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School board member asks to enact a policy for hate speech in Montgomery County Public Schools

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

MONTGOMERY CO. - Montgomery County School Board member Penny Franklin has asked the board to discuss the occurrence of hate speech in Montgomery County Schools specifically pertaining to the usage of a racial slur against African Americans and to enact some policy or consequences for hate speech.

At the beginning of the June 18, 2024 Montgomery County Public Schools School Board meeting, Board Member Penny Franklin asked to add an amendment to the agenda to discuss hate speech, specifically the use of the "n word" to the meeting's agenda. This motion was approved and set for this discussion to be added to the new business portion of the meeting.

"After the comments I made last week or two weeks ago," Penny Franklin said, "related to the resignation of one of our employees and the reference to the 'n word'

being used, I have been approached by several folks and students talking about how the 'n word' is used. And part of that conversation is that it's like "the" and "and". And so, it's used constantly, all the time, and even when it is asked to be addressed, it's not being addressed by administration and by teachers. This is something that's been ongoing for years and every time that it's said 'This is the way it's going to work', that lasts about two hot minutes and then it reverts back to 'I don't know what I'm supposed to do' or 'I just ignore it' or in some cases even trying to help the black student understand why they might be part of the problem; why they're called the 'n word'. This is real."

Franklin told the board there needs to be an explanation as to why this behavior continues, that these issues need to be reported and brought to the attention of the superintendent and other reporting higher ups, and that the community needs to know what to do to better help themselves and their children

when these incidents occur. The superintendent and the board agree that hate speech is not to be tolerated in Montgomery County Public Schools and those who do will be held accountable.

"I will guarantee you this," Superintendent Dr. Bernard Bragan, Jr. said, "I will do what you ask, Miss Franklin, and reinforce with everyone that they understand that this is zero tolerance. There are certain zero tolerance things that are inappropriate and this is one of them. That word has no place in common language and definitely not in our school systems whatsoever. I'm appalled if school administrators who hear this or somebody brings it to them, don't know what to do. That feels like a no brainer to me in 2024. I will do whatever I can to get the word out and support that this is totally unacceptable, that it's a zero tolerance as far as I'm concerned. So, I will reinforce that I will get that out there and we will hold people accountable."

School board approves cell phone use policy

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

MONTGOMERY CO- The Montgomery County School Board voted to approve the new cell phone use policy for Montgomery County schools at its July 18, 2024 meeting.

The cell phone use policy was approved with editing of the language pertaining to individuals with medical conditions who may need cellular devices and clarification where the cell phone use policy states "they [cell phones] must be turned off and stored out of sight during the instructional day unless a staff member gives express permission for educational purposes or in case of emergency."

"I have no problem with 'in case of emergency,'" said Vice-Chair Jamie Bond, "but I do think that's

kind of where we got into that gray margin in years past, because we were being allowed to use it for educational purposes and all



students have Chromebooks. So, that's my only issue with that right there. I kind of think that's murky waters and if we're going to do it, we need to do it."

The board members agreed they want this language to be consistent throughout the policy. The policy was approved with the intention that these edits will be applied and to become both the new cell phone policy and part of the code of conduct.

The school board also voted to authorize the superintendent's hiring, appointment and reappointment of employees beginning June 18, 2024 and ending July 30, 2024 for the upcoming school year, while the school board is on break for the summer. The board will review and approve any appointments that occur during their break period at their July 30, 2024 meeting.



Local criminal defense attorney, mother addresses school board about truancy

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

MONTGOMERY CO. - Courtney Roberts, local criminal defense attorney and mother of children enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools, discussed truancy during the public address portion of the school board meeting June 18, 2024.

"I'm taking off my mom cap today," Courtney Roberts, Blacksburg resident said, "and coming to address you as a criminal defense attorney in Blacksburg, specifically as a criminal defense attorney who represents on a court-appointed basis, children, students at Montgomery County schools who have been brought before the Juvenile Domestic Relations courts, here, on essentially truancy charges."

Roberts stated during her address that she has three children in Montgomery County Public schools, one of whom is enrolled at Blacksburg High School. She said that, as a criminal defense attorney, she's worked with not only the children enrolled in Montgomery County schools, but their families and truancy officers in this capacity.

"You don't really charge a child," Roberts said, "They're called 'children in need of supervision petitions.' But, they get an attorney because they are looking at some pretty serious threats to their liberty, including being held in detention. In very serious cases, they can even have custody changes ordered, foster care sent along, and have them removed from their parent or guardian's custody."

"So, obviously, I take my role in that part of the system very seriously," Roberts said, "and it really affects my ability to do my job when I don't have communication from the school system. I'm coming to you [Montgomery County School Board] today because I'm pretty upset to find out that you all are losing Anne Guthrie, who's been our truancy officer this past year. I've had the privilege of working with her this past year and I have found her progress in that position to be leaps and bounds beyond my experience."

Roberts explained Guthrie's system of reporting allowed her [Roberts] to better share and communicate with her clients and give them a sense of clarity.

"In my observations," Roberts said to the board, "I feel strongly that you're losing people, like Anne and other employees, because you're missing out on their reporting of their complaints."

"I believe that there is a chink in this system's armor," Roberts said to Superintendent Dr. Bernard Bragan, Jr., "and I believe that those messages are not getting to you in advance. I think that, as you're the superintendent, it falls on you to figure out where that is and do something about it. So, I'm asking you to do so."

Celebrate Virginia Pollinator Week with the Master Gardener program

This week, Virginians will celebrate the bees, butterflies, birds, and bats that perform the vital work of pollination, following Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's declaration of the week of June 17-23 as Virginia Pollinator Week.

"Pollinators play a critical role in our ecosystems," said Ed Olsen, Virginia Cooperative Extension consumer horticulture specialist and director of the Extension Master Gardener program, who sought the declaration. "Our pollinators support a vast array of plant life, which in turn provides food and habitat for countless insects, birds, mammals, and other animals. A decline in pollinators could disrupt this delicate balance of food webs."

Here are a few ways to celebrate pollinator week:

Plant a native plant. Native plants provide food and habitat for native species. Find the right native plant for your landscape using the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Virginia Native Plant Finder.

Help butterflies by providing a shallow, muddy puddle where they can get minerals. Fill



PHOTO BY DEVON JOHNSON FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia's 14 species of bumblebee are important pollinators.

a shallow dish with soil and a few rocks, place at ground level, and keep it moist.

Learn about moths. They are powerhouse pollinators. Survey the nocturnal moths that live in your yard by creating a moth trap. Simply hang up a white sheet, and when it gets dark, shine a bright light on it.

Implement an integrated pest management plan in your home garden. Instead of relying on insecticides at the first sign of damage, develop a plan that will help you evaluate if and when insecticides are necessary. See the Virginia Cooperative Extension

publications "Reducing Pesticide Use in the Home Lawn and Garden" and "An Introduction to Integrated Pest Management"

Many common food crops, such as blueberries or potatoes, rely on insects for pollination. Pollinators also are critical for the health of Virginia's ecosystems by helping plants reproduce and fostering robust plant communities.

To support and protect Virginia's pollinators, Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners are hard at work organizing educational events, installing

demonstration gardens with native plants, and providing research-based advice to Virginians with gardening questions.

Interested in learning more about pollinators? Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities - Virginia Tech and Virginia State University - to the people of the commonwealth. Contact your local Master Gardeners through your Extension office or learn more about gardening in Virginia and the Virginia Extension Master Gardener program.

Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech

Webb named GLES principal

BLACKSBURG - The Montgomery County School Board has approved Carrie Webb as the next principal at Gilbert Linkous Elementary School.

Webb brings more than 30 years of experience in elementary education to Montgomery County Public Schools, including eight years as an elementary school principal.

"We're excited to have Ms. Webb join the Gilbert Linkous community," MCPS Superintendent Bernard F. Bragan, Jr.

said. "She has a wealth of experience and we know she will be a great leader for the Linkous Lizards."

