Management, to speak on the state level's decision-making process in projected funds going to Virginia's counties and governing bodies.

VACo, the Virginia Association of Counties, held a meeting Wednesday, April 17 that produces information to go to the governor. At that time, the governor has 30 days to sign the bill produced by VACo

or veto, Magruder said.

“He could sign the bill and then they would develop a new calculation tool,” Magruder said. “My understanding as far as how much money we would get from the state, they would develop that calculation tool about one week after decisions are made so it could be another week beyond that before

See Board, page 4



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



PHOTO COURTESY OF CI, INC.

Christiansburg Institute, Inc. is in the process of digitally archiving photographs and documents related to the history of Christiansburg Industrial Institute and broader African American history in Southwest Virginia.

## National Endowment for the Humanities awards Christiansburg Institute, Inc. \$349,126 grant

NEH grant expands Christiansburg Institute digital archives

CHRISTIANSBURG - The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded Christiansburg Institute, Inc. a grant of \$349,126.

The successful grant proposal, titled “Unveiling 20th Century Black Life in Middle Appalachia: Digitizing School and Community Records for Christiansburg Institute Digital Archives” was awarded as part of the NEH’s Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant program. The project was selected as a part of the agency’s special initiative,

American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future, as a project that will “help emphasize the role of the humanities in tackling contemporary social challenges: strengthening our democracy, advancing equity for all, and addressing our changing climate.”

“Christiansburg Institute expresses profound gratitude and enthusiasm for the generous grant award from the National Endowment for the Humanities,

See NEH, page 6

## Christiansburg proposed budget for FY 2024-2025 presented at council meeting

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG – A proposed draft for the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget has been presented to Christiansburg Town Council members and the public.

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie began her Mar. 26 presentation with a brief summary of the budget funding categories, what operating costs and projects they cover, and the streams of revenue that support them.

“We have six distinct funds that we budget for, but we kind of pull that all together when we’re looking at the numbers,” Tweedie said. “We have two enterprise funds, the water and sewer fund, and the stormwater enterprise fund, each of those have their own revenues, their own expenditures, their own capital costs



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

and they’re all contained within those funds and those funds are not used for general purpose, general fund type things.” Tweedie’s presentation also explained that special revenue funds are specific to the source of revenue that the funds are received from, some of which are grants from the state and/or federal government.

Capital projects are “mostly for transportation, trails, streets, roadways, those kinds of projects that aren’t dedicated to one of the Enterprise funds,” Tweedie said.

Capital projects can come from grants, Virginia Department of Transportation specific

funds, or can come from general funding to complete projects lacking enough monetary support to fully complete.

“The general fund is where everything else goes,” Tweedie said. “All of our public safety, most of our public works, barring the enterprise type activities, are all funded out of the general fund from our tax revenues, meals tax, lodging tax, the various categorical aid, law enforcement fund, highway maintenance funds, all of those are housed within the general fund. All parks and recreation comes out of

See Budget, page 6

Thursday, APRIL 25  
Eastern Divide  
Brewing Company  
3175 Commerce Street,  
Blacksburg

FREE  
ADMISSION

Food  
available for  
purchase  
at venue

\$1  
per beverage  
will be donated to  
CHCNV and  
BBC

Silent  
Auction



4:30-5:30 P.M.  
THE VIRGINIA TECH JAZZ COMBO  
5:30-6:30 P.M.  
STEVE KESSLER TRIO WITH  
AL BROHOLM & LOGAN VALLEROY  
6:30-7:30 P.M.  
ROOT DOWN QUINTET  
7:30-9:00 P.M.  
LENNY MARCUS TRIO





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Today, Saturday, April 20:

### Father Emil Kapaun Memorial

The Knights of Columbus Father Fox Council 6747, will host a memorial presentation and walk in honor of Father Emil Kapaun at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Christiansburg, Va.; 9 - 10:30 a.m. Father Kapaun was a U.S. Army Chaplain who was captured by North Korean troops in the Korean War. Because of his support of U.S. troops while he was a POW he was honored by America with the "Medal of Honor. He is now being recommend for "Sainthood " by the Catholic Church. The short walk and presentation will begin at 9 a.m.

### Spring Kickoff Festival

Come join the party! The Town of Christiansburg is hosting a Spring Kickoff Festival at the Recreation Center from 6-9 p.m. All activities and games are free. PAR Mobile Golf golf simulator, trivia, Target Challenge, giant Jenga, Connect Four, cornhole and more. Live music by Jimothy. Local food, wine and beer trucks also available. Please bring your ID if you plan to purchase beer or wine. Outdoor event. Limited number of tables and chairs available. However, attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit around a bonfire and enjoy the evening. This event is recommended for ages 18 and up.

### 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. Also, a panel of professionals will answer audience questions. 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.

### Spring Shred-A-Thon

The spring Shred-A-Thon, sponsored by TRIAD and Christiansburg Recreation Department, will be held 3-6 p.m. at Christiansburg Recreation Center. Bring documents in a box or plastic tote (no larger than 22.5x18x11.5 inches). Limit of three totes/boxes per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hanging file folders, paint brushes, padlocks, hardback books, keys, eyeglasses, bungee cords, etc. The Shred-A-Thon is a drive-thru event. Please stay in your cars. TRIAD meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

### Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society board meeting

The Board of Directors of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society will meet by conference call at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to participate in the call from the Marion Office of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society located at 227 West Cherry Street, Marion, Va. 24354.

## 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). 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.

## 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: Bronze - \$250; Silver - \$500; Gold - \$1000; and Platinum - \$2500. To register, contact rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com.

## County names new Assistant County Administrator

Scott Woodrum was named Assistant County Administrator for Montgomery County, effective April 15, 2024.

"The County is fortunate to have excellent staff members who daily demonstrate extraordinary skills and abilities, said Angie Hill, County Administrator. "This is evidenced by Scott's leadership and ability to navigate many significant projects and changes since joining the county."

As Assistant County Administrator, Scott is responsible for oversight of the Animal Care and Adoption Center, General Services, Human Services, and Information Technology.

Scott began his career with Montgomery County in December 2016 as County Engineer. In October 2019, he was selected to serve as the Director of General Services. Prior to joining Montgomery County, Scott was employed by the Virginia Department of Transportation as Land Use Director for the Salem District. Scott earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering Technology from



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

### Scott Woodrum

Bluefield State College in 1996 and is a licensed professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Scott and his wife, Teresa, reside in the Town of Christiansburg.

Montgomery County

## NRCC student named 2024 New Century Workforce Scholar

New River Community College student Reagan Young has been named a 2024 New Century Workforce Scholar and will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

Young, an Eagle Scout, is from Christiansburg. He is currently studying instrumentation and control automation technology, electronics technology, and electrical engineering technology. He plans to complete his studies at NRCC in 2025. Young is also the president of NRCC's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society.

