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Saturday, September 21, 2024

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Montgomery Museum receives Katherine Glaize Rockwood Community Preservation Award

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Montgomery Museum of Art & History was selected as a recipient of a Community Preservation Award from Preservation Virginia, a large Richmond-based nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering, supporting, and sustaining Virginia's historic places through leadership in advocacy, education, revitalization, and stewardship.

According to Preservation Virginia, studies show that communities and quality of life are enhanced when individuals, organizations and local governments adapt, restore and highlight historic places and stories unique to Virginia. To highlight this work, each year since 1971, Preservation Virginia recognizes exemplary historic preservation projects and historical research in the Commonwealth.

The Montgomery Museum

was selected as a recipient of this prestigious award for successful efforts to revitalize a former, empty bank building in downtown Christiansburg. The building transformation is a great example of adaptive reuse to promote economic vitality while providing an educational community gathering space for the County and the New River Valley. Since moving its operations to downtown Christiansburg in mid-2022, the museum has reimaged the 15,000 square foot building with a guiding vision to be a premiere, regional cultural center that offers creative, inspirational, and enriching programming for the entire community of Montgomery County and the New River Valley.

A contributing structure to the downtown historic district, the museum

See MUSEUM, Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

The Montgomery Museum of Art & History has received a Community Preservation Award from Preservation Virginia for its revitalization of an empty bank building into the museum.



PHOTO COURTESY OF METALLICA

The Metallica snake pit put fans close to the concert action.

Metallica to perform next year at Lane Stadium

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The rumor has been circulating on social media for months. Thursday, Virginia Tech made it official.

The musical group, Metallica, is coming to Blacksburg's Lane Stadium on May 7, 2025.

The band's announcement said, "In a new twist, M72 2025 will also include several single shows with the full production, including the in-the-round stage and Snake Pit. Among them are two college football stadiums: JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse, New York, and our first-ever visit to Blacksburg, Virginia, home of the Virginia Tech Hokies. The show at Lane Stadium will mark the culmination of 20-plus years of 'Enter Sandman' playing as the Hokies take the field."

Lane Stadium will be one of six stadium concerts slated for 2025. One of those will be in Charlotte, N.C.

Each stadium show will have a variety of Enhanced Experiences, ranging from access to a meet and greet, production and stage tour, food and beverage in the "Black Box" lounge to early entry into the venue and the aforementioned Snake Pit.

The famed snake pit will be located in the center of the stage on this tour. Being in the snake pit makes you a part of the show and is the closest place to the stage to see the band.

For the last three decades, Metallica has included a "snake pit" section at every show they play. The snake pit in a standing-room only section literally in the middle of the stage, giving fans a 360-degree view of the band as they play.

Tickets will be available starting Monday, Sept. 23 through a series of special presale windows. A limited number of tickets are available within each pre-sale so fans are encouraged to

See METALLICA, Page 6

MCPS school counselors express concerns regarding 504 Coordinator roles

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

Montgomery County- During the September 17, 2024 Montgomery County School Board Meeting, many MCPS school counselors addressed the board regarding counselors now being needed to fill 504 coordinator roles on top of the extensive work they already do.

A 504 plan in Virginia is a written plan that outlines accommodations and services for students with disabilities to help them participate in school. The plan is based on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which is a civil

rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. The school counselors spoke to the board about now being 504 coordinators, which adds more responsibilities to their already full loads as school counselors. Sarah Ballard, 10th grade Counselor for Christiansburg High School, spoke in her address to the board about how adding this role to school counselors could impact how they serve students regarding mental health and other needs, how requiring this of them was not optional and could violate Virginia state

See MCPS, Page 6

Preserving natural history is life's work for Jamie King

Angelica Ramos

Contributing Writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY- Jamie King, Virginia Tech's Urban Forester, has had a hand in preserving a major natural landmark and preserves nature's history all over campus.

King is the urban forest manager and university arborist for Virginia Tech and is in charge of planting, general maintenance and health of the trees on campus. These duties center on preservation and sustainability of ecosystems. He also worked as the city arborist for the City of Roanoke. King had a hand in preserving the Merry Oak, a historical landmark with connection to Historical Smithfield. The Merry Oak was where the enslaved people at Smithfield would celebrate weddings,



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech Urban Forester Jamie King

hold religious ceremonies, hold meetings and was simply the hub for them to gather as a people. Before the Merry Oak was a hub for the enslaved people, it was maintained and cared for by the Monacans and other First Nations people

See JAMIE KING, Page 6

New River Valley Home Builders Association hosts Build Her Dreams Bed Build

The New River Valley Home Builders Association's Women in Building Committee proudly launched an impactful community service event Saturday, Sept. 14, "Build Her Dreams Bed Build," to celebrate Professional Women in Building Week.

This event combined career awareness and community service, offering girls in the NRV community a unique opportunity to learn about construction careers while making a tangible difference.

The "Build Her Dreams Bed Build" event, in partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace - NRV and supported by local groups such as the Blacksburg High School Lacrosse Team, DanceTech, local Girl Scout troops, and more, exemplified the power of community and the importance of introducing young girls to the construction industry. With the help of over 125 volunteers and sponsors, over 40 beds were built and donated to children in need. More than 70 girls from

local organizations gained hands-on experience using power tools, guided by women from the construction industry who shared their expertise and inspired the girls with their career stories. This collective effort not only provided essential resources to those in need but also empowered the next generation of women in the home building industry, highlighting the vital role of

See DREAMS, Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASPIRE MARKETING AGENCY

A large group of children and adult volunteers participate in the "Build Her Dreams Bed Build."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 21:

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.

Sunday, Sept. 22:

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, Sept. 23:

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 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.

Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. - noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

RCPS Special Ed Advisory Committee

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 Twelfth Street, Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link. We hope to see you there!

Tuesday, Sept. 24:

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.

Identity theft scams with Better Business Bureau

At the Radford Public Library, noon - 1 p.m. Scammers will do whatever it takes to get their hands on your personal information. Once they have it, they can effectively become you, using your identity to open accounts, file taxes, or obtain medical coverage. Sloan Champney, Public Relations and Communications Specialist of Better Business Bureau, will cover how to spot these scams and protect yourself from thieves wanting to steal your identity. Pizza provided. Handouts and small giveaways available from BBB.

Wednesday, Sept. 25:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 - 6 p.m. The 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. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. - noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

Thursday, Sept. 26:

Christmas Store fundraiser at Eastern Divide

The Montgomery County Christmas Store will kick off its fundraising campaign at Eastern Divide from 3 to 9 p.m. For each pint, flight, or soda sold, Eastern Divide will donate \$1. Featured will be a silent auction with many great items (<https://auctria.com/auction/MCCSFallFundraiser>). Bring a package of children's socks or underwear and be entered to win a door prize. Come out to raise money for the Christmas Store to help neighbors in need.

Montgomery Museum Aviation Art + History reception

Above: A History of Montgomery County Aviation," sponsored by Wing Aviation. Exhibit explores and celebrates the county's rich legacy in aviation, featuring historic artifacts and stories highlighting the community's impact on the skies above us. Historic photographs, uniforms, and World War II aviator gloves provide tangible links to the important local contributions to the war effort during the 1940s. Two modern commercial delivery drones and other artifacts will showcase the culmination of the work, research, and innovation produced by the Virginia Tech Mid

Atlantic Aviation Partnership. Complementing the historical exhibit is a special art showcase celebrating 'Flight,' featuring works by local artists. The exhibit opening and reception will take place Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History, located at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg. Guests will enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar during the event.