Webb has spent time in Manassas City Schools and Prince William County Schools with roles including elementary school teacher, assistant principal and principal.

"I can't wait to join the team at GLES and I look forward to being a member of the Blacksburg community," Webb said. "I'm excited to meet all the students,

staff, families and community members that help make GLES such a great place to learn and work."

Webb's educational background includes a bachelor's degree from Bridgewater College and a Master's Degree from George Mason University.

Webb will begin leading GLES on July 1, 2024 and will replace Michelle Flynn.

Montgomery County Public Schools



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 22:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Sea Monster Adventure: A Monstrous Museum

At Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. - noon. Join us at the library for a very special museum exhibit! Sea Monster Adventure captures the awe and magic of the ocean as we share the amazing creatures that lived there. Through real fossils, museum-quality models, and great books - the sea monsters will come to life at the library.

Ask An Author: Mystery Author Panel Discussion

At the Radford Public Library; 3:30 - 4 p.m. Join mystery authors Katharine Schellman, Mindy Quigley, Krista Davis, Mollie Ann Cox, and Sarah Warburton for a panel discussion about mystery writing and publishing. The authors will discuss their books and writing trajectories with plenty of time for an audience Q&A. Bring your questions about writing, plotting, editing, querying, publishing and more! Books will be available for purchase.

Sunday, June 23:

Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/.

Monday, June 24:

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are normally held 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, June 25:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

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

Wednesday, June 26:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 - 6 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The Jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. Host Band: Ashlee Watkins & Andrew Small. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Thursday, June 27:

Radford Photo Club meeting

Joe Pack of Fairlawn will present a program at the Radford Photo Club meeting about famous photographer Carol Highsmith, then will present his own work taken in the Highsmith style. The meeting will be at the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m. The photo challenge for June is People. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com or Joyce Crowder at joycecrowder2@icloud.com.

Classic movies at the Lyric

Beat the summer heat with a free classic movie at the historic Lyric Theatre at 135 College Ave. All movies begin at 3 p.m. "Some Like It Hot," June 29.

adVRenture Begins at the Library

At the Radford Public Library; 11:30 a.m. - 12:30

p.m. Go on a wilderness adventure in Virtual Reality with the Nature Treks and National Geographic Explore apps on our Oculus Quest 2 headsets! If you'd prefer to arrange a different time for a 30-minute demo, email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov.

Friday, June 28:

Blacksburg Friday night outdoor concert

Featuring: Music Road Co. (funk/rock/reggae/afrobeat/Latin fusion). The summer of 2024 lineup of outdoor concerts offers six bands throughout June and July. Live music will take place Friday evening on Henderson Lawn at the corner of Main Street and College Avenue, from 6 -7:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled.

Will it Waffle? A Teen Cooking Club

At the Radford Public Library; 2- 3 p.m. NOT your average cooking program. Teens are invited to meet in the teen section with our teen librarian to see what types of foods we can make with waffle-makers that aren't actually waffles. Then maybe we'll try them. Will various cheeses waffle? What about ground up Oreos? Only one way to find out!

On-going:

Participants sought for Blacksburg Fourth of July Parade

Participants are needed for Blacksburg's Fourth of July parade, organized by the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club. The "A Child's Fourth of July" parade starts at 2 p.m. on Eheart Street, runs through downtown on Main Street, and ends on Alumni Mall. Entries can be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, fire engines, scouts, bands, sports teams, etc. Information is available on the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club's Facebook page, by texting 540-449-6178, or at the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation office. The Town of Blacksburg will have music and fireworks at the Municipal Park, near the Rec. Center: Live music 6-9:30 p.m. and fireworks at 9:30 p.m. (even if raining).

Applications open for healthcare workshop for people with disabilities

Individuals with disabilities who live in Radford City and Floyd County can now apply for a program presented by the New River Valley Disability Resource Center. "Improving Health Literacy Through Technology" is a six-week program designed to empower people with disabilities to gain better access to healthcare. Participants will receive a free iPad after completing six weekly, one-hour workshops exploring how to use technology to take better control of their health and social support needs. Workshops will run Aug. 1 through Sept. 5. Applications available at www.nrvdc.org or by calling 540-266-1435 or email at outreach@nrvdc.org. Applications are also available at the Radford and Floyd libraries. The application deadline is Fri., July 12.

Virginia Tech's College of Engineering leads the way in U.S. News & World Report graduate school rankings

BLACKSBURG - Virginia Tech's ongoing commitment to research, teaching, and engagement continue to be reflected in university rankings, as several of the institution's College of Engineering graduate programs were rated highly in the latest U.S. News & World Report's annual graduate school rankings released Tuesday.

The university's top 100 global effort, named Virginia Tech Global Distinction, seeks to make the university a destination for the best faculty, students, and partners from the commonwealth, the nation, and the world. The engineering graduate school rankings reflected that priority.

Overall, U.S. News & World Report ranked Virginia Tech's engineering graduate programs at tied for No. 31.

U.S. News & World Report ranked four of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering individual graduate programs in the top 10:

- Environmental: Tied for No. 5
 - Industrial and systems: No. 5, up from No. 6
 - Civil: No. 9
 - Biological/agricultural: Tied for No. 10, up from No. 12
- In addition, four other individual graduate programs were rated in the top 20:
- Aerospace: Tie for No. 11, up from No. 14
 - Computer: No. 15, up from No. 23
 - Mechanical: No. 17
 - Electrical: No. 20

Other engineering graduate programs to receive top-50 marks included materials at No. 34, computer science tied for No. 36, biomedical at No. 36, and chemical at No. 42.

"It is our mission to advance the boundaries of engineering knowledge and practice through transdisciplinary research," said Julie Ross, the Paul and Dorothea Torgersen Dean of Engineering. "The caliber of our world-class education is truly reflected in our

students, faculty, and alumni, who are sought globally for their excellence. We invest in the resources that prepare our graduates to solve today's most complex social and technological challenges in and beyond their communities."

The engineering graduate school rankings build on a strong showing by other individual graduate programs in Virginia Tech colleges that were released by U.S. News & World Report in early April. The university's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program within the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine came in tied for No. 19 nationally, while Virginia Tech's part-time Evening MBA program, offered by the Pamplin College of Business, was tied 35th nationally and No. 1 in Virginia. The program, based in Falls Church, holds in-person courses in the evening and offers online elective classes in the summer.

Virginia Tech's graduate programs in computer science and computer engineering, along with the Evening MBA program, will be based at the Innovation Campus location in Alexandria starting in spring 2025.

Virginia Tech's graduate programs in public affairs (tie for No. 57), education (tie for No. 79) and public health (No. 88) earned top-100 rankings from U.S. News & World Report release in early April. The first two of those programs

reside in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, while the public health program is in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, which focuses on three academic programs related to health: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences Graduate Program, and public health.

In addition, within the College of Science, graduate programs in earth sciences (tie for No. 33), statistics (tie for No. 37), physics (tie for No. 50),

mathematics (tie for No. 51), economics (tie for No. 65), chemistry (tie for No. 67), and psychology (tie for No. 68). Within the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, two programs received top-100 marks, including sociology (tie for No. 64) and English (tie for No. 82).

The publication's rankings of medical school graduate programs will be released in late July.

Michael Stowe for Virginia Tech



PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Faculty members and students from civil engineering and environmental engineering test the strength of concrete diaphragms in the Thomas M. Murray Structures Lab. Virginia Tech's civil and environmental engineering graduate programs were ranked among the top 10 nationally in the latest U.S. News & World Report.

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Moving scams

Summer seems to be the season for moving. Whether you're relocating for work, downsizing or sending a child off to college, who you hire to help with the move matters a lot. Cutting corners to save money on your move could lead you right to a criminal scammer.