This scholarship is the first of its kind to support students at associate degree-granting institutions on a national scale as they plan to enter the workforce upon completing a degree or certificate. The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and PTK Honor Society.



Reagan Young

PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

New Century Workforce Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Over 2,200 students from more than 1,300 college campuses nationwide were nominated. Only one New Century Workforce Scholar was selected from each state.

"We congratulate Reagan for receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize these outstanding achievements," said

Phi Theta Kappa's President and CEO, Dr. Lynn Tinchler-Ladner. "Scholarship programs like this are integral for creating opportunities for students to succeed as they prepare to enter the workforce and for putting college completion within reach."

The New Century Workforce Scholars will be recognized in the fall. Young will also be recognized at the All-Virginia Academic Team Luncheon in Richmond this month.

New River Community College

## Spring Shred-A-Thon set for April 23 in Christiansburg

CHRISTIANSBURG - TRIAD/S.A.L.T. is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies (police/sheriffs), senior citizens and senior organizations, focused on reducing crimes against our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors.

The spring Shred-A-Thon, sponsored by TRIAD and Christiansburg Recreation Department, will be held

April 23, 2024 from 3-6 p.m. at Christiansburg Recreation Center. Please bring your documents in a box or plastic tote (no larger than 22.5x18x11.5 inches) and respect the limit of three totes/boxes per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include: metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hanging file folders, paint brushes, padlocks, hardback books,

keys, eyeglasses, bungee cords, etc. Please note that the Shred-A-Thon is a drive-thru event. Please stay in your cars.

TRIAD meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

TRIAD/S.A.L.T.

## Bamberg Symphony to deliver a masterful performance of works by Brahms, Schumann, and Wagner

With a musical lineage stretching back to the 18th and 19th centuries — to Mahler and Mozart — Germany's Bamberg Symphony is a favorite around the world. The premier ensemble makes its Virginia debut at the Moss Arts Center on Friday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. with an evocative program featuring works by Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann, and Richard Wagner.

Conductor Jakub Hrůša, a middle-aged white man with sandy brown hair, extends his arms out wide as he conducts the Bamberg Symphony during a live performance. All the string players watch him and their bows are raised in the air away from their instruments.

Maestro Jakub Hrůša (standing) leads the Bamberg Symphony during an onstage performance. Photo courtesy of Marian Lenhard. The program is inspired by New Yorker music critic and Pulitzer Prize finalist Alex Ross' recent book "Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music," which explores Wagner's complicated, many-sided legacy and his colossal influence on music, art, and culture. Maestro Jakub Hrůša — renowned for his partnership with Bamberg Symphony as well as for his guest-conducting with orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic,

See Bamberg, page 6





PHOTO BY ERIC DAY FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Periodical cicadas can cause damage to woody stems when they lay eggs, but they are generally not a concern for home gardeners.

# Despite hype, cicada double-brood emergence won't affect Virginia, Virginia Tech expert says

Don't panic: Although there's been recent media hype about a rare cicada double-brood emerging this spring, most parts of Virginia will not see any periodical cicadas.

Starting in late April, Virginians living south of Caroline and east of the Interstate 95 corridor should begin looking for the emergence of Brood XIX, a population of 13-year periodical cicadas produced from eggs laid in 2011. Virginians living along the North Carolina border, especially those in Brunswick County, should also be on the lookout.

"We are at the very edge of the range of Brood XIX. This makes it difficult to predict exactly where Brood XIX cicadas will emerge," said Doug Pfeiffer, professor and Extension specialist in the Department of Entomology. "Urban development also affects where we will see cicadas. These insects need trees — hosts long-lived enough to support multiple generations of 13-year life cycles. Urban development can do away with local cicada populations."

Brood XIX cicadas will live briefly,

mating and laying eggs. After a few weeks, the adults will die and their bodies will provide a pulse of nutrients to our ecosystems.

Although they are noisy and numerous, cicadas are harmless to humans and pets. They can damage young woody trees and shrubs when they lay eggs and recent research has indicated that adult cicadas feed on plant sap, but cicadas are generally not a concern for home gardeners.

Here's what you need to know:

Most Virginians will not see periodical cicadas in 2024.

There are annual cicadas that emerge every year. Annual cicadas have black-green coloring, while periodical cicadas have black-red-orange coloring.

Cicadas are harmless to people and pets.

Adult cicadas do not damage your plants, but young woody plants can be damaged by the egg-laying process.

Periodical cicadas evolved to avoid predators

"Cicadas are really fascinating," said

Pfeiffer. "They have evolved this strategy of emerging all at once in order to overwhelm predators, a defense strategy called predator satiation.

"Periodical cicadas emerge after either 13 or 17 years, both prime numbers," said Pfeiffer. "That is an adaptation to avoid predators who might develop a converging lifecycle and emerge to eat them."

After cicadas lay their eggs in pencil-diameter woody stems, they will die. A forest floor may be covered in millions of cicada bodies, which will enrich the soil for a number of years. This year's Brood XIX eggs will hatch into tiny cicada nymphs, which will burrow into the soil, where they will spend the next 13 years feeding on the water and nutrients transported through the vascular system in plant roots.

A periodical cicada outbreak can sometimes seem staggeringly large, and cicadas can cause economic damage to fruit growers.

"Cicadas can come in and overwhelm an orchard quickly," said Pfeiffer. "If you

have young trees, bushes, or vines in an area predicted to see an outbreak, you can consider protecting them with bird netting."

Cicadas do not bite and are safe for people, including children, to handle and explore. There are multiple species of periodical cicadas in an emergence. Brood XIX includes four species, each of which has a slightly different appearance and auditory call.


Periodical cicadas exist only in North America. In exchange for a few weeks of minor inconvenience, they offer us an opportunity to appreciate the commonwealth's diversity of native species.



But what about the double-brood?

Although Virginia will only experience the emergence of Brood XIX, a brood of 17-year cicadas called Brood XII also will emerge in 2024. This brood lives in parts of Southern Illinois — not in Virginia — and there is little geographic overlap between these two broods.

Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech


**Marketplace**


### 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 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 1.595 acres located at 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

### Legals - Montgomery County

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

**MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!**

To place your ad, call 389-9355

### Legals - Montgomery County

**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 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](mailto:Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov). ALL BIDS MUST BE

### Legals - Montgomery County

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION Draft copies of the FY 2024

### Legals - Montgomery County

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 Shelton Street or on the Town's website at [www.christiansburg.org](http://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](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org) or by phone at (540) 382-6120 x 1130.

**MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!**

Call 389-9355

### Legals - Montgomery County

**THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE ROUTE 460 BUSINESS CORRIDOR BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, AND TRANSIT STUDY**

Find out about the study progress and potential safety improvements along Route 460 Business in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. The meeting will be held at the New River Community College, Christiansburg Site located at 782 New River Road NW, Suite 400, Room 149 on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. In addition to the in-person meeting, public meeting materials will be posted by April 22nd on the New River Valley MPO's website at [www.newrivervalleympo.org](http://www.newrivervalleympo.org)

They will also be available for review at the offices of the New River Valley MPO. Please give your written comments at the meeting or submit them via USPS to the NRV MPO's office, located at 755 Roanoke St. Ste. 21, Christiansburg, VA 24073. You may also e-mail your comments to [460study@rkk.com](mailto:460study@rkk.com). Please reference "460 Study" PH Comments in the subject line. Comments for this study will be received until 5:00 PM, May 9th, 2024.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the Route 460 Study meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c). 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.

### Legals - Montgomery County

If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: [brughid@montgomerycountva.gov](mailto:brughid@montgomerycountva.gov) or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

**Classified Advertising DELIVERS**



# Board

from page 1

we would have a calculation tool to get an exact dollar figure for how much additional state revenue we would get for the schools.”

“What we are intending to do at this point in time is to try to get the pieces that we can before next Monday,” Supervisor Mary Biggs said. “Next Monday, April 22nd, is probably the last day that we would have to really vote in order to get all the information and the tax tickets out and that kind of thing.”

According to the county’s website, montva.com, real estate property tax levy will increase from \$0.70 to \$0.75 per \$100 of assessed value. Mobile homes tax levy will increase from \$0.70 to \$0.75 per \$100 of assessed value. Personal property tax levy will remain at \$2.55 per \$100 of assessed value. Aircraft tax levy will remain at \$1.23 per \$100 of assessed value. Machinery and tools tax levy will remain at \$1.82 per \$100 of assessed value.

Supervisor Anthony Grafsky had questions concerning the Montgomery County Public Schools carryover funds. MCPS Superintendent Bernard Bragen was present during the meeting

to respond to questions.

“The three-year trend on the carryover was between 2.5-2.8 million dollars and so as I understand it, you request to have that allocated back, and so is that layered on top of the operating budget that is requested from the county,” Grafsky said.

“The budget that finished last June 30th, we had under a million dollars in carryover,” Bragen said. “This year, if there is any - I’m not sure there will be - what we would want to do is put that into our insurance, health insurance reserve account because that’s been getting depleted over time. It’s not as healthy as the county side and what we would like to have as a healthy reserve of two-three million dollars. As of today, it’s around five to six hundred thousand dollars.”

Bragen also said MCPS is expecting around two million dollars in prescription rebates that would help as well in increasing the insurance coffers.

“The county’s a fiscal agent for the health insurance because we’re self-funded with the schools and so we have a separate health insurance fund when we budget in appropriate

premiums we transfer that, the money into the health insurance fund and then our claims are paid out of it and our consultants tell us a guideline for how much we need to have as a reserve in that account,” Hill said.

Bragen added that, in the past, the insurance fund was underfunded, and they are working to correct that issue.

Additionally, Director of Montgomery County Fire-EMS Department Michael Geary presented information on the most recent fire in the Sugar Grove area of the county as well as the daytime fire staffing situation and budget needs.

“On Saturday we went out to a fairly large wildfire in the Sugar Grove and Fishers View areas of the county. That fire is now 100 percent contained by the Department of Forestry,” Geary said. “I just want to let you all know of the incredible work that everyone did out there on Saturday. That fire ended up being much bigger than we had anticipated when we first got there and due to the weather and the wind conditions it spread very quickly, but we had folks from across the entire county, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Elliston, and Riner, and then we had Pulaski,

Floyd, and the Virginia Department of Forestry out there, and without their efforts there’s no telling how far that fire would have spread.”

During Geary’s presentation, he said that the County looks at NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 1710 and NFPA 1720 standards for minimum requirements set for fire trucks, deployment, special operations, and many other elements necessary for an adequate response to an emergency.

Geary and the County Fire-EMS are proposing staffing 12 total full-time fire personnel, two shifts with six firefighters working 12-hour shifts from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week. Each shift would consist of one captain, one lieutenant, and four firefighters. Part-time personnel would be utilized to fill gaps in staffing. A training position would also be provided to train personnel and maintain records to meet qualification standards.

The cost for county fire department personnel is a proposed budget of just over \$1.2 million with an operating budget of \$531,645. According to montco.com, the advertised fiscal year 2024-2025 budget total is \$254,607,161.

# Memorial

from page 1

## News Messenger

Established 1869

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

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

### Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

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

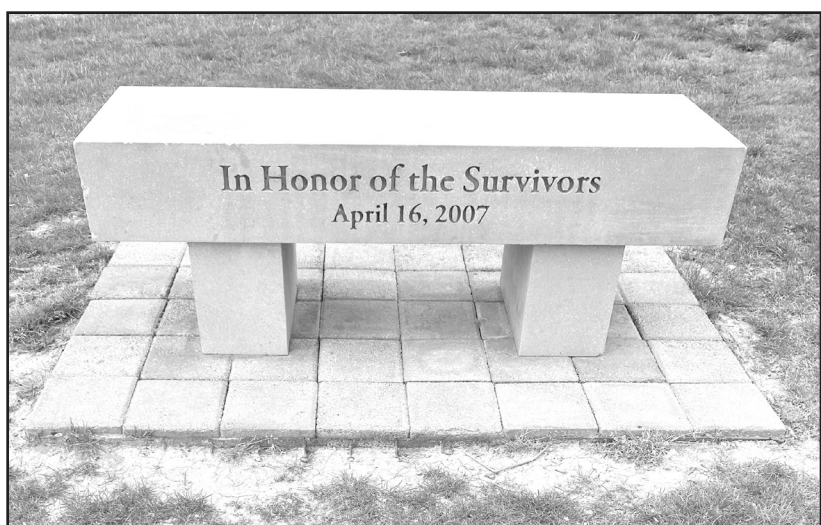


A memorial candle remained burning for 24 hours on campus.

streaming down their faces, while others kneel or stand with heads bowed in prayer.

Also engraved in stone at the center of the memorial are the iconic words “We will prevail,” the words of inspiration delivered at the memorial ceremony for the Virginia Tech shooting victims on April 17, 2007, by Nikki Giovanni. Giovanni, a renowned poet and VT professor, was also an instructor of the very VT student who would later become known to all as the destructor of the peaceful campus community on that fatal day. She was given the incredible task of addressing Hokies near and far suffering from the incredible loss. Her words, “We will prevail. We will prevail. We will prevail,” continue to lift up those impacted by the terrible day.