International Paddling Film Festival at The Lyric

Blacksburg Parks and Recreation will host the 19th annual Paddling Film Festival at the Lyric Theatre at 6:30 p.m. The Paddling Film Festival is an international adventure film tour presenting the world's best paddling films of the year - whitewater, sea kayaking, canoeing, SUP, action, and lifestyle - in more than 120 cities and towns across Canada, the United States, and around the world. With 29 inspiring paddling films shortlisted for the World Tour, including the 11 festival category winners, audiences will see hairy whitewater action, sea kayakers exploring remote coastlines, northern river canoe expeditions, international river travel films, motivating environmental documentaries and grueling kayak fishing battles. The Paddling Film Festival World Tour is produced by Rapid Media. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are on sale now: <https://www.thelyric.com/event/2024-paddling-film-festival/>.

Saturday, Sept. 28:

Pilot Community Center Celebration

The Pilot Community Center (former Pilot School) was recently added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Celebrate these designations and also honor former teachers and students of the Pilot School, 1 p.m. Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Road, Pilot. Unveiling of historical designation plaques, live music, refreshments, prizes, and lots of good memories. This event is free to the public.

Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's 9th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ, noon - 5 p.m., at St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall. Admission is free, though a \$10 donation is suggested. Seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs. Performance schedule: 12:30-1:30 p.m. The JoJo Stockton Project, 2-3 p.m. McFadden and Friends. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Lady D and Mi\$\$ion. Beer and wine, barbeque, and sweet treats for purchase from Blue Ridge Beverage, Kirk's Famous BBQ, and Next Door Bake Shop. NAACP and The League of Women Voters will provide voter registration information. Free parking at the Gilbert Street Parking Garage. Proceeds go toward the continued preservation of St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall, which will be open to guests during the event. For more information, visit: <https://blacksburgmuseum.org/>.

Ongoing:

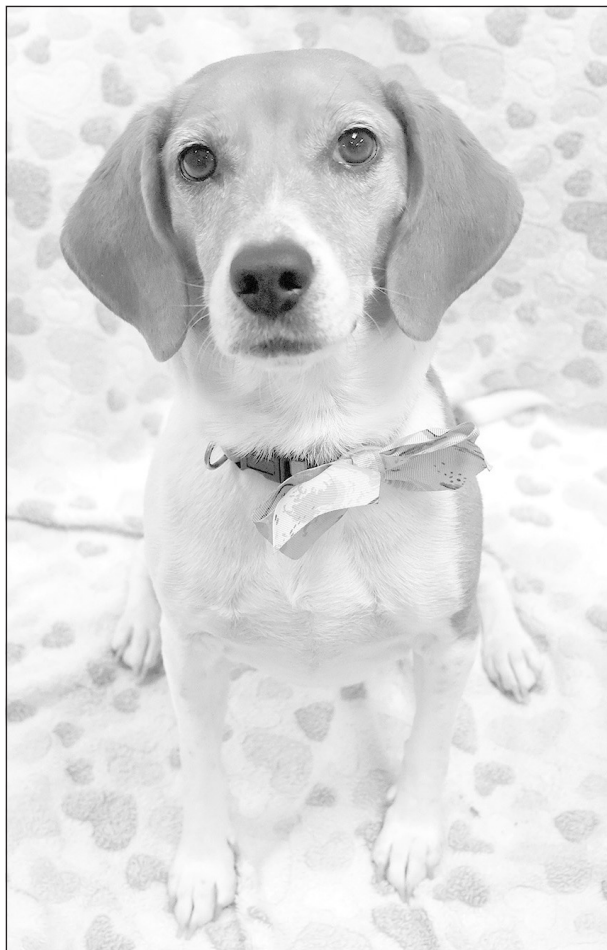
Menagerie, exhibit at Fine Arts Center for the NRV

Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley presents Menagerie, celebrating the diverse talents of artists residing in the NRV. At the Fine Arts Center in Pulaski at 21 West Main St., Pulaski, through Oct. 5, 2024. Some artwork contains mature content and may not be suitable for children.

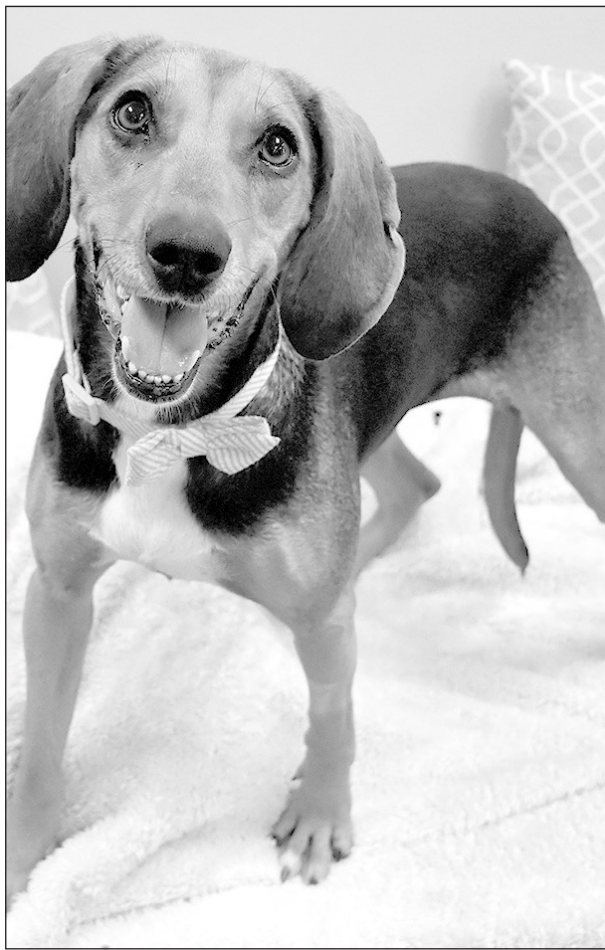
Glencoe Mansion art exhibit by Sidra Kaluszka

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery will host "Do You Dream In Color," an art exhibition by artist Sidra Kaluszka for September and October at Glencoe Mansion, located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford. The exhibition will be on display from now until Oct. 27.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Scrappy



Edie

Edie is a sweet girl ready to sniff out a loving human to bring her out of her shell. She can be a little shy meeting new people but has a friendly attitude. Once comfortable, Edie enjoys attention and being pet.

Scrappy is a happy pup who is ready to head home! She likes being with people and will gladly sit for treats.

Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet this pawsome dog.

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club to host Open House

Angelica Ramos
Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG- The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club is hosting an open house to show all they do for their community on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024.

Each year, the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club hosts several events that help raise money to feed back into the community via supporting other organizations, scholarships, supporting the food pantry and providing charitable donations to organizations or those in need. Some of their most popular events are their Summer Fish Frys and the fall apple butter sales. These events tend to draw in crowds up to 400 people and serve as a space for the community to gather. Their apple butter is so popular, and made with local produce, that they tend to sell out by Thanksgiving. The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club supports organizations like the Imagination Library and also organizes and produces the Fourth of July Parade for Blacksburg.

The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club Open House was such a success last year that it attracted new members and volunteers to the organization which helped with this past year's events and community support. The open house event is an opportunity for the community to get to know the Ruritan Club and the organizations they support better as well as offer a place for residents to enjoy apple butter, to connect with one another, and for kids to enjoy crafts and activities like making ornaments for the Kent Square Christmas Tree.

The open house will be held at Slusser's Chapel Fellowship Hall, 1543 Mt Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Residents can explore each table, ask questions about community involvement, mingle, help cut apples which will be made into a new batch of apple butter and, of course, taste their renowned apple butter and biscuits.

Montgomery County Emergency Assistance program receives donation from local church

BLACKSBURG - Blacksburg United Methodist Church presented a check for \$3,000 to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP).