Moving scams are committed by rogue operators that exist primarily online. They solicit business by offering lowball estimates, often without so much as laying an eye on what's to be moved. They might demand a hefty deposit, or even full payment in advance.

With your deposit in hand, the "movers" might simply not show up at the appointed time and place. Or they'll try to change the deal at the last minute by raising the price. Worst of all, some companies will pick up your belongings but then demand more money to deliver them.

To avoid these scams, make sure to get multiple quotes and check the references of any company you hire. While we are all looking to save money, when it comes to moving your personal goods safely and securely, cheaper isn't always better.

AARP Virginia

Virginia Tech Women's Club awards scholarships

Twelve Virginia Tech women students were recognized as scholarship recipients at the recent Virginia Tech Women's Club (VTWC) spring luncheon at Blacksburg Country Club.

The students awarded scholarships were Shelby Bellows, Dairy Science and Agribusiness; Madison Blake, Animal & Poultry Sciences; Ainsley Brewer, Geosciences; Krista Anne Carlton, Animal Poultry & Sciences; Sai Ashraya Chegu, Environmental Engineering; Ainsley Duff, Management/EIT; Elizabeth Marie Eroshenko, Environmental Science; Ella Fitzgerald, Biological Sciences; Suin Kim, Graphic Design; Lacey Ngo, Biomedical Engineering; Megan Phan, Materials Science Engineering; and Hargalbeen Rai, Biological Sciences.

provide scholarships, and this year, 12 women shared \$32,000 in scholarships. VTWC awarded its first scholarship in 1965.

In 1972, the members raised funds through cookbook sales and launched its official, more expansive, scholarship program. The first scholarship of \$500 went to a home economics major. VTWC now is the second largest contributor to the New River Valley Community Foundation. Every year the Ways and Means Committee of VTWC sets a goal and raises money to provide scholarships at the end of the year. This year the goal was \$25,000 but \$32,000 was raised! The Ways and Means Committee stated that 40% of the money came from individual donations made by the 225 VTWC members. Ways and Means plans fun activities to raise money through raffles and silent auctions at luncheons and events. Over the years, the

VTWC has donated over \$270,000 to scholarships to women students. The club is very proud of the impact it has had on the education of women at VT.

At the luncheon, Shelby Bellows, Ainsley Brewer, Krista Carlton, Ashraya Chegu, Ella Fitzgerald, and Megan Phan shared their backgrounds and the educational goals. It was truly inspiring to listen to these young women as they prepare to follow interesting careers. To honor VTWC's outgoing president and to continue raising money for scholarships, Judy Trimble presented Sue Bentley with a check in her name to the Scholarship Fund, thanking her for her leadership.

If you are interested in learning more about the VTWC, please go to the website at <https://www.virginiatechwomenclub.org>. The 2024-2025 year has started, and annual dues are only \$25. Not



PHOTO BY ALICIA LLOYD

Sue Bentley (left) is presented a check by Judy Trimble.

only does the club raise money for scholarships, but it is also a social group with many, varied interest groups and activities. The members engage in numerous service projects which address food

insecurity at Virginia Tech and needs of children in our community. You can become involved in everything from canoeing to wine tasting, enjoy meeting interesting women who are an active

part of our community, and engage in stimulating learning experience.

For more information, contact Terri Lynn Howard at howardtl@comcast.net.

Terri Lynn Howard, VTWC



PHOTO BY ALICIA LLOYD

Scholarship winning VT students attend the VTWC luncheon.



PHOTO BY DOROTHY EGGER

Scholarship winners enjoy luncheon with VTWC members.



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board hereby schedules a public hearing for July 8, 2024 to hear citizen comments on the Boards' intent to consider an Ordinance establishing a Voter Satellite Office in the Multi-Purpose Room located in the Blacksburg Community Center at 725 Patrick Henry Drive, located in the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia, to be used in Montgomery County, Virginia for absentee voting in person for the November 5, 2024 General Election only.

A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

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

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, June 25, 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:

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) 382-6120, ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

accommodate residential development on lots between 3,000 and 7,499 square feet. The Option will have its own site development standards, occupancy regulations and design standards to ensure compatibility with the existing R-4 District.

Persons affected by or interested in the zoning ordinance amendment may appear and present their views.

After hearing, the Planning Commission may take action. Copies of the requests and all related items may be found online at <https://letstalkblacksburg.org> or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information.

Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following requests:

A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Michael Gay, P.E.) to rezone 49.17 acres from Agricultural (A-1) to Rural Residential (R-R), to allow for the development of a fourteen (14) lot single-family residential subdivision. The property is located at the end of Brammer Lane, approximately 0.50 miles east of the intersection of Houchins Road (State Route 758) and Brammer Lane. The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-5 1 (Parcel ID: 033688), in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

Amendment to the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 40, Section 40-2 Definitions and Section 40-3 - Administrator, to allow for additional administrative and planning commission reviews. Proposed revisions to Section 40-2 change the definition of "plat" and "preliminary plat subdivision" for consistency with the Virginia State Code definitions. Proposed revisions to Section 40-3 include:

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct the following public hearings on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in

AND

A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Michael Gay, P.E.) to allow the construction of private streets to service the proposed fourteen (14) lot single-family subdivision. The proposed private street network would connect to Brammer Lane, approximately 0.50 miles east of the intersection of Houchins Road (State Route 758) and Brammer Lane. Section 8-152 of the Code of Montgomery County requires approval of all private streets by the Board of Supervisors.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

A request by Jonathan L. Yates for Arcola Towers for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a 197-foot monopole wireless telecommunications tower, freestanding. The property is owned by Reginald L. Duncan and is located at 3936 Childress Road, northeast of Fairview Church Road (State Route 669) and southwest of Piney Woods Road (State Route 600). The property is further identified as Tax Map 127-A 3, 4 (Parcel ID: 019114), 50.4383 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday

Classified Advertising Delivers

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A copy of the proposed ordinance amendment and the Town's Zoning Ordinance may be viewed in the Planning

Zoning Ordinance #61-An amendment to the Town of Blacksburg Zoning Ordinance to create a new Small Lot Development Option in the R-4 Low Density Residential Zoning District to allow smaller lot sizes. This is proposed text amendment would create the Small Lot Development Option within the R4 Low Density Residential Zoning District. It will allow for development of homes (single-family, detached; two-family dwelling; and townhouse) on relatively small lots to increase housing choice, affordability and sustainability. Small lot development in the R-4 District is intended to

order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following requests:

A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Michael Gay, P.E.) to allow the construction of private streets to service the proposed fourteen (14) lot single-family subdivision. The proposed private street network would connect to Brammer Lane, approximately 0.50 miles east of the intersection of Houchins Road (State Route 758) and Brammer Lane. Section 8-152 of the Code of Montgomery County requires approval of all private streets by the Board of Supervisors.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

A request by Jonathan L. Yates for Arcola Towers for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a 197-foot monopole wireless telecommunications tower, freestanding. The property is owned by Reginald L. Duncan and is located at 3936 Childress Road, northeast of Fairview Church Road (State Route 669) and southwest of Piney Woods Road (State Route 600). The property is further identified as Tax Map 127-A 3, 4 (Parcel ID: 019114), 50.4383 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday

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Classified Advertising Delivers

Maj. Gen. William H. Seely III named next commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. William H. Seely III has been named the next commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and will officially step into his new role upon his departure from active duty, which is planned for the spring of 2025.

Seely will succeed Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, who will officially end his tenure as commandant on July 1.

As the commandant, Seely will serve as the highest-ranking military officer at the university and will provide strategic guidance, direction, and supervision to ensure the overall success and effectiveness of the corps. "The Corps of Cadets is an essential part of the identity of Virginia Tech, founded as a military, land-grant institution that grew to become a leading research university and senior military college," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "We look forward to advancing the corps' role in the university's mission under the leadership of Maj. Gen. Seely. His experience, achievements, and exemplary military career will be an inspiration to the cadets who will become tomorrow's global, ethical leaders."