Every year, Hokies from all over the world remember through their own events held in a variety of locations. On the VT campus, events provide a platform for remembrance, support, and connection. A 3.2 mile Run for the 32, the memorial candlelight



PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM

Memorial benches reading “In Honor of the Survivors” flank the sides of the memorial in front of Burruss Hall.

ceremony at the April 16 memorial, and a remembrance service at the Wishing Tree held at Solitude are just some of the events that Hokies attended. Activities from the past and present can be found at www.weremember.vt.edu.

According to the weremember.vt.edu site, the 32 victims’ ages ranged from 18 to 76 years old and encompassed a variety of backgrounds, academic achievements and faiths.

“We hope that you are able to reflect on the tremendous promise each of them embodied for our world with creativity, intelligence, humility, and humanity,” the VT site reads.

In remembrance of each forever Hokie, their names follow:

- Ross A. Alameddine
- Christopher James Bishop
- Brian R. Bluhm
- Ryan Christopher Clark
- Austin Michelle Cloyd
- Jocelyn Couture-Nowak
- Kevin P. Granata
- Matthew Gregory Gwaltney

- Caitlin Millar Hammaren
- Jeremy Michael Herbstritt
- Rachael Elizabeth Hill
- Emily Jane Hilscher
- Jarrett Lee Lane
- Matthew Joseph La Porte
- Henry J. Lee (Henh Ly)
- Liviu Librescu
- G.V. Loganathan
- Partahi Mamora Halomoan

Lumbantorian

- Lauren Ashley McCain
- Daniel Patrick O’Neil
- Juan Ramon Ortiz-Ortiz
- Minal Hiralal Panchal
- Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva
- Erin Nicole Peterson
- Michael Steven Pohle, Jr.
- Julia Kathleen Pryde
- Mary Karen Read
- Reema Joseph Samaha
- Waleed Mohamed Shaalan
- Leslie Geraldine Sherman
- Maxine Shelly Turner
- Nicole Regina White

Family approved biographies of each of the 32 can be read at the Virginia Tech University website previously listed.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12			13		14			15				
16			17		18			19				
20					21			22				
			23		24			25				
26	27	28	29			30						
31						32						
33							34	35	36	37	38	
			39	40	41		42	43				
		44	45				46					
	47					48						
49				50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58				
59				60				61				
62				63					64			

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Tenor
  5. Panthers’ signal caller
  8. Systems, doctrines, theories
  12. Rulers
  14. Indonesian coastal town
  15. Type of cuisine
  16. Kids
  18. Single Lens Reflex
  19. Extra seed-covering
  20. Force out
  21. Feline
  22. \_\_\_ & Stitch
  23. Semantic relations
  26. A larval frog or toad
  30. Sport for speedsters
  31. One who is learning
  32. Request
  33. Famed WWII conference
  34. Relieved
  39. English broadcaster
  42. Car signal

44. Grass part
46. Trivially
47. Serve as a warning
49. Centers of activity
50. An electrically charged atom
51. Small swelling of cells
56. Irritates
57. “\_\_\_ your i’s, cross your t’s”
58. Removed
59. “Death in the Family” author
60. When you hope to arrive
61. German district
62. Turner and Kennedy
63. Midway between south and southeast
64. Emerald Isle

- CLUES DOWN
1. Mathematical optimization search method
  2. Country along the Arabian peninsula
  3. Pointed parts of pens
  4. Lake \_\_\_ one of the Great
  5. Peruvian region
  6. State capital of Georgia
  7. Those killed for their beliefs
  8. Typeface
  9. Shrill cry
  10. Sends via the Postal Service
  11. Holds grain
  13. Occurring at a fitting time
  17. Vogue
  24. Born of
  25. Get the job done
  26. Teletype (Computers)
  27. Small southern constellation

28. Decaliters
29. Area near the concert stage
35. Social insect living in organized colonies
36. Winter activity
37. Snake-like fish
38. Not wet
40. In addition to
41. In league
42. Barrels per day (abbr.)
43. Monetary unit
44. Marked
45. Emerges
47. Shape by heating
48. Early Slavic society
49. Italian automaker
52. Racing legend Earnhardt
53. A type of name
54. \_\_\_ Strauss, jeans maker
55. Famed garden



## News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

- DIGITAL ONLY**  
One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00
- DIGITAL & PRINT**  
Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$72.00
- PRINT ONLY**  
Yearly Print Only Subscription \$46.00 Radford \$55.00 Virginia \$59.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at montcova.com or mail to address below

### SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



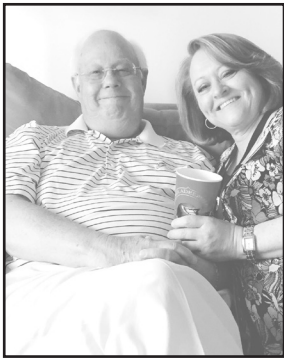
## OBITUARIES

## Blake, Robert Lilly

Robert Lilly Blake, 77, of Radford, passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2024, after a long battle with cancer.

He was born May 6, 1946, in Charleston, W. Va., the son of the late Dr. Thomas H. and Evadyne Lilly Blake. Bob received his BS degree from WVU and his Masters in Accounting from USC. He was a CPA in both Virginia and South Carolina, since 1974, practicing for 50 years and retiring in 2023. He had been in practice in Radford since 1977.

Bob was a member of the AICPA, SC Assoc. of CPAs, Treasurer of the Blacksburg Country Club, Treasurer of Thornspring Country Club, on the Advisory Board at NRCC, RU Board of Visitors, RU Foundation, RU Real Estate Foundation, Treasurer to Radford Chamber of Commerce, on the First National Bank Advisory Board, and the New River Valley Health Foundation.



He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, John, William, and Thomas, Jr. Blake.

Survivors include the love of his life, Carol Miles; adopted daughter, Amy Caldwell; two adopted grandchildren; and adopted family, Rev. and Mrs. Clyde Bishop; nieces, Elizabeth Blake and Jennifer Blake; nephew, Thomas Blake; and sister-in-law, Jane Blake.

The family received friends Friday, April 19, 2024 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Rev. Cathy Angle officiating. Interment with full military honors followed in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to New River Community College Education Fund.

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

## Bowles, Thomas Daniel

Thomas Daniel Bowles, of Elliston, passed away Friday, April 12, 2024.

He was born in Christiansburg on Nov. 1, 1960. Thomas was a one-of-a-kind, good-hearted man and would help anyone. He had a great sense of humor but had his own way of doing things.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Daniel Bowles and Norma Kirk Bowles. Thomas is survived by two children, Thomas Daniel Krafft of Shawsville and Lolita Sunshine Cassell of Elliston;

grandchildren, Tori Cassell and Haley, Joanna Brammer, Elizabeth Brammer and Logan, Trevor Krafft and Tyler Krafft; great-grandchildren, Ellie, Mae, Riley and Raelyn; two special friends, Kenny Mullins and Chasity (Chass) Williams; and step-son, Billy Moss.