The MCEAP's mission is to assist Montgomery County residents in maintaining their households and restoring their self-sufficiency, achieved by serving the immediate, emergency, and temporary needs of low-income, unemployed, elderly or handicapped

individuals and families.

"We know that every penny donated will go to help our community with food, clothing, household items, and/or financial assistance," said Arnold. "Our SERVE team is excited to learn that the MCEAP program will now be delivering meals weekly to seniors. Meals are prepared, packaged, and delivered by MCEAP volunteers."

Blacksburg United Methodist Church



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pictured (left to right): BUMC SERVE Coordinator Dick Arnold, MCEAP Manager Margie Vitale, and BUMC SERVE Team Member Merv Timberlake.

Blue Ridge PBS presents Artistic Encounters – Meet the Artist

ROANOKE – Blue Ridge PBS announces David Ferrell and Ruth Lefko as its featured artists for Artistic Encounters – Meet the Artist.



Music for the reception will be provided by Two Scales.

The series highlights artists and invites the community to meet the individuals while seeing their works with an opportunity to acquire pieces during a reception and following exhibit held at Blue Ridge PBS. The art will remain on display for several weeks.

Ferrell is an avid watercolorist and photographer gaining inspiration from his family farm situated in the picturesque Fairlawn area. As an avid perennial gardener, his constant access to plenty of subject matter has helped shape his style which he explains varies from abstract to whimsical and everything in between.

Since Lefko's retirement from elementary education, she has been exploring her lifelong interest in art. She is a signature member of the Virginia Watercolor Society and has received awards in regional juried shows including the Virginia Watercolor Society and the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild.

Music for the reception is provided by Two Scales. Chloe and Stewart Scales play a variety of styles, but folk and bluegrass are favorite genres of the couple. Each show usually includes Stewart's guitar and banjo, and Chloe's cello, harp, and mountain dulcimer. Both reception and exhibit are completely free of charge. However, as a non-profit, donations are highly appreciated. Donation proceeds go to funding the



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLUE RIDGE PBS

local station operations and make it possible for Blue Ridge PBS to continue to provide the community with entertaining, educational, and inspirational content.

Blue Ridge PBS is located behind Virginia Western Community College at the end of McNeil Drive. The reception will take place Thursday, September 26 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and the pieces will remain on display weekdays, September 30 – October 11 from 1-4 pm. Visit BlueRidgePBS.org for details.

Blue Ridge PBS

Marketplace

THE FINCASTLE HERALD
The Vinton Messenger
THE NEW CASTLE RECORD
SALEM TIMES REGISTER
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<p>MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTION INFORMATION November 5, 2024 General Election Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 In-Person Early Voting at the following: MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS 1546 North Franklin Street, Christiansburg, VA. September 20 – November 1, 2024 from 9am – 5pm Blacksburg Community Center 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg, VA. October 21 – November 1, 2024 from 9am – 5pm The office will be closed for the Holiday on October 14, 2024.</p> <p>IN ADDITION, BOTH SITES WILL BE OPEN FROM 9AM TO 5PM SATURDAY, October 26, 2024 and SATURDAY, November 2, 2024 Note: The last day qualified voters can apply for an absentee ballot by mail:</p> <p>Friday, October 25, 2024 by 5:00 PM</p> <p>A Ballot Drop Box will be available at both locations during the dates and times specified above.</p> <p>A Ballot Drop Box will also be available at each precinct on Election Day.</p> <p>The Constitution of Virginia requires that in order to be qualified to vote in the General & Primary Election you must be a citizen of the United States, be eighteen years of age on or before the next General Election, have domicile and a place of abode in Montgomery County and that you be registered in the precinct in which you reside.</p> <p>An acceptable ID will be required when you vote. A</p>	<p>voter may show either voter registration confirmation documents, valid Virginia Driver's License, valid United States Passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid employer identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.</p> <p>Contact the Montgomery County Office of Elections if you have any questions at 540-382-5741 or the</p> <p>Department of Elections at elections.virginia.gov. Connie Viar Director of Elections/General Registrar</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. 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 street vacation request by Derrick R Lancaster for the vacation of 2 existing strips of land dedicated as a public street right-of-way and located on Radford Street, identified as Tax Parcels 525-(A)-31A, 525-(A)-46; Parcel IDs</p>	<p>033305, 031506. Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director/Subdivision Agent by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.</p> <p>Public Notice – Environmental Permit</p> <p>PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that would allow impacts to stream channel in Montgomery County, Virginia</p> <p>PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 23, 2024 to October 22, 2024 PERMIT NAME: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations</p> <p>APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Indigo Road Investments, LLC; 840 Auburn Avenue, Radford, VA 24141; VWPP Application No. 23-2223 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant has applied for a new permit for the New River Recycling Inert Fill Site - Phase 2 project. The project is located off of Walton Road in Montgomery County, Virginia. The proposed</p>	<p>activity is to create an inert fill site. The proposed activity would affect 1,695 linear feet of stream channel. The proposed activity would affect an unnamed tributary to Plum Creek in the New River watershed. To compensate for the surface waters affected, the applicant would purchase 949 USM stream mitigation credits. DEQ's tentative decision is to issue the permit.</p> <p>HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts written comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.</p> <p>CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: SHAWN CRIST, Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901</p>	<p>Russell Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153; Phone: 434-316-4031; E-mail: shawn.crist@deq.virginia.gov</p> <p>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, October 8, 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:</p> <p>A. Rezoning request by Robert P. Fralin, Registered Agent for F & B Land, L.P., Applicant and Property Owner, to rezone property located on the west side of Moose Dr. NW at the College St. NW, intersection, identified as Tax Parcel 556-(A)-9; (Parcel ID 008095), and consisting of approximately 16.330 acres, from Agricultural District (A) and General Business District (B-3) to Multi-Family Residential District (R-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>B. Conditional Use Permit request by Robert P. Fralin, Registered Agent for F & B Land, L.P., Applicant and Property Owner, to allow a planned housing development for a multi-family project of a maximum of 162 apartments in the</p>	<p>proposed Multi-Family Residential District (R-3) zoning district on property located on the west side of Moose Dr. NW at the College St. NW, intersection, identified as Tax Parcel 556-(A)-9; (Parcel ID 008095), and consisting of approximately 16.330 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>C. Rezoning request by Roger Woody, Registered Agent for RWW 34 LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, to rezone property located on the southeast corner of Sherwood Dr. NE and Maid Marian Ln., and adjacent to the US Rt. 460 Bypass, identified as approximately 2.31 acres of a 10.227 acre parcel; identified as Tax Parcel 499-(A)-12; (Parcel ID 018085), from Single-Family Residential District (R-1) to General Business District (B-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>D. Conditional Use Permit request by Roger Woody, Registered Agent for RWW 34 LLC, Applicant and Property Owner, to allow a 90-unit Townhome Residential Development in the General Business District (B-3) zoning district on property located on the southeast corner of Sherwood Dr. NE and Maid Marian Ln., and adjacent to the US Rt. 460 Bypass, identified as Tax Parcel 499-(A)-12; (Parcel ID 018085), and consisting of approximately 10.227 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.</p>	<p>A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.</p>

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Virginia Tech celebrates a fruitful 100-year partnership with Virginia's fruit and wine industries

A changing climate. Earlier flowering and frost dates. Bacterial and fungal infection. Insect infestation. Chemical resistance and restrictions.

These are just a few of the existential threats that face Virginia's orchards and vineyards, which contribute more than \$2 billion a year to the state's economy – and billions more in economic activity from wineries and agrotourism.