"As I step into this honored position, I am filled with excitement as Virginia Tech is an incredible institution with a legacy of exceptional

leadership within the corps," said Seely. "I look forward to working across the institution to shape outstanding officers and civilian leaders who excel in both military and non-military settings."

Throughout his 35-year military career Seely has held critical leadership roles. He served as the communications platoon commander for H&S Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion from 1990-92, company commander for India Company, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion in Kunia, Hawaii, from 2000-02, and battalion commander for 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division from 2006-08. Additionally, he commanded the Marine Corps Intelligence Schools at Training Command from 2011-13, led Task Force-Iraq as part of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve from 2019-20, and served as the commandant of the Joint Forces Staff College from 2020-21. Currently, he is serving as the commandant of the Eisenhower School at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

Seely has held numerous staff assignments that have demonstrated his versatility and strategic acumen. He served as the S-2 for 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion from 1992-93, deputy



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM SEELY
Maj. Gen. William H. Seely III has been named the incoming commandant for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

G-2 and G-2 operations officer for Marine Forces Central Command from 2002-03, and director of the Intelligence Integration Division at Marine Corps Combat Development Command from 2010-11. Notably, he also held the position of intelligence director for the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Commander-Iraq from 2015-16.

Seely also has received numerous military awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star with two Gold Stars and "Combat V," Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Joint Service Commendation Medal,

a highly-respected leader guided by a commitment to service, personal and professional ethics, and strength of character," said Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke. "The experience and expertise he brings to Virginia Tech will be invaluable to the Corps of Cadets and the development of military and civilian leaders through the tenets of Ut Prosim. I look forward to working with Maj. Gen. Seely and having him as a part of our university's leadership team."

Additionally, Seely's academic background includes a bachelor's degree from American University and master's degrees from Oklahoma State University, National Intelligence University, and the Naval War College.

"I am thrilled that Gen. Seely has agreed to serve as our next commandant of cadets," said Vice

President for Student Affairs Frances Keene. "I have no doubt that Maj. Gen. Seely will lead the corps leadership in a way that will expand the impressive legacy of the corps."

Retired U.S. Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Dwayne Edwards, head of Virginia Tech's Department of Biological System Engineering will serve as interim commandant until Seely's arrival.

"I am profoundly honored to serve Virginia Tech as the interim commandant," said Edwards. "It is a distinct privilege to be part of such a storied organization dedicated to developing the future leaders of our nation, to continuing its legacy of excellence, and to supporting our incoming new commandant, Maj. Gen. Seely."

Ashley Roberts for Virginia Tech

Virginia gas prices higher than last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.35/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 4.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 1.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.73 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.89/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.10/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.89/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.10/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1 cent per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.41/g today. The national average is down 18.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 13.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

- June 17, 2023: \$3.34/g (U.S. Average: \$3.55/g)
- June 17, 2022: \$4.86/g (U.S. Average: \$4.99/g)
- June 17, 2021: \$2.93/g (U.S. Average: \$3.07/g)
- June 17, 2020: \$1.91/g (U.S. Average: \$2.11/g)
- June 17, 2019: \$2.45/g (U.S. Average: \$2.67/g)
- June 17, 2018: \$2.66/g (U.S. Average: \$2.89/g)

- June 17, 2017: \$2.09/g (U.S. Average: \$2.29/g)
- June 17, 2016: \$2.17/g (U.S. Average: \$2.35/g)
- June 17, 2015: \$2.59/g (U.S. Average: \$2.80/g)
- June 17, 2014: \$3.46/g (U.S. Average: \$3.67/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

- Roanoke- \$3.27/g, up 2.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.24/g.
- Richmond- \$3.40/g, up 5.8 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.35/g.
- West Virginia- \$3.32/g, down 5.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.37/g.

"Since the national average price of gasoline fell to its lowest June level since 2021 last week, we've seen the drop in prices take a break, with some states seeing a small rise over the last week. Thankfully, I expect this to be more like a short timeout, with an eventual return to falling gasoline prices in most states," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The decline in diesel prices continues, with the national average price of diesel now at its lowest level since January 2022. Both gasoline and diesel prices remain below their year-ago level, which is music to the ears of the Federal Reserve, as fuel prices are a significant component of the Consumer Price Index. Also factoring in gasoline demand that has been running a bit weaker than expected, market fundamentals look pretty good right now if you're a motorist."

GasBuddy

News Messenger

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stores 6. Worthless entertainment 9. Where scientists work 13. Pretty flower 14. A way to act 15. Double-reed instrument 16. Type of acid 17. Famed astronomer 18. Smooth, shiny fabric 19. Profited from 21. Secret clique 22. Infections 23. Crony 24. Teens go here every day (abbr.) 25. Suitable 28. Fresh Price of ___ Air 29. Ancient city of Egypt 31. Basketball move 33. Polished 36. There's a north and | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South 38. Egg of a louse 39. Once-ubiquitous department store 41. Portray precisely 44. Thick piece of something 45. Period between eclipses 46. Indicates near 48. Investment account 49. England, Scotland, N. Ireland, and Wales (abbr.) 51. Beak 52. Void of skill 54. Walked back and forth 56. A display of passion 60. Geological times 61. Type of restaurant 62. Spacious 63. Edible seaweed 64. Utah city 65. Tropical tree 66. Nervous tissue compound 67. Body part 68. Muscles and tendons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29. English football squad 30. Fish-eating aquatic mammals 32. South Pacific island region 34. Unaccosted for 35. Small taste of whiskey 37. Ventilated 40. Helps little firms 42. One of means 43. Fencing swords 47. Inches per minute (abbr.) 49. Turn upside down 50. S. African semi desert 52. Dutch names of Ypres 53. Instruct 55. Oily freshwater fish 56. Italian river 57. Sneaker giant 58. The men who man a ship 59. Some need glasses 61. Body part 65. Indicates position |
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OBITUARIES

Duncan, Jerry Norman

Jerry Norman Duncan, of Shawsville, died June 14, 2024, at age 74. He was born in Radford to the late Myrtle Garland Duncan (Carroll) and Arnold Austin Duncan on Feb. 21, 1950. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Jeffrey Garland Duncan.

Jerry is survived by Stanley William Guthrie, his soul mate and spouse of 48 years; brother, John B. Duncan and wife, Sharon; sister-in law, Robin Duncan; nephews, Bartley Duncan and Zach Duncan; great nephew, Grady Duncan; great niece, Madison Duncan; uncles, Don and Arthur Garland; a number of beloved cousins; and dogs, Lollie and Leala.

Jerry had a great love and talent for music. A student leader of the BHS Warrior Band, he earned First Chair Symphonic and Concert in-State two consecutive years. Jerry received a partial scholarship to Florida State University and established himself as a proud member of the FSU marching Seminole Band. He completed his degree specializing in Music Therapy.

Jerry devoted many years to serving

America's veterans with vision impairment and those in need of hospice care, and our nations wounded warriors. He was a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Christiansburg and was active in "Our House", which is a homeless program affiliated with St. Thomas.

Jerry had no doubts he was coming "home" after retirement. His return was filled with holidays, cooking and enjoying the love of his family...particularly watching his nephews grow up. Nothing was more important to Jerry than family.

Jerry never met a stranger. He was friendly—a listener who made people feel good about themselves. His sense of humor was abundant and free flowing with anyone who needed a laugh. Jerry was a healer, incorporating that life value into his everyday life and was always ready to reach out.

A celebration of Jerry's life for family and friends is Saturday, June 22, 2024, at 5 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg, Virginia.

If you choose to honor Jerry by a donation, please consider PETA, Arbor Day Foundation or charity of your favor.