Thomas was loved and will be missed by many. A visitation will be held Saturday, April 20, 2024, 1- 3 p.m., in the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive SW, Blacksburg.

See Obituary, page 6

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

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

## BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: [fbcradford.org](http://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](http://www.trinitycburg.org)

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

## CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

## (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

## ECKANKAR

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

## EPISCOPAL

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

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## DEPRESSED SAINTS

Read 1 Kings 19:1 through 20:43

Sometimes Christians get depressed. The cause might be a chemical imbalance, sin, an attack from Satan, or the stress of life, but depression can happen to all of us. Prayer is in order, and in some cases medications might also be needed. Depression is a serious problem, especially for those diagnosed with clinical depression. However, we can always count on the Holy Spirit to gently lead us through the dark days, if we let Him.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you" (1 Kings 19:7).

Godly Elijah, who had just won an incredible victory for the Lord, was hit so hard by depression that he wanted to die. God did not scold him or beat him when he was down. Instead, God sent His angel to gently remind Elijah to eat the food He provided. We, too, must daily eat the Word of God, the Bread of Life, for the "journey is too much" for us to travel in our own might.

Prayer for Today: Lord, encourage the depressed ones today. Draw them to Your Word, where they can find food for the journey.

Quicklook: 1 Kings 19:1-9

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

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

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

## LUTHERAN

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

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. 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/@OSLCEburg](https://www.youtube.com/@OSLCEburg)), 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](http://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@stmlc.us](mailto:hope@stmlc.us); Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

## MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

## PENITECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

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

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

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

**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](http://www.stpaulvaumc.org)

## WESLEYAN

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



# Obituary from page 5

## Ellis, Rosemary Lynn

Rosemary Lynn Ellis, 61, died peacefully at UVA Medical Center Friday, April 12 surrounded with the love of her family after a three-year struggle with Long Covid and an undiagnosable lung disease.

She was preceded in death by her parents Howard “Sonny” Ellis and Sarah Jean Ellis. Rosemary lived in many places, including Delaware, Japan, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, West Virginia and spent the last 20 years of her life in and around Blacksburg. Rosemary graduated with a BA in sociology from Concord University and obtained two Masters degrees, one in Counseling and

Human Development from Radford University and the other in Sociology from Virginia Tech. She dedicated the last 11 years of her master’s helping children heal from trauma, giving them a safe space to be seen, heard and loved via her work at the Women’s Resource Center in Radford.

The things that Rosemary enjoyed the most included spending time with her wife, children, grandchildren and sisters, her work



with children, making people laugh with her delightful sense of humor, and creating art, particularly pottery, and photography. She and her wife enjoyed playing racquetball, hiking, going to music festivals, playing double solitaire, just being together and watching TV, and going to the beach.

Rosemary is survived by her loving wife Melissa Howell, Rosemary’s two children Jordan

(Justin) Klein and Devin (Ranae) Coon; her grandchildren Makya, Merrick, Mya Lynn, Mayzie, Matylda and Quin; her sisters Lisa (Steve) Hart and Brenda (Marco) Walton and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her much loved and adored child/dog Nika and her beloved Sisters in Sobriety. A Celebration of Life will be held later this summer in Blacksburg. In memory of Rosemary, please consider making a memorial donation to the Women’s Resource Center, P.O. Box 477, Radford, Va (<https://www.wrcnr.org/donate/>).

# Virginia Tech researchers work to make yoga accessible to everyone

From the downward dog to the reverse warrior, yoga’s popularity has blossomed recently, partly because of its accessibility to a wide range of people at a variety of skill levels.

With benefits ranging from physical to mental to social and spiritual, yoga offers an approach to holistic well-being. Virginia Tech researchers are working on ways to broaden its appeal even further.

“The historical underrepresentation in yoga makes this the perfect thing to study in regard to equitable translation of health evidence,” said Mary Frazier, who is pursuing her Ph.D. in the Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Graduate Program and is the graduate student lead on the project. “So many people think yoga isn’t for them and that’s largely because of how it’s often portrayed. We want to find ways to reach the groups that don’t think yoga is for them – because it could be.”

The underrepresentation of people from rural areas in yoga practices highlights significant accessibility and awareness issues, often due to a lack of local resources and classes that could introduce and nurture an inclusive yoga culture, the researchers said.

Additionally, according to the research

team, prevailing narratives around body image within the yoga community can deter many from participating, as the physical component of yoga is easier to capture ‘on screen’ (e.g., photo or video), but the imagery often lacks representation of the diversity of human bodies.

“These challenges underscore the need for a more inclusive approach to yoga, one that embraces and promotes diversity in all forms, from geographical background to body shape, ensuring that the benefits of yoga are accessible to all,” said Samantha Harden, an associate professor in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise and a Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist.

To help bridge this gap, the research team made up of Harden; Frazier; Brad Frick, a master’s degree student in the School of Communication; and Therese Osborn, an undergraduate student in public health, as well as Rachel Kaplan, Cassidy Powers, and Kayla Markley, all students in human nutrition, foods, and exercise, created a messaging survey to identify terms and tactics that resonate with the historically underrepresented groups.

The development of a survey aimed at identifying effective tactics and messaging

to engage historically underrepresented groups in yoga represents a strategic approach to fostering inclusivity within the practice. Through a collaboration with University Libraries, this research project can leverage advanced data visualization tools and expertise, transforming raw survey data into compelling, easy-to-understand insights that highlight opportunities for outreach and community engagement.

“This partnership not only amplifies the survey’s impact through sophisticated analysis but also ensures that the findings are accessible and actionable for stakeholders aiming to create a more inclusive yoga community,” said Harden, who is also affiliated with the Fralin Biomedical Institute.

“It’s going to be interesting to see and transform the raw survey data into insightful and meaningful visualizations,” said Michael Stamper, a University Libraries data visualization designer. “Once we can see the stories within that data, we can begin to take notice of and address them.”

The research project also gave Frazier valuable experience as a graduate student.

“This project has been instrumental in advancing my Ph.D. journey, providing

a solid foundation for my dissertation on the importance of inclusivity in wellness spaces and highlighting the transformative potential of yoga when it truly embraces diversity in all its forms,” Frazier said. “The research into the underrepresentation of individuals from rural areas in yoga practices has illuminated critical gaps in accessibility and awareness, underscoring the urgent need for community-based interventions and inclusive programming.”

Osborn, a sophomore, was “nervous” when she first joined the lab – it’s the same nervousness that keeps people out of studios: the unknown. She now acknowledges that the experience has equipped her with valuable skills, preparing her for the workforce.