They are also the problems that scientists at Virginia Tech's Alson H. Smith Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) in Winchester have dedicated their careers to solving.

What started in 1921 as a lab with a single entomologist today boasts 25 full-time employees and 13 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, all united to ensure a fruitful future for Virginia – and the nation's – tree fruit and wine grape industries. Located on 124 acres of rolling hills, orchards, and vineyards, the Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC is a scientific test bed that brings discoveries and practices refined in the lab to test plots in the nearby fields – and from there to farms across the commonwealth.

Virginia ranks sixth in wine grape production in the U.S. and is the 10th largest apple producing state. The Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC partners with growers, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Virginia Agribusiness Council, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and universities from other fruit-growing regions, to ensure the industry continues to thrive.

"Over the past century, our researchers have worked on hundreds of projects that have produced new knowledge, influenced grower decisions, increased economic output, and delivered sustainable food," said entomologist Kevin Rice, director of the Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC. "We carry on this tradition proudly, working directly with our agricultural producers and industry stakeholders to ensure a sustainable future."



PHOTO BY CRAIG NEWCOMB FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Sherif Sherif, associate professor at Virginia Tech's Alson H. Smith Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center, leads an orchard tour during the center's 100th anniversary celebration and field day.

A celebration 100 years in the making

In August, more than 60 people attended the AREC's 100th anniversary celebration and field day – delayed three years by COVID-19 – to learn about the center's history and current research and to tour its labs and facilities. Several growers testified to the impact of the AREC's research on their operations.

Diane Kerns, a commercial apple grower and president of Frederick County-based Fruit Hill Orchard Inc., told the crowd, "This AREC is an invaluable resource for us in the tree fruit industry. Having access to the researchers, not only through the informational meetings, knowledge, and exchange of information, but also through blogs and emails ... and the personal relationships – to be able to email, call them up, talk to them, ask a question – is massive. I really think that gives us an advantage in our industry

over folks that don't have this right in their backyard."

Bill Tompkins, vineyard manager for Veritas Vineyard and Winery in Charlottesville, praised the role of the AREC and its former director and viticulturist Tony Wolf in driving the growth of Virginia's wine industry from just a handful of wineries to around 350 today.

"I joined Veritas 14 years ago as their vineyard manager," Tompkins said. "The fact that I knew nothing about viticulture, farming, or agriculture – I was a British army officer and spent 36 years in the British Army – is no obstacle to allowing you to grow grapes when you have people like Tony Wolf and the folks here to give you sound advice on what to do."

Keith Yoder, professor emeritus of plant pathology, highlighted several of the AREC's historical achievements, which include the following:

Discovery of the effectiveness of the first plant growth regulator to be registered for fire blight shoot blight management, prohexadione-calcium, commercially known as Apogee (Tree Fruit Pathologist Keith Yoder and Horticulturist Ross Byers).

Developing the Pollen Tube Growth Model, which guides farmers bloom thinning their apple trees to improve yearly crop yields (Initiated by Ross Byers; completed by Keith Yoder and Horticulturists Rongcai Yuan, Greg Peck, Sherif Sherif, and Leon Combs).

Driving the growth of Virginia's wine industry from six wineries to over 300, through site selection, production methods, grape evaluation, and economic and budget predictors (Viticulturist Tony Wolf).

Adapting the Alternate Row Middle method of spray application to reduce pesticide use, improve integrated pest management, and save growers money (Tree Fruit Pathologist Ken Hickey with Fred Lewis, Penn State University).

Introducing the Tree Row Volume method of spray rate calculation in orchards, along with a slide rule

calculator to help growers estimate rate of chemical required per acre based on tree height, tree width, and row width. (R.E. Byers with K. D. Hickey and Entomologist Clarence H. Hill).

Studying photosynthetic inhibitors to help other horticulturists and farmers understand the interactions between cloudy weather, fruit set, and timing of thinning applications to optimize crop loads (Ross Byers).

Ensuring a flourishing future

Researchers at the Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC are currently working to address many of the most pressing issues confronting the fruit industry, including bacterial and fungal diseases, fungicide and pesticide resistance, invasive insects, and changing temperatures and weather patterns while also continuing to improve the industry's social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

Rice said the AREC hoped to obtain funding to build a biosafety level 2 greenhouse and controlled environmental agriculture facility. The new facility would be one of the first specifically for tree fruit in the nation and would enable researchers to test and formulate solutions to pathogens, invasive species, and changing temperatures in a controlled setting – before they arrive.

"We would be able to adjust the temperatures in the greenhouse to the predicted models for future temperatures," Rice said. "Then we could proactively inform growers of which varieties will do best under future conditions."

The Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC is one of Virginia Tech's 11 Agricultural Research and Extension Centers spread throughout the commonwealth to bring the expertise of Virginia Tech researchers directly into the communities they serve. Researchers partner with farmers, government agencies, and industry leaders to tackle problems in the lab and on the field – and deliver research-based solutions through Virginia Cooperative Extension agents to help Virginia agriculture thrive.

Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech

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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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Group of languages
 - No seats available
 - Helps little firms
 - Having a strong sharp smell or taste
 - Established by the Treaty of Rome
 - Whale ship captain
 - Thick
 - When you hope to get there
 - First capital of Japan
 - Cyprinids
 - Dry white wine drink
 - Witnesses
 - Alcohol drinks
 - Synthetic resin
 - Latin for "very early"
 - Bill Clinton plays it
 - One-time province of British-India
 - Folic and amino are two

- Integrated data processing
- Use to build roads
- 44th US President
- Where school kids eat
- Small New Zealand tree
- Doctors' group
- Civil Rights group
- Swedish rock group
- Baby's dining accessory
- Succulent plants
- Dutch word for "language"
- Polynesian garland of flowers
- Spiritual leader
- Single Lens Reflex
- Baseball stat
- Abba __, Israeli politician

- CLUES DOWN**
- He's honored every June
 - Breezed through
 - Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
 - Flat, thin round object
 - One looking for knowledge
 - Calls it a career
 - Egg-shaped wind instrument
 - Allied H.Q.
 - Reveals
 - Greek sophist
 - Speedy ballplayer Gordon
 - Body that defines computing protocols
 - Common Japanese surname
 - Eucharist box
 - Oil company
 - Parts per billion (abbr.)
 - A metal-bearing material
 - The common gibbon

- Affirmative
- Writer
- Taxi
- Pioneering journalist Tarbell
- Used to hold back
- Senior officer
- OK to go out with
- First in order
- Defunct phone company
- Southern Ghana inhabitant
- Peninsula in SW Asia
- Political plot
- "Great" Mogul emperor
- Young horse
- Where wrestlers compete
- Swiss river
- Wings
- Baseball legend Ty
- Skipper butterflies
- Immoral act

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OBITUARIES

Deeds, Janet Montgomery

Janet Montgomery Deeds, 85, of Radford, passed away Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Retta Turpin Montgomery; her loving husband, Gene Richard Deeds, Sr.; son, Gene Richard Deeds, Jr.; and her brother, Dennis Montgomery.



Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Aimee Flora (Barry); son and daughter-in-law, Devin Deeds (Robbin); grandchildren, Derek Flora, Dakota Flora, Konner Deeds (Dawson), and

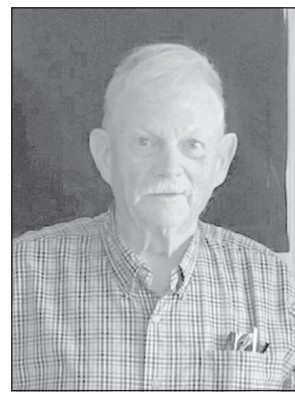
Ema Deeds (Chelsey); sister, Libby Goad; brother, Bobby Montgomery; and several other relatives and special friends.