Givens Jr., Hugh Peck

Hugh Peck Givens Jr., 85, passed away peacefully at home June 16, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Peck was born in Giles County in 1939 and spent most of his childhood in Christiansburg. He met his future wife Brenda when they were both in third grade at Christiansburg Elementary School. Peck and Brenda were high school sweethearts and married in 1958.

Peck earned an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1962 and remained a lifelong Hokies fan. He worked for Celanese and Fiber



Industries for most of his engineering career, and he and his family lived in Christiansburg, Charlotte and Shelby, North Carolina, and Simpsonville, South Carolina. Peck was an avid golfer, gardener, and woodworker, and had many other interests and hobbies throughout his life.

Peck is survived by his wife Brenda; his four children Lisa (Bill), Becky, Anne (Molly), Ben; his four grandchildren Clare, Ellen (Marcel), Julian, and Dante; and his three great-grandchildren Marlee, Zoey, and Nellie.

News Messenger

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Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

I Need Help

Read Psalms 11:1 through 18:50

Many of the Psalms are full of praise to God. We sometimes visualize David as peacefully strumming a harp as he quietly watches a flock of sheep grazing on a grassy slope. Psalm 13 presents a different picture.

David apparently had doubts, troubling thoughts, and enemies. Things did not always go well for him. In the first part of this psalm, David, in authentic transparency, expressed some real concerns. He apparently had enemies who were getting a little too close for comfort. The amazing part is how, in spite of the chaos around him, David made a decision to trust God.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation (Psalm 13:5).

Everything does not always go well for us either. We face challenges that seem overwhelming, and we do not always see a clear path through the jungle of everyday life. But God is our Source of help, and we can trust Him to get us through!

Prayer Suggestion: Father, I do not feel up to the task that is before me at times, but I have decided that I will trust You.

Quicklook: Psalm 13:1-6

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

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

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 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

OBITUARIES

Brown, Tammy Renee Dingus

Tammy Renee Dingus Brown, 50, of Dublin, passed away Thursday, June 13, 2024.

He was preceded in death by her father, Dennis Lee Dingus; and brother, Michael Dingus.

Survivors include her husband, Gary Brown; daughter, Leah (Cody) Edmondson; grandsons,



Nolan and Alden; mother, Kathy Smith Dingus; and many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

A celebration of her life will be announced at a later date.

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

Turman, Robert Lee

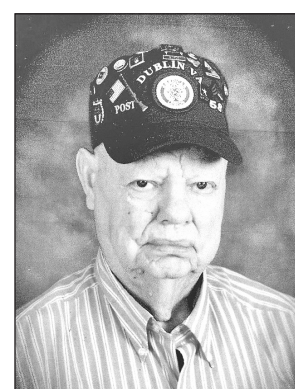
Robert Lee (Bobby) Turman passed away Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at Commonwealth Senior Living in Radford.

He was born July 8, 1938, in Pulaski and was the son of the late Edgar Lemon and Ruth Allison Turman. On Sept. 4, 1960, at the Allisonia United Methodist Church in Allisonia, Pulaski County, he married the love of his life, his wife, the late Diana Lee Dunnigan Turman.

Robert "Bobby" was a life-long resident of Pulaski County. He graduated from Dublin High School in 1955 and was drafted into the Army in 1961. He served from 1961 to 1963 in Fort Hood, Texas, where he earned the rank of Sergeant and was a squad leader. After he was discharged from the Army, he returned home and continued working with the Virginia Department of Transportation. He retired after 48 years of service. He was an active member of the Dublin United Methodist Church, a member of the American Legion Post 58 in Dublin, and a member of the Dublin Ruritan Club.

He is preceded in death by his wife, his parents, brother Edgar (Butch) Turman, brother-in-law James (Jimmy) Dunnigan, brother-in-law Robert (Bobby) Dunnigan, and nephew Robert (Robbie) Dunnigan, Jr.

He is survived by many loving family members, including sister and



brother-in-law, Judy and David Coffman of Midlothian, VA, and their children, Jason and Alyson Coffman Pauley of Roanoke and Mitchell and Amy Coffman Smith and their son, Camden of Richmond; sister-in-law, Betty Martin Dunnigan and her children, Randy and Cherish Dunnigan and children, Chandler, Cooper, and Claire, and daughter-in-law, Angie Dunnigan and children, Zack, Shay, and Chase, all of Dublin; sister-in-law, Barbara Jarrells Turman of Allisonia and her children, Keith and Tina Turman and family of Radford and Brian Turman and children of Pulaski, and Misty Turman and children of Dublin; many cousins, church family, friends and caregivers at Commonwealth Senior Living in Radford.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, June 22, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Dublin United Methodist Church with Reverend Josh Kilbourne officiating. Interment will follow in the Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin. The family will receive friends beginning at 10 a.m. prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Dublin United Methodist Church in his memory (PO Box 577, Dublin, VA 24084).

The Turman family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Through Alzheimer's Awareness Month, highlighting how Virginia Tech researchers are working toward better treatments

Alzheimer's disease, a deadly brain disease that can cause loss of memory and mobility, affects millions of lives daily.

Nearly seven million Americans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and about 11 million in the U.S. act as caregivers for people with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

June marks Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, and June 20, the summer solstice, saw a nationwide fundraising effort to counter Alzheimer's and similar diseases, known as The Longest Day. Virginia Tech researchers are engaged in research meant to advance treatment for Alzheimer's disease and assist caregivers of loved ones with dementia.

The power of music

"Music is so powerful, it overrides so many things," said Jo Culligan, an instructor with the Department of Human Development and Family Science in the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Culligan has explored the benefits of music therapy for dementia patients and their caregivers.

A study that surveyed caregivers and their charges through a series of weekly community choir rehearsals showed that listening to music and singing boosted the well-being of choir participants.

At the beginning of rehearsals, some caregivers and people with dementia reported having negative feelings. But as time progressed, "they were getting into the routine and people were more happy once they arrived. We saw big changes," Culligan said.

"Where your musical memory is stored is an area that is not impacted by dementia. It can create opportunities for orientation and connection and increase communication," Culligan said.

Modeling brains and manipulating molecules

Tim Jarome, a neuroscientist in Virginia Tech's School of Animal Sciences within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has been working on a way to model Alzheimer's disease using a pig's brain, which has many more similarities to the human brain than that of a rodent.

"One of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease is cognitive impairments and memory loss, so we need to study the complicated tasks that pigs do," Jarome said. "Pigs are very intelligent and can perform complicated tasks that are beyond the capabilities of rodents. If we develop this model, researchers in every state in the U.S. could use it because every state has at least one university with facilities to house pigs."



IMAGE COURTESY PEXELS

A caregiver puts a hand over the hand of an older patient.

Jarome also has collaborated on pioneering work that manipulates protein complexes in the brain to determine what role they may have in age-related cognitive decline. "It gives us a therapeutic target we can start to develop strategies around to stimulate and hopefully improve memory across the life span," he said.

Better views inside the brain

Xiaoting Jia, an associate professor in Virginia Tech's Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, uses tools to help neuroscientists study and solve brain diseases. Current electrical and imaging tools to diagnose brain disorders are limited in resolution, both time and spatial, making it difficult to study devastating neurological diseases. Jia has developed a fiber a little thicker than a strand of hair that can be used to probe the brain without harming it, allowing better imaging for studying brain disease.

Jia leads a research team that focuses on what relationship might exist between the buildup of plaque in the brain and the onset of Alzheimer's symptoms. In collaboration with faculty from the University of Virginia and Washington University in St. Louis, Jia is developing a new kind of scope that will allow imaging and observation of plaque buildup to analyze its relationship with memory loss. The team also will explore sending electrical pulses to re-establish blood flow and oxygenation to dead neurons and restore memory.

"Alzheimer's is a devastating problem – I've seen firsthand how bad it could be," Jia said. "It's why it concerns me as an electrical engineer. I want to build tools and try to assist neuroscientists in solving brain problems."