“Dr. Harden, Frazier, Megan Pullin, and the rest of the lab have been so welcoming and encouraging,” Osborn said. “Not only has the lab allowed me to apply what I have learned in my classes, but it has also taught me new things entirely, that help me to feel prepared for the future. This project has taught me how to build a successful survey and analyze qualitative data.”

*Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech*

# Bamberg from page 1

Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and Chicago Symphony — leads a beautiful program that features Wagner’s “Lohengrin” Prelude I and “Tannhäuser” Overture.

In addition to Wagner, the program features work from his German contemporaries, Brahms and Schumann. Acclaimed virtuoso pianist Hélène Grimaud joins the orchestra for Schumann’s dazzling “Piano Concerto in A minor.”

The Bamberg Symphony is the only world-renowned orchestra that is not based in a major metropolis. The orchestra is known for its characteristically dark, somber, and warm sound, sharing the musical echo of its hometown with the world since 1946. With almost 7,500 concerts in over 500 cities and 64

countries, the symphony has become a cultural ambassador for Bavaria and the whole of Germany.

Bamberg Symphony revisits its historic roots more than 75 years after it was founded, with Czech-born Hruša as its fifth chief conductor, leading the orchestra since September 2016. He also serves as principal guest conductor of both the Czech Philharmonic and the Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. He appears frequently as a guest with the world’s greatest orchestras, including the Berlin, Vienna, Munich, and New York philharmonics; the Bavarian Radio, NHK, Chicago, and Boston symphonies; the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Lucerne Festival, Royal Concertgebouw, Mahler Chamber, and the

Cleveland orchestras; the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France; Dresden Staatskapelle; Orchestre de Paris; and Tonhalle Orchester Zürich.

Renaissance woman Grimaud is a deeply passionate and committed musical artist whose pianistic accomplishments play a central role in her life. Grimaud has received many prestigious awards for her work, including the Cannes Classical Recording of the Year, Choc du Monde de la Musique, Diapason d’or, Grand Prix du Disque, Record Academy Prize (Tokyo), Midem Classic Award, and the Echo Klassik Award. For her latest album, she has explored Silvestrov’s vocal music.

This performance is supported in part by Minnis and Louise



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIAN LENHARD

**Maestro Jakub Hruša (standing) leads the Bamberg Symphony during an onstage performance.**

Ridenour and David and Judie Reemsnyder.

Tickets for the performance are \$40-\$85 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.

*Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech*

# Budget from page 1

the general fund as an accounted for within the general fund.”

Projected taxes in the various areas were also laid out by the finance director. The meals tax has in recent years seen a 7% increase but for the upcoming year is projected to be at 1%. Sales tax is currently at 4% and projected to see a 2% for 2025. Lodging taxes are down but will hold the revenue stream flat for 2025. Personal property taxes will remain flat and real estate taxes are projected

to have a slight increase in revenues due to increased property values and development.

There are no proposed increases for water, sewer, or garbage fees or no proposed fee changes.

Sources for all areas of funds are currently totaling approximately \$111 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

A considerable gap between revenues and operating expenses is present in the numbers. This gap is a result of

increased inflation, rollover of funds for capital projects that have not been completed, and increased salaries and new positions.

“In this budget we presented four new positions that we discussed at our work session back in early March,” said Tweedie. “One full-time firefighter, two more EMS positions, and one new police officer, which would be funded at least in year one as a result of New River Valley Community Resources. That will

be grant funded for at least year one.”

A full list of capital project items can be found on page 37 of the budget document and total 57 million dollars.

A public hearing will be set for either May 14 or 28 and community members are welcome to attend. The final budget must be approved by June 30, 2024.

The Town of Christiansburg proposed budget for FY 2024-24 has been posted on the town’s website at [www.christiansburg.org](http://www.christiansburg.org).

# NEH from page 1

which will greatly empower our organization, providing our team with the essential resources critical to preserving the rich 100-year legacy of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute (CII), the pioneering Booker T. Washington high school in Montgomery County that educated generations of African Americans for 100 years,” said Chris Sanchez, CI, Inc. Executive Director.

Jenny Nehrt, CI, Inc. Museum Curator, expressed enthusiasm for the grant as well.

“The Christiansburg Institute

Museum & Archives (CIMA) is thrilled to expand digital access to the history of Christiansburg Institute and greater Black Appalachia through the Christiansburg Institute Digital Archives,” she said. “The NEH’s support affirms our commitment to inclusive community-based archives, ensuring underrepresented narratives are preserved and our collective history is understood more profoundly.”

The NEH grant will support the digitization of 48,157 manuscript pages, photographs,

books, and other objects of material culture that speak to over a century of African American history in Southwest Virginia. Digital images will be hosted on the Christiansburg Institute Digital Archive and on Virginia Tech’s Southwest Virginia Digital Archive, creating online access to previously inaccessible materials. The databases will be created with community input and freely accessible to the Christiansburg Institute community, educators, and scholars.

According to the

Christiansburg Institute’s website ([christiansburginstitute.com](http://christiansburginstitute.com)), the Christiansburg Institute’s Digital Archives is a public, searchable archive of digital materials related to the history of Christiansburg Industrial Institute and broader African American history in Southwest Virginia. The archive was originally made possible through a 2022 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources. Items in the archive are sourced from Christiansburg Institute Museum and Archives and

from community members who donated digital copies to the digital archive.

The National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation.

*Christiansburg Institute, Inc.*



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Radford U gains two through transfer portal

Marty Gordon  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Radford University will have at least two new faces for the 2024 basketball season, thanks to the transfer portal.

Head coach Darris Nichols has announced the addition of guard Jarvis Moss, formerly of Davidson and Stanford universities.

He is a 6'4", 200-pound guard hailing from Concord, N.C. and will join the Highlanders for the 2024-25 season following his last stint at Davidson College.

"We are thrilled to add Jarvis Moss to our Highlander family," said Nichols. "Jarvis is a high character, hardworking

individual who loves the game of basketball. He has a combination of shooting, playmaking, and athleticism at the guard position that will immediately impact our program."

Prior to Davidson, Moss was a member of Stanford's men's basketball team. There, he shot 42.9 percent from three-point range and scored a career-best 10 points vs. Green Bay. Additionally in that game, he collected 10 rebounds.

During his high school career at Cannon School (N.C.), Moss won back-to-back state



championships and broke the program record for 3-pointers made in a season and career.

When he arrives on campus, he'll be joined by fellow transfer Jonas Sirtautas, who will join the Highlanders for the 2024-25 season after redshirting last season at Wyoming still holding

four years of eligibility.

"Jonas is a versatile wing with tremendous athleticism," said Nichols. "His ability to play inside and out is exciting for our program. He comes from a great program in Lithuania where Zalgiris has done a great job developing talent."

Sirtautas, a native of Kaunas, Lithuania, stands at 6'10", 185 pounds and gives the Highlanders another athletic forward that can get the job done on both ends of the floor.

He spent time playing with the youth club under Zalgiris in Kaunas. He was also picked to

be a part of the NBA Academy last summer in the United States.

His father, Darius, played professionally in Lithuania from 1989 until 2005 when he announced his retirement. Additionally, his sister played basketball at Providence during the 2023-24 season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

## Talented assistants added by new Hokie coach

Marty Gordon  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Virginia Tech's new women's basketball coach, Megan Duffy, continues to add to her staff with two talented assistants.

Ito Coleman was announced as the associate head coach of the program, while Sharnée Zoll-Norman is a new assistant coach.

Coleman, a veteran of the Atlantic Coast Conference, has coached at North Carolina since May 2021 and as a player at Clemson, Coleman was a three-time All-ACC selection and earned All-America honorable mention accolades. A member of the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame, she led the Tigers to the 1999 ACC title and was named tournament MVP.

She will be responsible for recruiting, scouting, game planning, guard and post player development, and various external operations projects associated with Coach Duffy.

"I couldn't be more excited to welcome Ito Coleman to Virginia Tech," Duffy said. "She will bring an incredible amount of experience both on and off the court to our program. Ito is an elite level recruiter and teacher. Our student-athletes are going to thrive under her leadership. She brings great experience and knowledge of the ACC landscape to help continue our winning tradition."

In her three seasons in Chapel Hill, Coleman helped the Tar Heels to three NCAA appearances, including a Sweet Sixteen run in 2021-22. With Coleman on the sidelines, UNC went 67-31 (.683) and had a 35-19 (.648) record in ACC play.

Coleman has consistently helped her

program recruit at a high level, assisting the Tar Heels in inking the No. 18 signing class for the 2024 class. Carolina has regularly had athletes earn All-ACC and national recognition for their play.

Prior to her time at UNC, Coleman spent one season at Marquette with Coach Duffy in 2020-21. That year, the Golden Eagles finished second in the BIG EAST and concluded the season with a 19-7 record.

She also has served as an assistant coach at Penn State, Butler and Liberty, and coached at her alma mater, Clemson as both an assistant and head coach.

Coleman enjoyed a long professional career and played in the WNBA for the Indiana Fever and the Houston Comets. She was a member of Team USA in the Pan American Games and at the FIBA World Championships. Coleman played for the Nigerian National Team in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and was captain of that team that gave Nigeria its first-ever Olympic victory.

She graduated from Clemson in 2000 with a degree in communications with her name etched in the Clemson record books with top-10 marks in scoring (1,409 points), assists (459) and steals (265). In 2008 Coleman was inducted into the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame.

Zoll-Norman comes to Blacksburg after spending two seasons at State College on the Penn State staff. A veteran of the professional ranks, Zoll-Norman was drafted in the WNBA where she played for three seasons before continuing her pro career overseas.

"I am thrilled to welcome Sharnée and her family to Hokie Nation," Duffy said Thursday. "She is a rising star in our profession. Sharnée will bring an

incredible amount of knowledge to our players from her time in the WNBA and overseas. She will be a great mentor for our student-athletes. Sharnée has an energy about herself that will shine on the court, on the recruiting trail and in the Blacksburg community."

Working with the Lady Lions' backcourt, Zoll-Norman helped Makenna Marisa, Leilani Kapinus and Shay Ciezki rack up several accolades. Marisa repeated as Academic All-American Third Team and All-Big Ten First Team selections, becoming the third Lady Lion to earn Academic All-America distinction for two or more seasons and 12th to repeat as a first team selection in the league.

Kapinus was named an All-Big Ten Defensive Team selection and the only BIG player to be selected to the Naismith Women's Defensive Player of the Year Watch List, Kapinus finished eighth in the nation in steals (97) and was one of two players in the nation to be averaging at least 10 points, five rebounds, three steals and one block per game.

Ciezki was just one of two freshmen in the nation to average at least 2.0 three's per game with a 40.0 or better three-point percentage and finished second on the team in scoring (11.8 points per game).

"I have always dreamed of being back in the ACC competing against the best of the best," Zoll-Norman said. "I am beyond grateful to Virginia Tech Athletics and to Coach Duffy for allowing that dream to come to fruition. Coach Duffy is a proven winner, phenomenal leader, and an amazing human. My family and I are excited for the opportunity to be a part

of the winning tradition with Hokie Nation."

Before Penn State, Zoll-Norman spent three years as an assistant coach at Rhode Island. Over her three seasons, Rhode Island had eight All-Atlantic 10 selections, including three first team honorees.

She served on the Rams' staff after concluding a 14-year professional career, including three seasons in the WNBA.

Prior to Rhode Island, Zoll-Norman spent two seasons as an assistant with the Philadelphia Belles AAU program, helping the team with scouting reports, practice plans, player development and recruiting.

Zoll-Norman was the 29th overall pick in the 2008 WNBA Draft by the Los Angeles Sparks. She also spent time with the Minnesota Lynx.

She most recently played with InvestInTheWest AZS Gorzow in Poland. She led the team to a Top 16 finish in the EuroCup and second in the Polish League. She was the 2018 EuroCup Guard of the Year and was a five-time Eurobasket All-Polish First Team honoree. In 2017, she led the team to its first Polish League Championship in 30 years and was named both regular season and postseason MVP.

Zoll-Norman graduated from Virginia in 2008. As a Cavalier, Zoll-Norman was a 1,000-point scorer and started every game of her career. She's the only woman in ACC history to record at least 200 assists in three straight seasons and broke Virginia and ACC records with 785 assists, both previously held by Dawn Staley. She won a gold medal as a member of the Team USA U19 team in 2005.

## Weekly reports: Floyd beats Radford in slugfest

The Radford High School softball team fell 9-5 to the Floyd County Lady Buffs on Tuesday despite out hitting the Lady Buffs 12 to 8. Kaydence Rollins homered and Addie Saunders, Kathryn Price, Ella Cox and Olivia Radford each collected two hits for the Radford Bobcats. Rollins and Price each drove in two runs. Quinn Burton was the losing pitcher going six innings and striking out six.

### Christiansburg over Radford in baseball

Christiansburg scored five runs on four hits in the bottom of the sixth inning to pull out a 14-16 2in over Radford this past week. Jeremiah Thompson hit a solo home run, while Ethan Wayman tripled and scored to runs.

Christiansburg amassed 13 hits in the game. Gavin Dow was 3-for-5 at the plate with two doubles.

Blake Farmer, Johnathan Flinchum, Mason Murphy and Micah Ray, each had hits for Radford. Flinchum and Tanner Rodgers stole multiple bases in the game as the Bobcats tallied seven total steals.

### Blacksburg girls down Hidden Valley

The Blacksburg Girls Soccer team

defeated Hidden Valley 2-0 this past week at Bill Brown Stadium. Scoring for Blacksburg was senior Amalia Moore and sophomore Addison McSorley.

Blacksburg improves to 7-0-2, 3-0-2 and Hidden Valley dropped to 5-4, 1-4.

### Fagan ACC player of week

Virginia Tech second baseman Cameron Fagan has been named the ACC Player of the Week, the league announced Tuesday morning. The senior earned the award for the second time this year after leading the offense with a .667 batting average.

Fagan tallied six hits and seven RBIs against Boston College. She produced at least two RBIs in every game of the series, including home runs in games one and two. In the series finale, Fagan hit a two RBI single to bring Tech from behind in the fifth inning.

At the plate, Fagan is third on the team with 50 hits and fourth with a .379 batting average. The second baseman continues to be a standout on defense with a .990 fielding percentage.

Staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS  
Former Christiansburg High School pitcher Brady Kirtner picked up this week's win for Virginia Tech in a contest against NRV-rival Radford University.

## No. 23 VT takes down RU

Leading from wire to wire on Tuesday night, the No. 23 Virginia Tech baseball team returned to prime form on both sides of the ball as the Hokies downed Radford, 7-1, at English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park.

Sixth-year outfielder

Chris Cannizzaro batted 3-for-4 with a double and a two-run home run, leading Tech with three RBIs – his best total since March 24 at Boston College. Christian Martin and Ben Watson chalked two hits apiece from the top of the Hokies' lineup with Watson scoring on Cannizzaro's eighth home run of the season.

Virginia Tech (24-10) kept marching forward throughout the night against Radford (10-23), staking the 3-0 lead after three innings of play before doubling its advantage to

6-0 by the end of the fifth inning. The Hokies – who defeated the Highlanders, 14-4, in nearby Radford on Feb. 27 – had a shutout

See VT, page 8

CROSSWORD ANSWERS									
T	O	N	E	C	A	M	I	S	M
A	M	I	R	S	U	T	A	T	H
B	A	B	I	E	S	S	L	R	A
U	N	S	E	A	T	C	A	T	L
Y	A	L	T	A	S	Y	N	O	N
T	A	D	P	O	L	E	T	R	A
T	R	A	I	N	E	E	A	S	K
P	A	L	E	A	P	E	T	T	I
F	O	R	E	S	H	A	D	O	W
F	O	C	I	O	N	N	O	D	U
I	R	K	S	D	O	T	E	R	A
A	G	E	E	T	A	K	L	E	V
T	E	D	S	S	E	E	R	I	N



## MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Blacksburg boys shut out Christiansburg



Craig Huxtable (left) and Nic Litos (right) simultaneously boot the ball during Tuesday night's Battle of the Burgs. Blacksburg is now 8-0 on the season, while Christiansburg falls to 4-3.



Christiansburg Goalkeeper Joseph Baines makes one of his many saves of the game. He would finish with seven on the night.



Ty Hannah (left) and Hayden Yopp (right) battle for ball possession near the sideline.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

## VT Student-Athlete Development hosts Beyond VT event

Virginia Tech Student-Athlete Development recently held its annual Beyond VT event inside Lane Stadium, allowing Hokie student-athletes an opportunity to celebrate, reflect and network with former student-athletes and professionals as they begin to prepare for life after Virginia Tech and after athletics.

This year, the student-athlete attendees at Beyond VT heard from a group of alumni during a panel Q&A session, participated in "speed networking" with alumni and professionals, and visited resource stations hosted by various campus and community members, who shared tips and tricks on how to leverage and market student-athlete skills and experiences.

"Virginia Tech's there for you when you're [an athlete], but they're really there for you once your playing days are over," football student-athlete Griffin Duggan said following the event. "There are so many people here to help you. You can't play that sport forever and they really

want you to make sure you're going to be fully ready to step into that business world once your playing days are done."

"Having resources like this is special and I think it makes Virginia Tech Athletics different from everybody else," women's soccer's Allie George said. "I think it's really cool to be able to talk to people that were in our shoes before and people that have been through these experiences."

"I think getting their advice and kind of their perspective on things that I'm going through right now is really beneficial as I take my next steps for the future."

After participating in the panel and networking discussions, the student-athletes had the chance to learn about a variety of resources, including topics like elevator pitches, professional dress, writing a resume and LinkedIn best practices, and opportunities to get professional headshots.

The event caps off a year of Student-

Athlete Development events that included annual programs such as Beyond VT, Career Jumpstart, and THRIVE Rookie Training Camp, while it also featured new events, such as the Elevate Her women's leadership event and a variety of diversity, equity, and inclusion education in partnership with SAAC and the Athletics Diversity & Inclusion Council.

"There's an investment in the well-being of our athletes beyond their time here," former men's basketball student-athlete and event panelist Greg Donlon said. "I think it's pretty special to be able to leave a place like this. It's not an easy transition."

"I don't think that there's a whole lot that any individual student can do to prepare themselves for it, so having events like this where people that have lived it and done it and are now on that next step of life can come back and kind of share their wisdom on it all. I think that's incredibly valuable."

The event kicked off with the panel

sharing some opening remarks to the entirety of the group. Following the conclusion of the discussion, the student-athletes dispersed into breakout groups with at least one former student-athlete/professional still there to lead the way.

It was an exciting night for current and former Hokie student-athletes to make connections with each other and learn from their experiences. Most student-athletes were able to garner plenty of takeaways, but there's a specific one that was mentioned the most.

"I think that you're not always going to know what your next step is and that's completely ok," George said. "You have so many aspects that are going to set you up for your future and just continuing to do the things that you're good at is what's going to drive you to success."

Virginia Tech Athletics

VT from page 7

brewing until the ninth inning when Zack Whitacre broke through with a solo home run hit off Wyatt Parliament.

Six Virginia Tech pitchers combined to rack up 10 strikeouts while holding Radford to four hits, including two hits through the game's first six innings. Right-hand reliever Grant Manning blanked the Highlanders during the fifth, sixth and seventh innings, picking up nine outs from 11 batters faced while recording three

strikeouts.

Christiansburg alum Brady Kirtner improved to 5-0 upon earning the victory for his scoreless inning of relief while David Shoemaker and Matthew Siverling also contributed to the Hokies' shutout bid.

Game notes:

Zack Whitacre recorded his sixth home run of the season for Radford. This home run will place him in a tie for the second most on the Radford roster with

Hunter Keen who also has six on the season. The home run is also just one shy of Whitacre's season high.

Whitacre's home run will also make it his 21st RBI of the season putting him in a tie for fourth with Cameron Pittman in the category.

Staff report