The family received friends Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services followed with Rev. Darlene Marshall officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens

in Dublin.

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

Douglas Bruce Osborne, 85, of Radford, passed away Sept. 16, 2024, surrounded by family.



“Bruce” was born July 1, 1939 in a town called Drill, Virginia. He attended and graduated from Honaker High School, attended Bluefield Business College, and later served in the United States Air Force. He then moved to the Radford area and retired from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. He lived for over 50 years at his home in Radford. Bruce was very proud of his country and of being a veteran. He was known as someone who could make or build anything. Bruce enjoyed woodworking in his own shop, where he built hundreds of items for people, his specialty being clocks. Lovingly called “Brutch” by his five siblings, he loved his family dearly. Bruce loved the Lord with all his heart, attending church all his life, becoming a deacon, and teaching bible school.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Edna Osborne; sister, Mary Charlotte Rowe; niece, Rebecca Rowe-Alom; nephew, Dr. Michael James Fowler; and sister-in-law, Carol Josephine Osborne.

Douglas is survived by his son, Terry Douglas Osborne and wife, Tina; daughter, Carla Osborne Vaden; grandchildren, Vincent Paul Osborne and fiancée Callie Williams, Michael James Osborne and fiancée Emma Chaffin, Cassandra “Casey” Vaden Stokke and husband Bryan, Thomas Jay “T.J.” Vaden, and Trinity Paige Vaden; siblings, Ronald Mike

Osborne, Paul Thomas Osborne and wife Brenda, Roger Wayne Osborne and wife Debbie, Carol Joan Bellamy and husband Gary; as well as several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the nurses at Skyline Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for treating Bruce and everyone like family and taking such good care of him for the past few months.

The family will receive friends Monday, Sept. 23, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Horne Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 2 p.m. at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin, with Pastor Hebron Quesenberry officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Gideons International.

News Messenger

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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:

mysthomasoffice@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@stmhc.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. Sunday Worship at 11 AM with Nursery available. Sunday School at 10 AM with Adult and Children classes. Adult Midweek Refuel and Youth Group on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 PM. Mission: Seeking to exalt Christ by sacrificially caring for one another and our community. Pastor: Colby Callaway. Office Phone: 540-250-3864. Website: cwc4u.org. We Also Livestream on Youtube Every Sunday at 11AM!”

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Sincere Remorse

Read Hosea 8:1 through 14:9

“Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the Lord is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins: They will return to Egypt” (Hosea 8:13).

Hosea declared the futility of Israel offering insincere sacrifices. The Lord was not pleased with rituals performed without remorse for wrongdoing. Instead of receiving forgiveness from heartfelt confession, the nation suffered punishment for their accumulated sins.

Hebrews 9:22 teaches that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgive-

ness.” The blood from animal sacrifice pointed to the time when Christ’s blood would secure forgiveness for all who receive Him. His death paid the penalty for sin once and for all.

Israel had treated the Lord as one of many gods, sacrificing only to gain favor. Doing good things to gain God’s favor will not cover our sin. Nothing can substitute for the blood Christ shed. God sees each heart. He knows if there is true remorse that brings about change.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord Jesus, my forgiveness is only possible through You. I owe You everything.

Quicklook: Hosea 8:11–13

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

Dreams from page 1

community engagement in fostering future talent in the construction industry.

“It was a successful event, and we were really happy with the turnout,” said Gretchen Merix, Civil Engineer with Balzer & Associates and member of the NRVHBA

Women in Building Committee. “It was rewarding to see so many young girls excited to learn about tools and construction, all while helping other children within the community. It was also a great opportunity for the adults to make new connections with other women in

the building industry.”

Support for this event came from the National Housing Endowment, the Home Builders Association of Virginia Education Foundation, Sleep in Heavenly Peace – New River Valley, and many local businesses.

New River Valley Home Builders Association



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASPIRE MARKETING AGENCY

One of the bed builders brands her bed under the watchful eye of an adult volunteer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASPIRE MARKETING AGENCY

A child stains her bed during the bed-making event hosted by the NRVHBA's Women in Building Committee.

MCPS from page 1

law that says school counselors need to spend 80% of their time directly aiding students and providing guidance.

“First,” Ballard said, “504 coordination is explicitly listed as an inappropriate responsibility for school counselors by the American School Counseling Association. It places counselors in an adversarial role which can negatively impact relationships with students, parents and teachers instead of participating in a 504 meeting on behalf of the student and family as an advocate to help them navigate the 504 process. We have been placed in the position of determining eligibility and accommodations, a position we are not able to maintain.”

Others who spoke expressed that school counselors and others met with MCPS Superintendent Dr. Bernard F. Bragen, Jr. and other MCPS leaders to express their apprehensions. Those include how this choice could conflict with their roles ethically as they’d have two roles on the 504 team, that more tasks are being added to their roles that are not counseling tasks which makes them less available to provide care and services to the students that need them, and diminishes the amount of one-on-one time with students, especially regarding their mental health and career planning. Those who expressed their concerns to the board were most concerned with the disservice this provides to the students, who are the center of the counselors’ roles. Bragen explained during the board meeting that originally some of the 504 coordinators were teachers and that was pulling teachers out of classrooms for longer periods of time, which wasn’t the best practice. Student representative Aija McHone chimed in, stating

that Eastern Montgomery High School has “a counselor and a half” where one counselor works specifically with freshmen and the other works with the rest of the student body.

“I do not know,” McHone said, “a lot about this 504 plan. I’m not going to pretend like I do and I know that you’re going to try to fix it all but I can see how overwhelmed that the guidance counselors can get and I understand where they’re coming from whenever they’re speaking of this because we have one, essentially.”

Bragen expressed wanting to meet with school principals to come up with a better solution to the problem and get school counselors back into ratio.

Museum from page 1

now operates as a large community gathering space and includes administrative offices, business incubator space, galleries and an exhibit hall, a research library and archives, an education and digitization lab, and conference facilities for meetings and receptions.

“We are honored to be recognized by Preservation Virginia,” said Casey Jenkins, Executive Director of the Montgomery Museum. “This award represents the hard work and dedication by museum staff and board over the past three years as we continue to make transformative improvements to museum spaces.”

Museum staff will travel to Richmond, Virginia on Sept. 27 to accept the award and celebrate this achievement. For more information on Preservation Virginia and other awardees, visit <https://preservationvirginia.org/>.

Montgomery Museum of Art and History

Jamie King from page 1

before colonization of the local area.

“I’ve been working with trees and people,” King said, “for 16 years and that’s thousands and thousands of trees. It’s about 50,000 constituents here at the university and there were 98,000 constituents in the City of Roanoke, that’s a lot of trees and people. Until I met the Merry Tree, until I met the people who love it, I’ve spent a lot of my time trying to connect people with nature. The biggest thing that I can do, in my career, is help connect people to the world around them and when I met the Merry Tree, I’d finally met a tree where people were already connected. For hundreds of years, people have been going to that tree and telling its story.”

The Merry Oak, since it failed in a wind storm and died, has been crafted into a commemorative bench, a table, and a sculpture so far. Its stump still stands inside a fenced-in enclosure at Smithfield, where it still stretches high into the sky monolithically.

Trees predate human existence by millions of years, but humans have never existed without the presence of trees. King, who has worked with thousands of trees, 11,800 of which are on Virginia Tech’s campus, says that trees are like “standing sentinels” to which their impact on humanity is still very much evident as they still improve the health and well-being for the species, like humans, that depend upon their existence. King explained that studies show that communing with nature has been proven to lower blood pressure and that people still instinctually, especially when stressed, go out into nature to alleviate those symptoms and better their health. The trees on Virginia Tech’s campus are inventoried into a database that is publicly accessible, with their species, location, native status, and other details. King, along with students and colleagues, obtain this data and use it to help care and sustain this public resource and natural history.