Mike Allen for Virginia Tech

Pairing shelter dogs has 'pawsitive' results

Shelter dogs awaiting adoption fare better with a canine companion than when they're housed alone, according to new research from Virginia Tech.

The study, led by Erica Feuerbacher, associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' School of Animal Sciences, revealed that companionable dogs housed together showed fewer signs of stress and were adopted more quickly than dogs that were housed by themselves.

Nearly four million dogs enter shelters every year, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The study's findings offer one possible solution for animal shelters struggling with limited space and long waits for dogs needing adoption.

"Despite being a social species, dogs are often housed alone in shelters to reduce disease

transmission and possible injury from inter-dog conflict. But this social isolation can work against dogs' behavioral health and adoptability," Feuerbacher said. "We wanted to examine whether pair housing could be a useful intervention for improving shelter dogs' welfare."

Published in the open-access research journal PLOS ONE, the study is the first to examine how U.S.-based shelter dogs fare in cohousing versus solitary housing. Previous studies of the benefits of cohousing dogs focused on laboratory beagles and veterinary school dogs who were housed long-term – or for more than six months – in kennels for teaching and research purposes. In contrast, shelter dogs spend an average of 35 days waiting to be adopted and are frequently accustomed to social interaction prior to their entry.

The study, funded by the WALTHAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA FEUERBACHER

Mighty (in front) and Bo cuddle during a Virginia Tech-led study of the benefits of housing dogs together in animal shelters. The pair proved to be loving companions and chose to sleep together – even though a separate bed was provided.

Foundation, followed 61 dogs over seven days at the Humane Society of Western Montana. Researchers placed half the dogs in cohousing

with partners who were matched through a brief introduction and compatibility test. The other half were kenneled alone.

Researchers observed the dogs throughout the week, recording common stress behaviors, including lip-licking, whining, and pulling back their ears, and took daily samples of the dogs' urinary cortisol and creatinine to measure biological indicators of stress.

"Dogs housed in shelters can face chronic levels of stress due to noise, confined kennel spaces, and limited access to social interaction," Feuerbacher said. "This can reduce their overall well-being, which might impact their adoptability."

Dogs housed together not only showed fewer stress behaviors, but they also were adopted, on average, four days sooner

than single-housed dogs.

Feuerbacher hopes that the study's results will encourage animal shelters to encourage animal shelters to match dogs with suitable "roommates" as a way to alleviate dogs' stress and show them at their best to potential adopters.

"Many potential adopters might already have a dog or would like to engage in social activities with their dog," Feuerbacher said. "Clearly exhibiting that a dog can successfully interact with other dogs might highlight those dogs as good matches – leading to more successful adoptions."

The research team included Grace Hecker '21, a current veterinary student at the Royal Veterinary College in London; Katherine Martineau, a former student research assistant at Carroll College who

now works at Lewis and Clark Humane Society in Helena, Montana; Mariah Scheskie, a professional dog trainer and former director of programs, behavior, and training, at the Humane Society of Western Montana; and Rhonda Hammerslough, a professional dog trainer and Humane Society of Western Montana volunteer.

Feuerbacher's research, outreach, and teaching focus on companion animal behavior and welfare. Her recent efforts have centered on shelter dog welfare and interventions that can improve dogs' well-being and increase adoptions. She also studies human-animal interactions, including dogs' preferences for different social interactions and how to use positive reinforcement training most effectively in training dogs.

Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Offensive coordinator promoted to head coach at Christiansburg High

Marty Gordon
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Christiansburg High School has turned to a familiar face to lead its football program this fall.

Offensive coordinator Matt Heron has been promoted to the post.

In the announcement, Principal Shane Guynn said Heron brings a wealth of experience, passion and strong commitment to fostering excellence on both on and off the field. Heron has coached for the past six years under Alex Wilkens, who stepped down last month. Heron has served the past five seasons as the school's offensive coordinator.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHS
Matt Heron

"My goal for Christiansburg football is that our players will be recognized by their success, both on the football field and in life beyond football," the new coach said. "They will be the best spouse, parent, job candidate and community member that they are capable of being. I want myself and our coaching staff to develop our athletes to maximize their potential at CHS and beyond."

Previously, Heron coached for five years at Cave Spring High School. He has also been the head coach of Christiansburg Lacrosse for the past two seasons, and coached baseball for 10 seasons at Roanoke Catholic, Cave Spring and Christiansburg.

He attended Northside High School in Roanoke, where he played football. Heron cites the examples set by his former mentors.

"My youth coach was Coach Bob Price, who won four state championships as head coach at Roanoke Catholic," he said. "My father also coached football at Roanoke Catholic with Coach Price."

Heron played baseball at Roanoke College where he received his undergraduate degree and a Master's degree from Grand Canyon University.

Assistant appointed head varsity coach

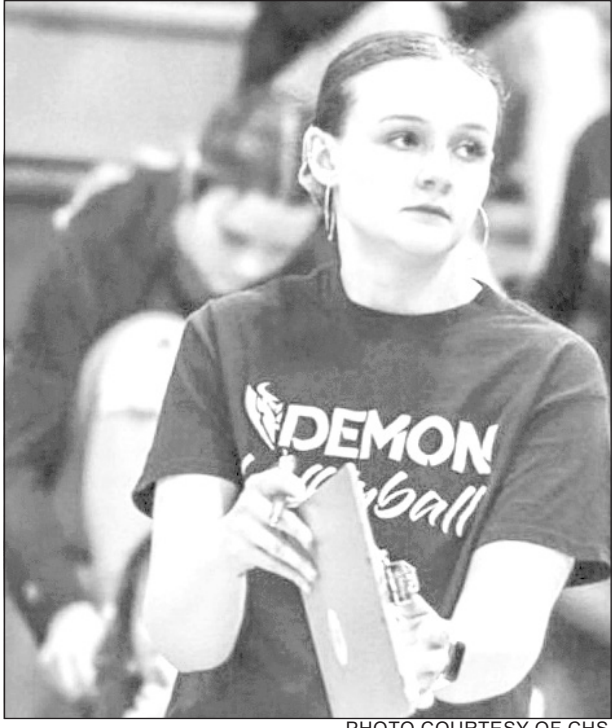


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHS

Morgan Taylor

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg High School is turning the keys of the volleyball program over to a familiar face.

Morgan Taylor has coached for the past three years at the school, leading the junior varsity squad and assisting with the varsity, which finished 22-6 this past season with an appearance in the region 3D playoffs.

The school said in the announcement made Wednesday Taylor has been directly involved in helping to build its program over the past three years and brings a strong commitment to helping student athletes

represent themselves and CHS in the best possible light, both on and off the court.

"Her knowledge, experience and leadership are excellent pillars for our program," the school announced.

Taylor, who is a math teacher at the school, says she applied for the opening because she loves the sport and the program.

"I wanted to continue to see these girls continue to grow and wanted to help the program as best I can," she said.

Taylor had also coached a high school freshman team and two club teams for two years in Indiana. She moved to Virginia four years ago and coached the CMS middle school team for two years before moving to the junior varsity at CHS in the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

"Ultimately, I would love to be champions of our district and region, but I am also mainly aiming to provide a program for these athletes to learn, grow, and excel in," she said.

Auburn High's Katie Light named Class 1 soccer player of year

Players from Radford, CHS, Auburn and East Mont also get the nod

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Katie Light led the Auburn High School girls' soccer team to another state championship appearance, and Wednesday, she was named the Class 1 player of the year.

Her coach, Adam Ritchie, was named coach of the year in Class 1.

Light was joined on the first team by teammates, Logan Mundy, Kristen Pack, Jillian Tucker and Lucy George. Auburn's Grace Harris was named to the second team.

Meanwhile in Class 2, Radford goalkeeper Hollybrook Cline was named to the first team for soccer with Lauren Owens and Kendall Carpenter being named to the second team.