With genuine care and love for nature, especially trees, King says that working on preserving the Merry Oak has been the greatest honor of his career.

“To my knowledge,” King said, “that tree is the longest documented landmark here at Virginia Tech. We’re proud of our buildings. We’re proud of the landscape. We’re proud of our military history. We’re proud of all these different things that are pretty important, but that tree and its cohort of other white oaks that grow on the campus that are of similar age, were here before the land was colonized. They were actively managed by the Monacans and other First Nations. That legacy is so long and sure, I am at the end of that story, but isn’t it a pleasure to be part of it.”

Metallica from page 1

participate at their earliest eligible opportunity. Tickets are expected to sell out fast.

There will be a four-ticket limit per person. Virginia Tech students have a two-ticket limit per person. The price of tickets has not been announced, but on the current tour, tickets are running \$64 to \$450.

Of course, fans should expect the band to play the song, which has become the entrance of the Virginia Tech football team, “Enter Sandman.”

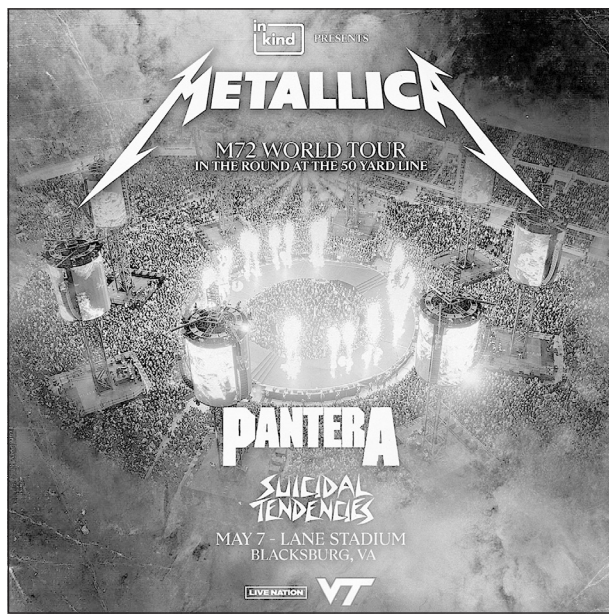
Players begin filing into the narrow tunnel. Anticipation is building among the thousands of excited fans packed in the stands. Cheerleaders hold up “LET’S GO” and “HOKIES” signs as the crowd chants.

Then, the first note of heavy metal band Metallica’s ‘Enter Sandman’ plays, and the crowd erupts with excitement as the entire stadium jumps in unison. The Hokies’ head coach takes a deep breath, reaches up to touch the legendary Hokie Stone above the tunnel’s exit, and finally – it’s time.

The team bursts out of the tunnel and onto the field while fireworks and pyrotechnics ignite, electrifying the crowd and sending waves of exhilaration and goosebumps through every person in the stadium.

“It’s just a different type of feeling,” wide receiver Ali Jennings explained when describing the experience. “I get chills every time I think about it – the stadium actually shakes.”

This past month, the university announced



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

a major merchandise agreement with the band, hinting something else was in the works.

The initial lineup of merchandise co-branded designs inspired by the band’s logo and original sketches by Virginia Tech doodle artist Steven White.

“This partnership makes a dream of nearly 24 years come true,” said Heather Ducote, senior director of marketing and brand management. “We’re excited to formalize our partnership with Metallica, since one of their most popular hits is already embraced at Virginia Tech athletics events as a beloved Hokie tradition. And it’s a partnership that mobilized many university departments; the Virginia Tech Athletics Department, the marketing team, the Office of Licensing and Trademarks, and artist

and doodle expert Steven White are all involved in formalizing the partnership and creating

the merchandise. I can’t wait to see what else this partnership can achieve.”

The T-shirts made an appearance on Aug. 12 during the “Today” show’s birthday celebration for co-anchor Hoda Kotb ’86, when the HokieBird and other Hokies visited the set and presented Kotb with the co-branded T-shirts and other Virginia Tech goodies.

Renee Alarid, director of the Office of Licensing and Trademarks at Virginia Tech, said collaboration with partner and brand management organization College Licensing Company (CLC), Virginia Tech’s agent, facilitated the partnership.

“It was a very effective collaboration,” Alarid said at the time of the merchandise agreement. “It was quite an effort, taking about a year to hammer out and finalize, and we had to keep it top secret.

“It took a community and the right team,” she said. “Without CLC, the Original Retro Brand,

athletics, and the trust of our local retailers, Licensing and Trademarks would not have been able to make this dream a reality. Thank you everyone who helped us in the process.”

Regarded as college football’s greatest entrance, ‘Enter Sandman’ dates back to Aug. 27, 2000, when Virginia Tech installed the first videoboard in Lane Stadium. A new videoboard means a new walkout song, and ‘Enter Sandman’ won out over ‘Welcome to the Jungle’ by Guns N’ Roses and ‘Sirius’ by The Alan Parsons Project.

However, the first time the team actually used it in a game was against Georgia Tech, and the game itself was delayed then canceled due to thunderstorms. In fact, ESPN analyst Lee Corso’s rental car was struck by lightning as the announcer was preparing for the game.

‘Enter Sandman’ eventually carried over to both the men’s and women’s Virginia Tech basketball teams, and even some graduations. The excitement behind the movement took a turn when the Hokies hosted the first round of the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament at Cassell Coliseum in 2023.

The concert, which is part of Metallica’s M72 World Tour, will include the sale of alcohol and will feature special guests, Pantera and Suicidal Tendencies.

Merchandise is on sale now at the Hokie Shop, the Hokie Sports Shop, and the Metallica website.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg promotes JV basketball coach

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg High School has a new girls' basketball coach. On Wednesday, the school announced the promotion of the program's junior varsity coach, K.C. Shrader.

In the release, the school said he "brings structure, passion and strong commitment to fostering excellence both on and

off the court. His experience, organization and drive to help out student athletes be the best versions of themselves aligns perfectly with our school's core values."

Schrader said in a social media post that he is ready for the next big step in his coaching career.

"I've finally made my dream of becoming a head varsity

basketball coach come true. I'm very blessed that I get to work with this great group," he said.

Schrader has also served as the cross country and track and field coach at Eastern Montgomery High School.

Shrader replaces Jacob Underwood who left Christiansburg after two years for Ft. Chiswell High School. Underwood took over at

Christiansburg in 2022 and had compiled a 25-21 record, leading the team to the regional playoffs this past year.

The new coach also helped with the Xtreme basketball program in Roanoke that included several of the Christiansburg players.

The Blue Demons return the nucleus of last year's squad including four starters.



PHOTO COURTESY OF K.C. SHRADER
K.C. Shrader

Salem downs Blacksburg in volleyball



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blackburg's Bailey Capwell receives a well-placed Salem serve during a Tuesday night home match. Salem visited Blacksburg and came away with a 3-0 win (25-18, 25-22, 25-23).

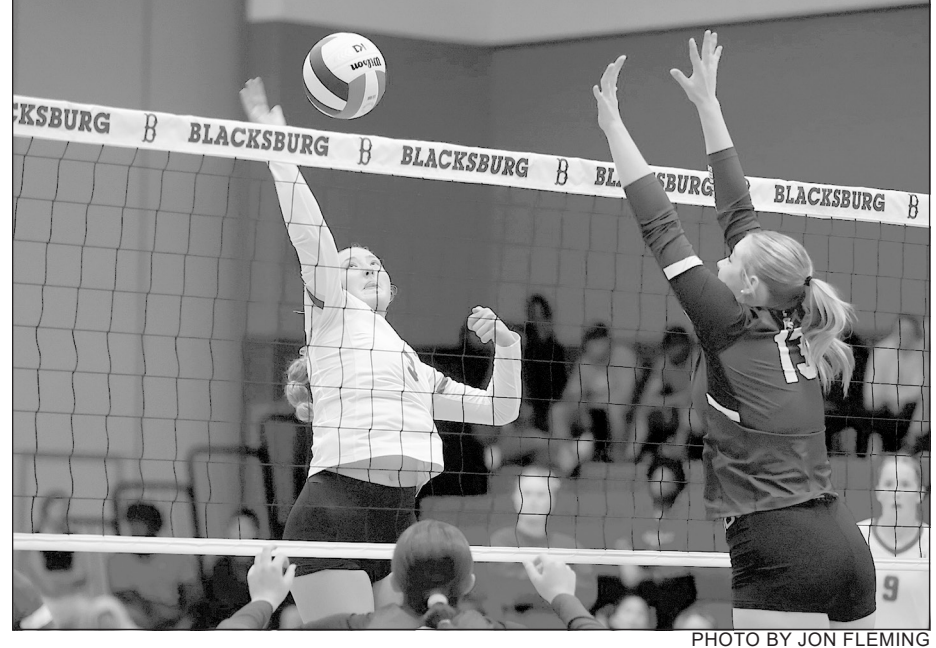


PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blackburg's Keely Semtner goes up for a spike against Salem.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blackburg's Josie Rhoads (center) celebrates a kill with her teammates against Salem.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blackburg's Sullivan Shealor scores for the Bruins against Salem.

Olympic gold medalist calls Blacksburg home



PHOTO COURTESY OF USA TRACK

The Blacksburg running community gave Cole Hocker a proper send off shortly before the start of this summer's Olympics. A large group gathered at the South Main Runabout sports store.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Southwest Virginia has an Olympic Gold Medalist. This summer, Cole Hocker shocked the world and won the 1,500-meter final (3:27.65) in the

Paris games, setting a new record in the event.

Hocker, who is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, now calls the New River Valley home. The 20-year-old was the youngest athlete to represent the United States in the 1,500-meter

race since Marty Liquori (19-years-old) in 1968.

Hocker called the feeling of winning the gold surreal.

"It felt like a dream, and it felt like I was experiencing everything I have ever wanted to experience out of the Olympics," he said.

Going into that Olympic finals, Hocker was very positive.

"I knew I was in the best shape of my life and that I just had the best race of my life at the Olympic trials and so the goal was just to get to the starting line because I knew I was due for something that I've never done before. I knew I was in contention for a medal, but I knew a gold medal was going to take an almost perfect race. I also reminded myself that I'm usually able to perform when it matters most and that's what now gives me a lot of confidence in big races,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF USA TRACK

Cole Hocker celebrates his 1,500-meter gold medal win at this year's summer Olympics in Paris, France.

he said.

Of course, Hocker has a familiar face in Blacksburg as his former coach, Ben Thomas, returns to Virginia Tech after serving as an associate head coach at the University of Oregon and head coach of the Oregon Track Club for the past five years. Prior to Oregon, Thomas spent 17 years with the Hokies.

It was during that time in Oregon Hocker and Thomas teamed up. In 2021, Hocker, a 20-year-old University of Oregon sophomore, upset Matthew Centrowitz for the win in the U.S. Olympic Trials, followed by a sixth-place finish in the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Thomas is a three-time USTFCCCA National Assistant Coach of the Year, having most recently won back-to-back indoor honors for the Ducks' incredible success

during the 2020 and 2021 seasons. He earned his first national award during his time at Virginia Tech following the 2017 season, becoming the first ACC assistant to ever win the award. Thomas is also a 10-time USTFCCCA Regional Assistant Coach of the Year, including four selections at Oregon.

Named the 2018 USTFCCCA Southeast Region Men's Assistant Coach of the Year for both indoor and outdoor, Thomas led the Virginia Tech distance medley team to the national indoor title while also coaching three men to the final of the mile.

Recently, Thomas said he couldn't have been happier that Cole and some of the world's best athletes trusted him and chose Blacksburg for their training.

"It's always been home to me, and Virginia Tech, along with the entire

community, creates such a supportive environment for athletes," he said.

In August 2023, a coaching change at Oregon brought him back to his alma mater to take over as head track and field coach. In November, Hocker made the bold decision to pack up and move to Blacksburg to reunite with Thomas, who has been a key fixture in Hocker's life and success, so continuing to train with him seemed a no-brainer.

See OLYMPIC, Page 8

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

D	A	R	D	S	R	O	S	B	A					
A	C	R	I	D	E	E	C	A	H	A	B			
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PHOTO COURTESY OF USA TRACK

On the podium, Cole Hocker holds up his 1,500-meter gold medal after the playing of the National Anthem.

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Appy League honors River Turtles GM

The Appalachian League announced Pulaski River Turtles general manager J.W. Martin as the 2024 Executive of the Year.

This award is presented to the executive who has made the most valuable contributions to their club and the league.

Under Martin, the River Turtles welcomed 35,550 fans to Calfee Park in Pulaski, Va., in 2024 – a 26 percent increase over the team's '23 attendance – averaging more than 1,360 per home

game. The River Turtles also set new records in concessions revenue and merchandise sales, representing the highest total since the organization's inaugural season in 2021.

"This honor reflects our entire team, from the front office to our concessions and clubhouse managers, grounds crew and our gameday staff," Martin said. "No single person is responsible for our organization's success; it takes everyone to make Calfee Park the exceptional entertainment destination that it is."

The River Turtles held four in-season special events this year, including a pre-season charity exhibition game and three specialty jersey nights, which set a new River Turtles-era record for charity auction funds raised. One of the season's highlights was David "The Bullet" Smith's Human Cannonball performance, which drew the largest Wednesday night crowd since the reformation of the Appalachian League from a rookie-level affiliated league to an MLB-partnered summer collegiate league in 2021.

Martin, who began his career in 2007 at Motor Mile Speedway & Dragway in Fairlawn, Va., has amassed 18 years of experience in sports venue operations. He joined the Pulaski River Turtles in 2020 and has continued to raise the bar in every aspect of the organization.

"It's a privilege to work alongside such an outstanding group of hardworking people," Martin said, "and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of them for everything they do for Calfee Park, our organization and our fans."

Appalachian League

Outdoor report: 2024 deer forecast for Commonwealth

During the past deer season (including the early September antlerless seasons), 206,586 deer were reported harvested by deer hunters in Virginia.

This total included 105,201 antlered bucks, 982 shed bucks, 12,567 button bucks, and 87,836 does (42.5% females). Archery (including crossbows) accounted for 14% of the deer kill; muzzleloaders, 26%; and firearms, 60%.

The youth and apprentice weekend resulted in the harvest of 2,890 deer. When and where deer hunting with dogs is legal, deer taken with the use of dogs made up 50% of the total harvest. The numbers above do not include deer taken on out-of-season deer kill permits or those deer hit and killed by vehicles.

Deer hunters who would like to know the annual deer kill totals by county dating back to 1947, including the county 2023 totals, can find them on the Department's website.

The 2023-2024 deer harvest was up 5% from the last 10-year average of 196,862. Harvest during the 2022-23 season was down 3% from the previous season, likely due to a bumper crop of acorns. This dip in harvest likely created a "stockpile" of deer for hunters in the 23-24 season. Additionally, deer experienced a mild winter at the end of 2022, entered 2023 on a higher nutritional plane, and were more productive.