In Class 2, the Radford boys' squad was the state runner up, and four Cats were named to the all-state soccer team. Brody Shull, Enzo Pugliese, Eli Goff and Charlie Davis were all first teamers. Robert Fuksz was named



FILE PHOTO

Auburn's Katie Light is the Class 1 girls soccer player of the year.

to the second team.

Christiansburg's Luca Pickeral and Sami Selfe were named to the Class 3 all-state first-team.

In Class 1, Auburn placed Jared Bradley and Nick Millirons on the first team with Eastern Montgomery's Talen

Bruce. Osman Amya of Eastern Montgomery was named to the second team.

Big South honors RU's Wellings

Radford University senior Chloe Wellings (Newcastle Upon Tyne, U.K.) has been voted the 2023-24 Big South Conference Women's Track Athlete of the Year, respectively, while Charleston Southern junior Chloe Greene (South Kingstown, R.I.) has been selected the league's 2023-24 Women's Field Athlete of the Year, it was announced today by the Conference office.

The awards are voted on by the Big South track & field head coaches as part of their annual June meeting, and encompass both the indoor track & field and outdoor track & field seasons. Wellings was the Big South Champion in the Indoor 3,000m and 5,000m, as well as the Outdoor 5,000m and 10,000m -- becoming just the second women's student-athlete in Big South history to sweep the four events in the same year.

Her winning time of 34:39.29 in the Outdoor 10,000m established a Championship Meet record, and she repeated as the 5,000m champion with her time of 16:47.59. During the outdoor season, Wellings also won the App State Open 10,000m and the Charlotte 49er Classic 5,000m, and set PRs in the 5,000m at the Virginia Challenge (16:22.23) as well as the 10,000m at the Raleigh Relays (34:10.32).

Both efforts rank fourth in Big South history. In the indoor campaign, Wellings became the first Highlander to win the Big South 5,000m championship (16:58.06), and was Radford's first winner in the 3,000m since 2014 with her 9:33.72 performance. She won the 3,000m (9:42.97) at the VMI Invitational in January, and established PRs in the mile (4:55.44) and 3,000m (9:32.06) at the Darius Dixon Memorial

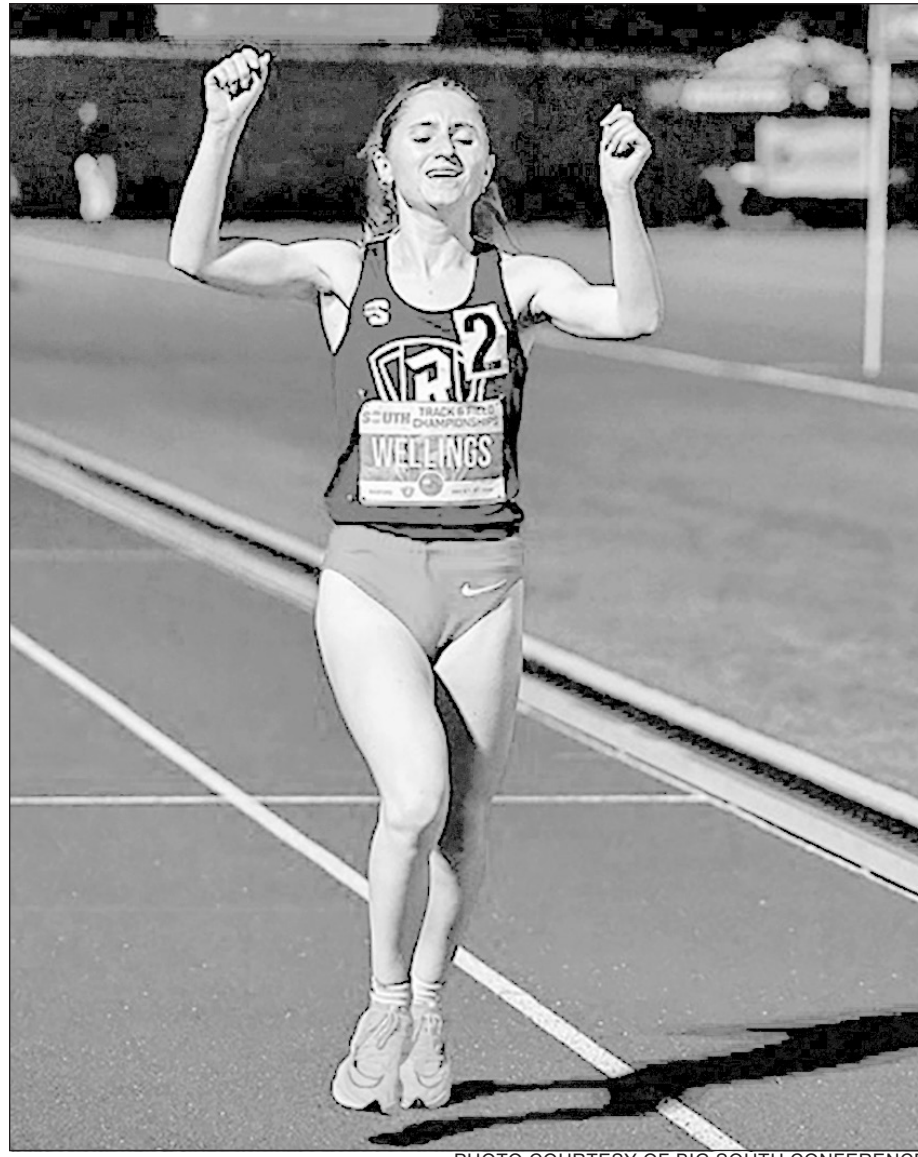


PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

Chloe Wellings of Radford University is the Big South Conference's track athlete of the year.

Invitational in February -- with her 3,000m time the second-fastest in the conference record book.

Greene was the Most Valuable Athlete at both the Big South Indoor Championship (22 points) and Outdoor Championship (31 points) in 2024. She was the Pentathlon champion and finished third in the long jump, in addition to scoring in the triple jump and high jump. Greene won medals in the outdoor long jump (second) and high jump (third), and scored in the 100m Hurdles, javelin and triple jump.

She concluded the outdoor season in the javelin at the NCAA East First Round and qualified for the event with a PR of 46.34m at the Charleston

Southern Last Chance Qualifier (seventh-best performance in Big South history). At the Big South Outdoor Championships, Greene set PRs in the 100mH (13.95), long jump (5.99m -- 10th all-time in league annals) and triple jump (11.17m).

Her outdoor season included wins in the long jump and javelin at the Charleston Southern Invitational in March. During the indoor campaign, Greene won medals in the Big South Pentathlon with a score of 3506 -- one point shy of her own school record. She finished third in the long jump with a PR leap of 5.75m, which is tied for fourth in school history.

Greene also recorded a personal-best in the triple jump with a leap of

11.12m to take sixth. Her points at the Big South Indoor Championships helped the Buccaneers claim second-place to mark the highest finish in program history with a program-record 157 points.

In February, Greene was part of CSU's winning DMR team at the South Carolina Invitational, as the relay squad turned in a school-record 11:46.26 -- the third-fastest in Big South history. She also set a school record in the 600m with a time of 1:36.99 at the Gamecock Opener in January (9th in Big South history) and was part of the 4x400m relay squad at the USC Indoor Open in February that took second overall at 3:48.65.