A number of new deer hunting regulations went into effect, which also may have resulted in increased harvest.

The special late seasons

contributed an additional 1,945 antlerless deer to the harvest total, bringing our final tally to 208,531 and 42.8% females harvested.

The 2023-24 deer season was a busy one for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Virginia. We had the most positives this past year than any other year since our surveillance began. This past year, we sampled just under 8,000 deer and detected 71 positives, 40 of which came from Frederick County alone.

DMA3 (Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, and Wythe counties)

DMA3 will now include the counties of Franklin, Roanoke and Wythe due to the locations of positives detected in Carroll, Floyd, and Montgomery. During the 2023 season a total of 1,449 samples were taken within DMA3. This sampling effort yielded positive detections in Floyd (four), Montgomery (two), and the first detection in Carroll (one).

In fall 2023, 2,647 deer were tested statewide, predominantly via cooperating taxidermists, with several samples coming from clinical suspects and voluntary hunter submissions at regional drop-off sites.

New For Fall 2024

Deer regulations in Virginia are evaluated and amended on a biennial basis. Last year was a "reg year" with many new changes. This coming season will largely follow last year's regulations, but a few changes will be in place with the establishment of DMA4.

DMA4 will consist

of Bland, Smyth, and Tazewell Counties. Carcass transport restrictions will be in place here for the 2024 deer season. High-risk carcass parts (head, brain, and spinal cord) may not leave DMA4 except to enter DMA3.

Per State Administrative Code 4VAC15-40-285, a year-round deer feeding ban is now in effect for Bedford, Botetourt, Henry, Russell, Smyth, and Washington Counties (see Figure 3 for a current map of all VA counties with a year-round deer feeding ban)

Mandatory CWD Sampling Day will be on November 16, 2024 in Carroll, Franklin, Patrick, Pulaski, Shenandoah, Tazewell, and Wythe Counties.

Deer management in western Virginia has been about the same for the past few decades and remains two very different deer management situations.

First, deer herds on private lands over most of western Virginia have been fairly stable over the past two-plus decades (with the exception of Alleghany, Bath, and Highland counties). Relatively stable deer herds are expected on private lands west of the Blue Ridge. If there is a change, hopefully it will be a slight decline.

Second, with the obvious exception of CWD in the northern Shenandoah Valley and the New River Valley areas, the biggest challenge in deer management in western Virginia over the past 20 to 30 years has been, and continues to be, the public land deer management situation.

Over the past 25 plus years there has been an approximately 40% decline in the number of deer hunters on western public lands (primarily National Forest) and a corresponding 66% decline in the deer kill. To address this decline, the number of either-sex deer hunting days on western public lands has been reduced significantly over the past decade or more.

These changes have been successful in reducing the female deer kill. While we've reduced female harvest on public lands, the western public land deer population has not and is not expected to recover to past deer population levels unless there is a significant change/major improvement in deer habitat conditions. HD does not traditionally play a major role in deer management west of the Blue Ridge, but recent summers suggest that could change with an increasingly warmer, drier climate.

So what is the forecast for the fall 2024 deer season? Unless there is a significant HD event, deer populations and the deer kill across most of the state should be stable to increasing. A major increase or decrease in the statewide deer kill total is not expected. Over the past 30 years, the statewide annual deer kill has been relatively stable and ranged from about 179,000 to 259,000 and averaged about 212,000.

We've had two mild winters in a row, so we ought to see plenty of healthy and productive animals this coming

season, especially in those areas with above-average acorn production. Deer should be on a higher nutritional plane heading into the growing season, where bucks can really pack on body mass and grow antlers and does can pump out plenty of highly nutritious milk for their fawns. Fawns that start their lives on a higher nutritional plane tend to be more productive later in life than those who start out in poorer shape. We likely had one heck of a cohort of buck fawns from last summer after the big mast crop of fall 2022, so we might see an uptick in yearling six- and eight-pointers this fall.

Past experience indicates that the ups and downs in annual deer kill totals are in part attributable to mast (acorns, mostly) conditions and/or HD outbreaks. In years of poor mast crops, the deer kill typically goes up. In years of good mast crops, the deer kill typically goes down. The 2022 season had a big acorn crop and a dip in deer harvest. Last year's mast crop wasn't as great, and the harvest went up. I can't forecast the acorn crop, so make sure you get out there and get your scouting done this summer.

Justin Folks, DWR deer project leader

RHS's Adams hits milestone

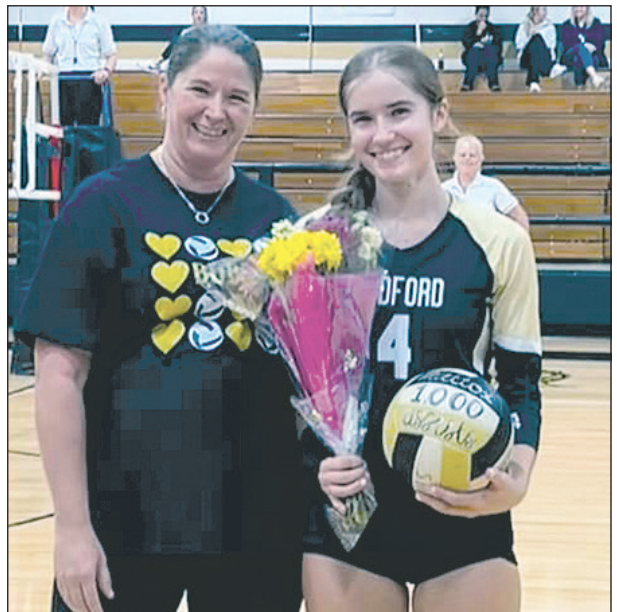


PHOTO COURTESY OF RHS
Radford High School volleyball player Mattox Adams (right) was honored this past week for reaching 1,000 assists for her career.

Olympic from page 7

"The decision to move to Blacksburg was to optimize this Olympic year. My coach at Oregon, Ben Thomas got the job here at Virginia Tech, so me and a few other teammates decided to make this decision to follow him here. My idea was to eliminate as many variables as I could this year, and keeping my coaching and training the same was probably the biggest variable that I can control," Hocker said.

After settling into his new home, Hocker's confidence was boosted by several big races. He won the U.S. 1500-meter indoor title in Albuquerque in February, ran his first sub-13-minute outdoor 5,000-meter race and then dominated in the U.S. Olympic trials in the 1500, winning his preliminary race and semifinal before blasting the final in a meet-record 3:30.59.

"It's very important to have all of the facilities that are needed to be an Olympic athlete. So, a university is usually the best place for that. Just having the ability to train somewhere and having the coach in the same place is step one on performing your best," Hocker said.

Hocker is relishing the gold medal but is excited to continue his career with it always in his back pocket. When asked if the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles is in his future, he admitted it seems like a long way away.

"But I know it will sneak up and I 100% look forward to defending my title there."

The Olympic gold medalist says it has been amazing since the gold medal win.

"As soon as I crossed the line, I knew things were going to change. I had three races after the Olympics, which were a new battle. I was now the Olympic champion and had the target the biggest on my back. I'm excited to embrace this new challenge because it's everything I've dreamed of. As far as outside of the sport goes, life has gotten pretty busy but, again, it's all good things," he said.

At the Lausanne Diamond League last month, Hocker finished second to Jakob Ingebrigsten, the same top runner he beat in the Olympics.

To destress on his time away from the track, Hocker plays both the piano and guitar.

Join Hocker and his coach, Ben Thomas, at this weekend's Sinkland Farms Wine Festival. They will be taking and signing photos after 12 noon on Saturday.

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