Big South Conference

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	H	O	P	S	P	A	P	L	A	B	S
L	I	L	A	C	D	A	R	E	O	B	O
U	R	I	C	S	A	G	A	N	C	I	R
B	E	N	E	F	I	T	E	D	C	A	B
S	O	R	E	S	P	A	L	H	S		
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E	R	A	S	T	A	P	A	S	A	I	R
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D	O	P	A	E	A	R	T	H	E	W	S

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg gymnastics group send another to next level

Marty Gordon
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None of the area's high schools field a gymnastics team, thus many individuals have turned to Christiansburg's Virginia Techniques gym. Over the past five years, the group has sent six athletes to the next level including Kentucky All-American Rayna Worley. This past week, Annaliise Howard announced she will participate in acro and tumbling at Bluefield State. Acrobatics & Tumbling includes student-athletes from a variety of gymnastic disciplines – artistic, acrobatic, trampoline, power tumbling - and

those who participate in competitive cheerleading. The sport includes six events, all of which are competed on the floor. Currently 48 schools host a A&T program. Bluefield State is a NCAA Division II school as a member of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association with an enrollment of 1,248 students on the West Virginia side of the border. Howard is recovering from ACL surgery and had wondered what her gymnastics future might hold. She had reached Level 9, one of the highest in the state of Virginia before the injury and surgery. "I would say my

experience doing gymnastics has been both challenging at times and rewarding," she said. "The long hours required to practice and being a full-time student has helped me learn to manage my time and help me achieve a strong work ethic." Howard hopes to be a positive addition to the Bluefield State, team contributing strong and clean tumbling skills and utilizing her strength in the acro portion of competition. She will join Virginia Techniques alum Karlee Williams at Bluefield State. Howard plans to major in Criminal Justice-Cyber Security Concentration.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECHNIQUES
Annaliise Howard (center) is the latest Christiansburg gymnast to commit to continue her athletic career at the next level. Also pictured are Techniques' coaches, Cheryll Robinson (left) and Amanda James.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS
Virginia Tech swimmer Carmen Weiler Sastre will be participating in next month's Summer Olympics in Paris.

Tech's Sastre punches ticket to Paris

Virginia Tech swimmer Carmen Weiler Sastre punched her ticket to the 2024 Paris Olympics Tuesday during the 2024 Spanish Swimming Championships, which ran Tuesday through Saturday in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. In the 100-meter backstroke prelims, Weiler Sastre swam a 59.65. She stopped the clock in a personal-best time and lowered her own national record by

.11, which she set at last year's national championships. Weiler Sastre surpassed the World Aquatics Olympic Qualification Time of 59.99 by .34. She will join Mario Molla Yanes on the Spanish Olympic team who qualified for the 100 butterfly earlier this year. In addition to the two Spaniards, Ian Ho, a Tech alumnus, will compete for Hong Kong in the 50 free.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Radford athletes earn Big South honors

The Big South conference announced last Thursday morning the Presidential Honor Roll list which included an incredible 85.50% of Radford's 269 eligible student-athletes, a conference-high. To be named to the Presidential Honor Roll, student-athletes must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or better for the recently-completed academic year. This past season, 2,152 out of the Big South's 2,909 eligible student-athletes achieved the benchmark. For the second time in the last three years, it was Radford who led all Big South institutions with their 85.50% mark of student-athletes who earned the award. The Highlanders were one of just three members that eclipsed 80% joined

by Gardner-Webb and High Point. Within the list, 35 Radford student-athletes also earned the Commissioner's Award distinction for a perfect 4.0 GPA led by the women's soccer program which had nine student-athletes earn a 4.0 GPA. The Big South had an all-time high 273 student-athletes receive Commissioner's Award distinction in 2023-24 for having a 4.0 GPA. Gold Award scholars (3.75-3.99) totaled 604 while another 522 received Silver Award (3.50-3.74) accolades in 2023-24 for a combined total of 1,399 student-athletes with at least a 3.50 GPA last year -- 65.01 percent of all Presidential Honor Roll members at or above that threshold.

Radford University Athletics

Delon captures French Championship

Virginia Tech rising sophomore Valentine Delon hoisted the 2024 French Ladies Championship following a one-up victory over Camille Min-Gaultier, Sunday at the Golf Club of Lyon. The Paris, France, native won five straight matches en route to the tournament title. In stroke play, Delon fired rounds of 70 and 74 to tie for fifth at even-par 144 and lock up the sixth seed for match play. Delon nearly cruised to the championship match, which included a 5&4 quarterfinal win and a

6&5 semifinal win. In the 36-hole final against Min-Gaultier, Delon erupted for 12 birdies – seven on the first 18. With the match all square through 18 holes, Delon birdied three of the first five holes in the second 18 to build a 1-up advantage. After carding a bogey on the par-4 27th hole to drop to 1-down, Delon recorded back-to-back birdies on holes 28 and 29 to regain the 1-up lead. Delon parred in to secure arguably the biggest win of her young career. Over the 36 holes played in Sunday's final, Delon shot the equivalent of 10-under-par.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Women's Soccer program unveils 2024 schedule

The Radford women's soccer program unveiled their 2024 schedule Thursday morning jam-packed with interesting matchups, the program's 40th year at Division I and a quest to three-peat the Big South for the first time in program history. Before action kicks off in the regular season, the Highlanders have a pair of exhibition matches planned. Radford fans can get their first look at the squad at home against Davidson on August 7 with a road exhibition against VMI on August 11 also scheduled. Kicking off the 2024 regular season, the Highlanders start at home with a meeting against William & Mary on August 15. The Highlanders have won 10 straight matches at Cupp Stadium dating back to the 2022 season and have a 136-48-14 record on the home turf dating back to the stadium's opening. Radford's first road contest is an intriguing one as the Highlanders visit West Virginia on August 18 for a rematch of the 2019 NCAA Tournament first round.

From there, Radford will return to Cupp Stadium for two straight home matches against Emory & Henry (August 22) and South Carolina State (August 25). Back on the road for two straight, Radford makes two return trips to opponents they hosted in the 2023 slate. The Highlanders will visit Mount St. Mary's on August 31 before turning their attention to a tough Appalachian State squad who finished with a top-75 RPI last season on September 5. Two of Radford's final three nonconference opponents will be right back at home. On September 8, Radford will play host to Wofford before hosting in-state rival Richmond on September 12. Closing out the nonconference slate, Radford visits the reigning 2023 Ohio Valley champions Morehead State on September 19. Radford will open Big South play on the road when they visit Gardner-Webb on September 25. The program's conference home opener is a big one as the

Highlanders will host USC Upstate on September 28 for a 2023 Big South championship rematch. Back on the road on October 2, Radford will visit an upstart UNC Asheville squad on coming off its first winning season since 2015. Returning home, Radford and Charleston Southern will clash for the 40th time in program history on October 5 as the Highlanders also celebrate alumni weekend. After some time off, Radford returns to the pitch to host in-state rival Longwood on October 16 in their penultimate home match of the season. The Highlanders will then travel to Winthrop on October 19. Closing out the regular season, Radford hosts High Point on October 23 in an always-intense meeting between two of the top programs in the Big South. Radford finishes up on the road at Presbyterian on October 26.

Radford University Athletics

Former Virginia Tech soccer player selected for Venezuelan national team

Former Virginia Tech midfielder Daniel Pereira was selected to the Venezuelan national team's 26-man roster for CONMEBOL Copa América USA 2024. The 48th edition of CONMEBOL Copa América began on June 20, with the match between Argentina and Canada in Atlanta, Ga., and will conclude on July 14 with the final in Miami, Fla. Pereira, who made his debut for Venezuela on June 15, 2023, has four international caps, including two starts. The upcoming tournament will be the 2021 ACC Midfielder of the Year's first non-friendly action for his country. Venezuela's first two matches, Ecuador (June 22) and Mexico (June 26), will be

aired live on FS1. The final group stage fixture against Jamaica (TV designation TBD) on June 30 will be contested at Q2 Stadium in Austin, Texas, the home field of Pereira's club, Austin FC. In the midst of his fourth season as a professional, Pereira has made 105 appearances for the Austin FC across the MLS regular season and playoffs, recording two goals and 14 assists. Pereira played high school soccer at Northside High School (Roanoke, Va.) before making 26 appearances in 2019 and 2020 for Virginia Tech. In the middle of the 2020-21 campaign, he was selected No. 1 overall in the 2021 MLS SuperDraft.

Virginia Tech



Daniel Pereira

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH