



Board of Supervisors members announce intent to run for reelection

Angelica Ramos
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY- Some members of the Board of Supervisors have announced their intent to run for Board of Supervisors again, while some acknowledged their intent to step down at the end of their terms.

Supervisor Todd King announced his intent to run for reelection during the Jan. 27, 2025 BOS meeting. King has served on the Board of Supervisors for a number of years, serving as Chair of the Board in 2019 and Vice Chair of the Board in 2017. He currently serves as District D's supervisor and representative.

During board reports King said, "I don't have [a] report, but I would like to announce that I will be

running for reelection this year."

Current Vice Chair Steve Fijalkowski announced his intent to run for reelection as well. Previously he has served as Chair of the Board in 2020 and 2021 and served last year, 2024, as Vice Chair. He was recently reelected for Vice Chair for 2025.

"My big announcement was," Fijalkowski said, "and I kind of feel guilty about this – for about the last, I don't know, six months or so I've been telling people 'you know I think this will be my last year', 'you know I think I've done what I can'. I intended on staying for two terms which I'm going to do, but after a long discussion with my wife, she says I should stay on the board. So, I plan on running for reelection if my constituents in District C will

have me.

"I'd like to be around to see some of the things coming up because we have so many projects in the works and I think back to my predecessor, Gary, that he wasn't here to see the field that was named after him finished," he continued. "He passed away before that, but I'd like to see some of these things and there's so many. I started thinking there's no way to list them all, but Christiansburg High School, if I don't stick around, I'm not going to see that finish. The 250th year anniversary is a biggie, and I really think that our museum got recognized because how can you ignore it when the county has the

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FILE PHOTO

William "Bill" H. Brown

Board of Supervisors remember Bill Brown

Angelica Ramos
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY- The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors shared kind stories and memories of a beloved former police chief who passed at the end of January during its recent meeting.

During the Jan. 27, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting, multiple board members shared their heartwarming stories regarding former Blacksburg Police Chief

William "Bill" H. Brown's legacy and his impact on Montgomery County. County Administrator Angela Hill, after the meeting was called into session, held a moment of silence to remember Brown's life. Brown served as a member of the board of supervisors from 2008 until 2015 and was a figurehead of his community.

"He really had a huge impact on a lot of people," Hill said, "He

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Volunteers come together to pack bags of supplies for senior citizens.

Supplies for Homebound Seniors supports community members

Volunteer Montgomery and community members joined together to bag the 17th Annual Supplies for Homebound Seniors project.

This program provides another support system for seniors to maintain dignity and independence while remaining in their home environment. Many of these seniors do not always have transportation to the store and during the winter months, many are housebound for even longer periods of time. They live on fixed incomes, struggling to pay increased medical, heating

and utility costs, especially during the winter.

The project took place with the support of 35 volunteers at the Christiansburg Recreation Center Jan. 22 and the supplies are being delivered to recipients the first week of February. As a result, 260 homebound seniors identified by the New River Valley Agency on Aging, Montgomery County Department of Social Services, and the Virginia Veteran and Family Support program will receive approximately

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY

Volunteers Sarah Carter and Jolene Rawlings with

School board approves MCPS hate speech policy

Angelica Ramos
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY- The Montgomery County Public Schools School Board conducted a second read of the hate speech policy at the end of January.

The Hate Speech Policy for Montgomery County Public Schools has been in the works since the summer of 2024. Over the months of December and January, the school board has been reading the drafted policy, giving feedback and having lawyers look over the policy to provide guidance.

During the Jan. 21, 2025 school board meeting, the board conducted their second read through after hearing public comments from their constituents.

Martha Anne Stallings, who was recently recognized by the school board, spoke during public comment.

"I have great interest in this policy as one - a leader in Dialogue on Race and



COURTESY IMAGE

the education group, two - a longtime educator with Montgomery County Public Schools for 25 years and three - as a local community member who values diversity equity and inclusion and believes that hate speech attacks values and human rights," said Stallings. "The policy states that it outlines the definitions, procedures and actions related to hate speech used by anyone

within the school system and that's a good thing."

"This evening, I would like to address the following: once again as an elementary teacher over the years, I do appreciate how the elementary offenses are treated differently and what I perceive as appropriate," she continued. "The education piece is a big part of the plan, and time and resources need to be

given to that development and identification of such practices that are age appropriate. Under actions of the policy, what is the diversity and inclusion program that is a possible action for repeated violations? I assume that it will be developed with input from the equity office, but what are the specifics that are needed

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Town of Blacksburg adopts five-year capital improvement program

Angelica Ramos
Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG- The Town of Blacksburg unanimously voted to adopt the 2025- 2030 Capital Improvement Program.

Blacksburg's Capital Improvement Program was introduced to the town council in November of 2024 and over the past few months has undergone review, public hearing and public comment.

On Jan. 28, 2025 it was approved. The Capital Improvement Program lists in detail capital projects and improvements for the Town of Blacksburg for five fiscal years. The plan also includes the proposed costs of these projects and the estimated time it will take to begin and

complete them.

Projects in this proposed program include: a public restroom downtown for citizens and the events held downtown, skate park improvements, a parking deck/garage for town events and public parking, road and sidewalk maintenance, storm water management, bus charging infrastructure, athletic field renovations, renovations to Saint Luke and Odd Fellows Hall and much more.

Over the past few months, the town council has been able to ask questions and discuss the Capital Improvement Program. Residents have had the opportunity to seek answers to their questions and

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, Wednesday, Feb. 5:

Glencoe opens Reconstruction Era exhibit with panel discussion

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery will host a panel discussion, “The African American Experience After Emancipation,” part of the opening of a new exhibit. Titled “Building a New Life,” the exhibit covers the Reconstruction Era, the pivotal period after the American Civil War. The evening will begin at Glencoe Mansion, where visitors can view the exhibit from 4 to 5:45 p.m. immediately followed by a panel discussion at 6 p.m. in the Radford City Council Chambers next door in the municipal building. The panel will be comprised of three experts in the field – Drs. Hilary Green, Michael “Mickey” Hickman and Dan Thorp.

Thursday, Feb. 6:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Feb. 7:

Friday Forum with VTWC

The Virginia Tech Women’s Club (VTWC) will host Friday Forum at 10 a.m. Anna F. LoMascolo, Director of Programming, Outreach and Engagement at the Women’s Center at Virginia Tech, will present “Women at VT: Reflections on 20 Years at the Women’s Center.” She will present some history as well as information about contemporary issues and new directions. Friday Forums welcome the community to come to the Fellowship Hall of the Lutheran Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg. The event begins at 10 a.m. but come a little early to enjoy coffee, treats, and conversation.

Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8:

Book Sale

There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lots of books to read, and so little time. Come and support the Radford Public Library. Hardcover and DVDs are \$1, and paperbacks are only 50-cents. Shopping the Lamplighters Book Sale is one of the best ways you can help fund the library’s programs, from Lunch & Learn talks for adults to Summer Reading for kids and everything in between.

Saturday, Feb. 8:

Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will be serving up hot biscuits topped with delicious sausage gravy, or with

the latest batch of the club’s “world-famous” apple butter. Breakfast also includes scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser’s Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, 8 -10 a.m., below the sanctuary, on the lower church parking lot level. This is a fundraiser for the club to help serve the community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. More information at <https://fb.com/MtTaborRuritan>.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 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 blacksburgfarmersmarket.com.

Valentine’s dinner show

Good Shepherd Baptist Church would like to invite those 55 and over to our annual 55+ Valentine’s Dinner Show, 4- 6 p.m. This year’s theme is “Back to Mayberry.” We hope you can join us and bring a friend or two (of any age). To make your reservation, please call 540-382-0719.

Monday, Feb. 10:

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.

Health Connections: Exploring the Brain

Join Warm Hearth Village for an engaging three-part series diving into the mysteries of the brain and exploring strategies to combat cognitive decline. Each session will shed light on age-related cognitive disorders, brain anatomy, and ways to maintain brain health. Presented by Kylee Smith, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow at Virginia Tech specializing in research on traumatic brain injuries. Sessions are Feb. 10, Mar.18, and April 15. RSVP to Linda Kirkner: (540) 443-3415.

Tuesday, Feb. 11:

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. The meeting will be live streamed to the Town’s YouTube page at www.christiansburg.org/YouTube. Please copy and paste the URL into your browser and be sure to select Live videos to view. Agendas and minutes can be viewed at www.christiansburg.org/agendasandminutes.

Wednesday, Feb. 12:

Library Chef: Mediterranean Pan-seared Salmon

Brighten up February with the Radford Public Library’s Mediterranean Pan-Seared Salmon class. Learn to achieve crispy skin and tender fish while exploring fresh herbs and citrus. Perfect for adding flavor to your winter meals. Join online at: <http://radford.librarychef.com/>

Thursday, Feb. 20:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly’s Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. The United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. If Floyd or Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Now through Feb. 19:

Artist-in-Residence

Artist-in-Residence: Margaret LeJeune, at the Radford University Art Museum at the Covington Center, corner of East Main and Jefferson streets. Closing Reception is Wednesday, Feb. 19, 5 - 7 p.m.

2025 Blacksburg Citizens Institute: Registration Open

Do you want to learn more about the Town of Blacksburg? Are you a new, current or longtime resident, retiree, or someone who wants to get involved in the community? Join us for the 2025 Citizens Institute to meet town staff and to learn about the functions of your local government. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from April – June, 6-8 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and must be residents of the Town of Blacksburg. Space is filling up fast. To register and to learn more, contact the Community Relations Office at cro@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1090.

Radford Fiddle and Banjo Jam at Bee & Butter

Bee & Butter restaurant, in the Highlander Hotel on Tyler Ave., is now open on Monday nights during the Radford Fiddle and Banjo Jam. The jam is held at the restaurant 6- 9 p.m. each Monday evening.

Policy

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for this under the support for the affected students?”

Stallings also encouraged the school board to keep working on this policy, that it is important and that it is their dedication to protect their students. She ended her public comment by saying, “Please let’s get it right and let’s finally make our division what it needs to be.”

Other citizens that spoke to the hate speech policy said that they feel the word “race” should be added to the definition of hate speech in the policy as it encompasses the harm done by hate speech. The action plan is also a part of the policy that residents believe needs

specificity in revision.

The school board discussion on the second read was lengthy and thorough, revolving around verbiage and definition clarity, policy clarity and lawyer review. The school board also wants the policy to be clear in terms of what roles and procedures administration and faculty play in a potential hate speech situation so that no incident or event falls through the cracks. A worry that circulated through the board was potential misinterpretation of the policy from both faculty and the student body. With revisions, the Hate Speech Policy was approved with amendments.

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recommend changes if they so chose to. The Capital Improvement Program has been thoroughly reviewed and made available for the public as these projects will be occurring in their hometown throughout the next five years. With the CIP’s approval, residents may expect to see these projects shown in the annual budgets throughout the years as they are now adopted into those allocated funds.

During the discussion before the vote, Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith spoke to concerns made by a resident previously.

“I want to make reference to one thing I did not previously make reference to,” Hager-Smith said, “and that is some pretty lengthy, very thoughtful comments that came from Dr. Charles and I have to say, I confess, that I think some of his hesitation about our over-under parking garage are well-placed and I share some of his concerns.”

“He’s concerned generally about how

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same date as the country. I mean that’s just a unique thing, but improvements in Oldtown field, the Ellison Fire and EMS building has got some way to go, and we’re going to be making some changes here in this government center and things are just really progressing very well and the train. I can’t list them all – there’s just too many and but I don’t want to miss them is what I’m what I’m saying. So, hopefully I’ll be around to see those done, but probably we will come up with more and more projects, but I can’t keep

doing it forever. I’ll leave it at that.”

Supervisor Sara Bohn announced that she will not be running for reelection to the Board. Bohn won her seat on the Board of Supervisors in 2021 and has served District A since. In December, Bohn was censured by the Board of Supervisors for missing too many in-person meetings for various boards and committees. She said, during the Jan. 27, 2025 meeting, “I would like to say that I will not seek reelection.”

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\$50 worth of basic household supplies and personal care products.

We want to express our appreciation to all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly moving supplies, sorting, and bagging. Heartfelt thanks go out to Jolene Rawlings, Jill Songer, Marcia Murphy, Bev Bridges, Jack Davis, Regina Howard, Debbie Campbell, Sarah Carter, Brenda Arnold, Shirley Mullins, Shirley Thurston, Angie Smith, Julia Costello, Rozetta Reed-Steele, Rosemary Jones, Sherri Blevins, Lynn Brammer, Carol Trutt, Jennifer Clemons, Whitney Beckett, Marie Goodwin, and other community members. We would also like to thank Tammy Caldwell, Brandon Decker, Dylan Vest, Brayden Dunley, Tyler Blankenship, Dylan Webb, Jim Whetzel, Shawn

Stump, Joe Okey and Nick Yopp of Christiansburg Parks and Recreation and employees of Montgomery County General Services for their partnership and support of this project.

Many thanks go out to Boy Scout Troop 145 and our sponsors for helping to make this possible. We received sponsorships from Christiansburg Recreation Center, AARP, Humana, Christiansburg Lions Club, First Baptist Church on Rock Road in Radford, Pizza Inn Montgomery County Moose Lodge, Commonwealth Senior Living at Christiansburg, Cartridge World, Auburn United Methodist Church, New River Valley Building Supply and El Charro.

Volunteer Montgomery

Brown

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was such a great person and I know that he will be deeply missed and we’ll keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.”

Board of Supervisors member Mary Biggs shared a heartwarming conversation she had with Brown just days before he passed.

“I would like to say is I was very blessed last Tuesday to run in to Bill Brown,” Biggs said, “over at the courthouse when I was with Tiffany Couch, the clerk of court. I’d gone over there to get sworn in for duty and he was so very happy. Bill was so happy. He had just performed a wedding the day before and he goes ‘you know Mary I’m getting all these requests from Radford and I really I’m enjoying performing these weddings so much’ because you know, every time you saw Billy he had a smile on his face and he was very positive person and he knew everybody and everyone knew him. So, I was lucky enough to serve two terms with him on the board and serve as his vice chair for two years and so for our board the advice that he would give, and I know Todd [King] remembers this very well, he always compared the human heart to the board. The human heart has four chambers and our board has seven districts. So, the human heart needs all

four chambers to work together for the heart to be at its best function just like all seven districts need to work together to make our board successful for the citizens of Montgomery County, but more than that my last statement right now about Bill is he had the biggest heart of all and everyone he ran into got to experience that.”

Throughout the meeting, both in the beginning and at the end in new business, members of the board shared fond memories, stories and condolences to the Brown family. Brown was truly regarded as a pillar of the community, not just for Blacksburg but Montgomery County as a whole.

“I too would like to say a word about Bill Brown,” Vice Chair Steve Fijalkowski said, “when I was assigned here as a trooper back in 1983, I got to know Bill. Always, always very upbeat. Always had something nice to say to you. I felt like he kind of picked me out of everybody else but I think that’s just the way he made everybody feel - that you were a special person and he’s going to remember you and he did. He’s definitely going to be missed. I certainly don’t think I will ever equal his accomplishments but I’m okay living in his shadow because he was a fine person.”

New River Blues Society, Christiansburg Institute present Rhythms of Resistance: An Afternoon with blues icon Gaye Adegbalola

The New River Blues Society, in partnership with Christiansburg Institute, Inc. (CI, Inc.) is proud to present an unforgettable afternoon with blues icon Gaye Adegbalola.

Join us for Rhythms of Resistance, an afternoon filled with soul-stirring blues music, storytelling, and empowerment. The event will take place at The Lyric Theater in Blacksburg Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.

A Blues Music Award winner and founding member of Saffire - The Uppity Blues Women (1984-2009), Gaye Adegbalola is one of the most respected voices in the blues world. With a career that spans decades, Gaye's powerful guitar and harmonica playing, coupled with her compelling songwriting, have earned her international recognition. Her musical journey includes 10 CDs released on Alligator Records, six albums on her own Hot Toddy Music label, and an anthology of selected songs, Satisfied! (2023), showcasing her post-Saffire career.

But Gaye's artistry isn't just about music, it's about the message. Through her powerful songs and personal stories, she offers a poignant reflection on her own experiences in the fight for civil rights. From her early involvement with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to

participating in sit-ins and picketing, to embracing the Black Power Movement and the teachings of Malcolm X, Gaye's music serves as a testament to her path toward self-empowerment, equality, and freedom.

This is an opportunity to not only enjoy incredible music but to also engage with a living legend who has contributed to the soundtrack of the civil rights struggle in the United States.

Ticket Information:
Adult General Admission: \$25
Child (12 and under): \$0
Member (Lyric, New River Blues Society, Christiansburg Institute members): \$20
Student (with valid ID): \$15

Child and student tickets must be acquired at the box office.

This event is a celebration of not just music, but culture, history, and resistance. Don't miss this extraordinary afternoon with Gaye Adegbalola—mark your calendars and get your tickets today.

For sponsorship opportunities, email info@christiansburginstitute.com. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.thelyrictheater.com.

Christiansburg Institute, Inc.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB

Pictured (left to right) Evaline Teilmann Trice, Jennifer Cooper, Doug Butts and Andrew Walker.

Kiwanis Club presents 2024 Teilmann Youth Services Award

Jennifer Poff Cooper received the 2024 Teilmann Youth Services Award from Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg during its Dec. 12 Christmas dinner.

Jennifer graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Marketing and received a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Hollins University. As a freelance writer she has worked for the News Messenger, NRV Magazine, and Valley Business FRONT magazine out of Roanoke. Most of her time is spent volunteering. She has served locally with non-profits from the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program to the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership. She has always been heavily involved in ministries of the United Methodist Church, currently at Blacksburg United Methodist Church. One of her passions is for gun violence prevention; in fact, she wrote her master's thesis on the gun culture in America. She is the local group leader for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and in that capacity received the Kiwanis Gunnar Teilmann award.

She was the club's Jan. 23 speaker when she spoke about Moms Demand Action, an advocate for gun safety, and made up of gun violence survivors. Guns are the leading cause of death in children and teens, with 120 Americans killed daily with guns. The gun homicide rate

in states without gun safety is three times greater than in states with gun safety measures. They advocate background checks, Smart Secure gun storage, and gun locks.

Gunnar Teilmann was an Eagle Scout, ordained Methodist minister, husband, Army Chaplin, Silver Star recipient, POW, father, Missionary, Mental Health worker, City of Singapore honoree and Kiwanian. He enlisted in the Army as a Chaplin, was deployed to Europe where he earned a Silver Star as part of the D-Day invasion. He was captured in the Battle of Mortain and was as a POW for nine months. Following the war, Gunnar served as a youth counselor at a Methodist youth camp.

The Teilmann family spent a total of 30 years in missionary service in Asia. After 30 years of service, Gunnar and Wava settled in Blacksburg and he was appointed Associate Pastor of the Blacksburg United Methodist Church, a position he held for six years until his death in 1987.

During the Christmas dinner, Kiwanis presented the Salvation Army with gifts purchased by the members for 40 Christmas Angels.

Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg

Program

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disrupting the regular rhythm of one's heartbeat. Symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest are sudden collapse, lack of breathing, loss of consciousness and lack of pulse.

Gilbert Linkous and their Cardiac Response Team have trained and are promoting a heart safe environment for all students, staff, faculty and those who may be visiting the school.

Their designation began with a video from Dr. John Phillips from the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU. Dr. Phillips is a pediatric cardiologist and the Medical Director of the Virginia affiliate to Project Adam.

"I'm sending this video to express my deepest gratitude to Principal Webb, the staff and faculty of Gilbert Linkous and particularly Nurse Springer for deciding to educate and protect your school and community against cardiac arrest," Phillips said in his video shown at the meeting. "They've done this by educating faculty and staff on recognizing the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest by creating a cardiac emergency response plan and cardiac Emergency Response Team. They've communicated with the community regarding their plan and

lastly, and perhaps most importantly, they've conducted drills to practice their plan. Why is this important? Because minutes count to improve survival from Sudden Cardiac Arrest. A victim must receive CPR and defibrillation within four minutes of becoming unconscious since 20% of our communities are on school campuses on any given day, schools are a smart place to be prepared. Nurse Springer and your school's Cardiac Emergency Response Team have done just that by taking the time to prepare and practice should a cardiac arrest occur on your campus. So, without further ado, on behalf of the Children's Hospital of Richmond as a Virginia affiliate to Project Adam, I'm thrilled to award Gilbert Linkous Elementary School, the first school in Blacksburg and Montgomery County, the designation as a Project Adam Heart Safe School. Great job, Trio and your team. You certainly deserve it."

MCPS Superintendent Dr. Bernard Bragen, Jr. presented a banner to Nurse Springer and all those involved when Dr. Phillip's video commenced. They were congratulated by the audience, Bragen and the school board.

NRCC Concert Series presents New Grass Edition, New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters will be one of two bands featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event this Saturday.

The music of New Grass Edition and New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event this Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

The members of New Grass Edition are all former members of other bluegrass bands who love traditional bluegrass. Band members performing at the show are Brian Dunford on bass, Dewey Long on fiddle, Nessie Hunt on banjo and vocals, TJ Garrett on guitar and vocals and Jack Wells on mandolin and vocals.

The New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters have been playing old time mountain music in the Galax area since 1986. Dennis Hall is the founder of the band and continues to serve as band leader. The band was named for the small stream in Galax where Hall grew up and still resides, as well as in honor of Uncle Eck Dunford, a member of the original Bogtrotters band from the 1920s. The current group includes Hall on guitar, Eddie Bond on fiddle and vocals, Bonnie Bond on bass and vocals, Josh Ellis on banjo and vocals, and Caroline Noel Beverley on mandolin and vocals. The band has played at festivals across the U.S. and participated in the Friends of American Old Time Music and Dance Festival in Gainsborough,

England. Several of the band members have played internationally in Scotland, England, Ireland and Australia. Since 1986, the band has placed first at the Galax Old Fiddlers Convention a total of 10 times.

Corporate sponsors of the jamborees include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; CCKKY, LLC-Fazoli's, Dublin; Deanie Hall-State Farm Agent, Dublin; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; King Tire Service, Pulaski; Lee's Body Shop, Pearisburg; Martin's Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgomery & Pulaski Counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset the travel expenses for the musicians. The music events are typically held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.

For more information about the NRCC Concert Series, please contact Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625 or visit www.nr.edu/concerts.

New River Community College

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

Sweet Tazzy is an older gal who doesn't know she might be too big for your lap! She loves affection and will happily take pets while leaning into her favorite humans. She's also pretty smart and knows some basic commands. Tazzy's adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.



Handsome boy Oliver is ready to head home. He has a happy, energetic personality, and he gets along with other dogs. Oliver will gladly sit for a tasty treat, too. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet this pawsome dog!

Business REVIEW

Time to Brag About YOUR Business!

YOUR story - YOUR employees - YOUR message in our Business Review Edition on February 26th & 27th
Write your own story & advertisement with pictures of your staff and/or business - Deadline February 19th


TO ADVERTISE,
Call Wendi Craig at (276) 340-2445
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

OPINION

Delegate announces progress on APCo Rate Reduction Act

This past week brought some huge news as it relates to my ongoing efforts to address the high electric bills of my constituents. On Jan. 30, my House Bill 2621, titled the “APCo Rate Reduction Act,” received a 21-1 vote in the House Committee on Labor and Commerce. I am hopeful that by the time I update you next week, this legislation will have received a favorable vote on the House floor and will be on its way to the Senate for further consideration. I look forward to updating you further on its progress.

This legislation amounts to the largest rate relief bill for APCo customers in many years, and HB 2621 is the only such legislation currently active in the 2025 General Assembly. There are five main components of this bill that will drastically change the way that APCo does business moving forward: first, this bill will create additional State Corporation Commission (SCC) oversight by requiring the SCC to review APCo’s finances every single year and order customer refunds if the company earns more than allowed. Second, it bans any rate increases by the company after this bill becomes law until at least March 2026, but it allows for rate decreases. Third, it will simplify customer bills by



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

rolling several “rate adjustment clauses” into base rates and forbidding APCo from applying for additional rate adjustments until at least 2026. Fourth, it prohibits APCo from raising rates during the winter months when electric bills are typically the highest. And finally, a process known as “securitization” will allow APCo to remove the costs of generation facilities from its rates, which will immediately reduce customers base rates.

This legislation has been a constant work in progress, and there still may be more work to be done on HB 2621. What matters most to me is passing the best product that represents the greatest savings for my constituents. Residents of the 42nd House District are struggling to make ends meet, and ever-rising utility

bills are preventing them from just keeping up. Many are faced with the dilemma of paying their electric bill or putting food on the table. I have heard dozens of stories from my constituents over the past several weeks, and some families have monthly bills exceeding \$1,000, which is very clearly unreasonable.

One of the most important parts of legislating is responding to the needs of my constituency. The cost of electricity has skyrocketed and is on a clearly unsustainable trajectory, and the APCo Rate Reduction Act is a direct response. I am proud to partner with my colleagues from the region to tackle this issue head-on and I am hopeful for continued success of this legislation as it moves forward through the legislative process.

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

What lower interest rates could mean for your money

As inflation drifts closer to a normal range by historical economic measures, investors are closely watching the Federal Reserve to gauge their future plans for lowering interest rates. The Fed – and its changes to monetary policy – has a direct impact on the markets and economy, which may have you wondering what lower rates could mean for your wallet. Here are some factors to consider.

Your existing debt may be more manageable. Rate cuts by the Federal Reserve may cause interest rates on credit cards, home mortgages, home equity loans or lines of credit, and business loans to go down. Variable or adjustable rates typically fall in this category. Fixed rate debt, however, will not budge. Review the terms of your debt to determine if you benefit from the reduction in interest rates.

Refinancing may be worthwhile. In the wake of an interest rate cut, it may be a good time to refinance a high-interest fixed rate loan. Student loans and business



Josh Smith, CRPC

Financial Advisor,
Ameriprise Financial
Services, LLC

loans are top prospects to consider. Home mortgages may also be eligible, although if you bought your property when interest rates were very low it likely makes sense to keep your current loan. Even as rates come down, they may be higher than the rate at which you financed your loan, so it is important to run the numbers to determine whether it makes sense to refinance. Generally speaking, refinancing at a lower interest rate is most beneficial for large loans with 10-plus year repayment period. Savings diminish when the repayment period of your refinanced loan extends beyond the length remaining on your existing loan. Likewise, accelerating your repayment schedule can cut interest costs, but can result in higher payments.

Borrowing can be more affordable. Low interest rates are especially desirable when you need to borrow money to make a large purchase. Young wage earners

with long careers ahead of them can benefit by locking in low interest rates to purchase a first home, a new car, or appliances. Businesses can invest in facilities or equipment at a lower rate. Adjustable-rate loans tend to be cheaper than fixed options, but they do carry more risk as interest rates may rise in the future. If you have been considering a large expenditure, work with your advisor to determine if interest rates are at an advantageous level for borrowing.

Diversifying your savings becomes more important. When interest rates fall, the rates on traditional savings accounts and certificates of deposit tend to follow suit, and therefore, may not deliver as much in returns. You may feel less motivated to save when interest earnings are low, or may feel like you’re missing out on an opportunity to maximize your savings potential. The practice of setting aside money for the future is still important for your financial security and there are other ways to save in a low-rate environment. Consider ways to diversify your savings with investment options that tend to be less affected by lower interest rates, such as stocks and bonds 1.

Financial planning can help you stay on track. You can’t control interest rates, but you can control how you manage your finances. Make it a priority to create a plan for how to achieve your biggest financial goals. With sound advice and strategic saving and investing, you can make the most of any market.

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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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Legislative updates should have less partisan electioneering

In the Jan.15 paper, Jason Ballard again provided a column titled “Delegate offers update on legislative session.” It should truly be an important contribution to this newspaper’s readership to have a periodic report from Richmond. Unfortunately, we are getting more partisan electioneering – the Democrats are evil, and the Republicans are out to save you. In fact, both parties are trying to do what they think is right, even as they disagree on what is best for its people.

Reading between the lines, it seems clear that a major difference between the parties is that the Democrats want to provide more funding to our schools, while the

Gary Silverman

Columnist

Republicans think that school funding is adequate and would like to focus instead on lowering taxes. Ok, that is a real and reasonable difference of opinion – not the nasty Democrats trying to take something away from hard-working Virginians. Some Virginians want excellent schools and are willing to pay more for them. Others care less about funding schools and want more money in their own pockets.

Another real puzzle to me is how

Mr. Ballard seems to be both for and against local political control. Mr. Ballard argues strongly that locals should decide what is right for their community – with specific reference to solar farms. Mr. Ballard also argues strongly that locals should not decide what is right for their community – with specific reference to sanctuary cities. So, which is it? Should local communities be allowed to decide on the nature of their communities? It is unhelpful to argue sometimes one way and sometimes the other, depending on the political parties’ view on a particular issue. Consistency is

See **Silverman**, page 6

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3				4	5	6	7
8			9			10			
11						12			
13				14		15			
16						17			
18					19	20			
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		27			28			29	30
	34							35	
36							37		
38								39	
40								41	
42									43

CLUES ACROSS

1. One point south of due east

4. Coagulated blood

8. Fortifying ditch

10. Devotee of Hinduism

11. Trunk of a tree

12. Bank note

13. Capital of Guam

15. Study again

16. Covered with hoarfrost

17. Opening

18. Legendary Rolling Stone

21. Stray

22. Computer storing system

23. Signal

CLUES DOWN

24. Pitching statistic

25. Human being

26. Malaysian isthmus

27. The “Blonde Bombshell”

34. A gland

35. Bluish greens

36. Endangered

37. Three-dimensional

38. In a way, precipitated

39. God associated with dissolution

40. Blemished

41. Flow or leak slowly

42. Disco legends The Bee ____

43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to board

2. Get down

3. Highly seasoned sausage

4. First day of month

5. Eurasian shrubs

6. The organ that bears the ovides of a flower

7. Small lake

9. Belief

10. Sunrooms

12. Metric weight unit

14. Vasopressin

15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

17. One-time family room staple

19. Got back together

CLUES DOWN

20. Anger

23. Sang merrily

24. Sea eagle

25. Military men

26. Kilo yard (abbr.)

27. Found in the sea

28. Protects from weather

29. Type of medicine

30. City along the Rhine

31. Animal disease

32. Martini ingredients

33. Get away

34. Lack of disunity

36. One-time European Commission officer



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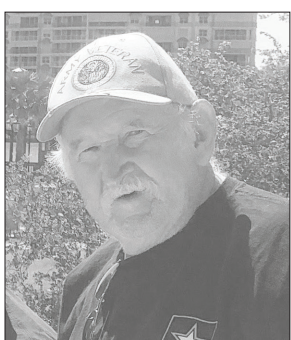
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OBITUARIES

Bell, Charles Ray

Charles “Dotdaw” Ray Bell, 78, of Dublin, passed away Jan. 29, 2025. He retired from the U.S. Army and Brad Reagan where he was a supervisor. Charlie was a dedicated member of the Dublin Moose Lodge and American Legion 58. He attended Harbor of Hope Church in Christiansburg. Charlie was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Alexander Sr. and Louise Moles Bell; and his siblings, Frank A. Bell, Jr., Clarence Bell, Susie Bell Peters, James Bell, Raymond Bell, Bonnie Swatson and Regina Jackson.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Betty Jean Bell; children and their spouses, Jenny Dickerson (Jay), Michele Nester (Chuck) and Brad Simpkins (Alexandra); grandchildren, Jessica Gregory (Todd), Bronson



Underwood (Breanna), Sarena Morton (Christian), Christopher Stowers, Noah Simpkins and Jaydin Dickerson; great-grandchildren, Tavin, Aurelia, Berkley and Brielle; sister, Pat Sittler; brother, Wayne Bell; lifelong best friend, Johnny Cole; and many other nieces, nephews and special friends.

Charlie was an avid hunter, fisherman and golfer. He loved watching his grandchildren play sports, racing or just

hanging out. His free time was spent with his family or watching old westerns or college football.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Craig Reed officiating. A graveside service with full military honors will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD, 21741, or St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105.

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

Fisher, Robert Lee

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of Robert “Bob” Lee Fisher, beloved husband, daddy and poppy.

Bob was born March 29, 1940, to Roy and Edrie Fisher in Christiansburg. In high school, he met his sweetheart, Bonnie Ann Gearheart, who was his best friend and wife for 64 years.

Graduated in 1963 from the Department of Electrical Engineering, Bob was a proud Hokie. His work and passion took him around the world, solving design problems and accumulating patents.

Bob loved spending time with his family and pets, camping, grilling, and hanging out by the pool. He was a member of Christiansburg Presbyterian Church,



where he served as a deacon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandson, Kagen Fisher, and great-granddaughter, Kendall Fisher. He will be carried forever in our hearts by his wife, Bonnie; daughters, Michelle Fisher, Tamara Sutphin, Cindy Foley (Rocky) and Megan Anderson (Jeff); grandchildren, Ryan Fisher, India Smith, Rachel and Emily

Sutphin, Nathaniel and Grace Fisherpoff, Olivia Anderson, and Kayleigh Foley; and great-grandchildren, Kinley and K.J. Fisher, and Teagan Tawney.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Rachel Sutphin and Rev. Emily Sutphin officiating. Interment followed at Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg. The family received friends prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home.

Flowers may be sent to McCoy Funeral Home or memorial donations may be made to the Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control (MCFACC), P.O. Box 133, Christiansburg, VA 24068.

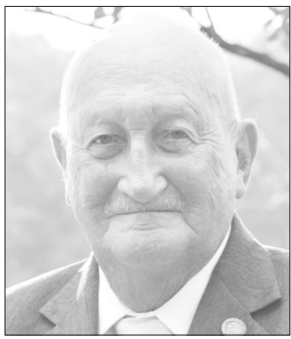
Epperly, Sergeant First Class (ret.) Charles Cubid

Sergeant First Class (retired) Charles Cubid Epperly, 83, of Fairlawn, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Feb. 1, 2025.

Charles was best known as Charlie to his friends and family. He was born in Butler, Tennessee on June 12, 1941 and he grew up in Radford, where he attended Radford High School graduating in 1959. He later earned a bachelor’s degree from Bluefield College. Charlie met his wife of 61 years, Barbara Ann Allen, in Dec. 1960 and they were married Nov. 23, 1963.

Charlie served his nation faithfully for over 20 years as both a U.S. Marine and later as a soldier in the Virginia Army National Guard. Charlie served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1963 to 1969. He was an artilleryman and radio-telephone operator in the 11th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. He was involved in extensive combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. He later joined the Virginia Army National Guard where he served for over 21 years as a full-time Guardsman. Charlie served as an infantryman and supply sergeant in the 116th Infantry Regiment of the famed 29th Infantry Division. Over those two decades, he provided much needed support and relief to his fellow Virginians during natural disasters. During those years, Charlie provided mentorship to some of the Virginia Guard’s most senior leaders, and he is fondly remembered and universally respected as a superb Soldier, Marine and NCO leader.

Charlie was a pillar of the community in Radford and Fairlawn



for over six decades. In addition to the National Guard, he worked locally at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant and Radford University. He was a member of the Masonic Order of the DeMolay and a 62-year Mason with the Masonic Virginia May Lodge 38 in Radford. He was also a member of the Fairlawn Lion’s Club. Additionally, Charlie was a wonderful example of a life well lived through his service to God. He lived a life of example through Christ. For over 70 years, he was a member of both First Baptist Church of Radford and Fairlawn Baptist Church. He served as a Deacon in both congregations where he often helped his members through the tribulations of life. Charlie was also an avid sportsman with a great sense of humor. He was an accomplished hunter and fisherman earning multiple game trophies and citations. Charlie always had a great hunting or fishing story to share with his many friends. Charlie also enjoyed gardening where he and his family kept a large garden every year. He often shared the bounty of his harvest with friends and neighbors. He also loved going to Virginia Beach and relaxing by the sea. Charlie truly loved watching his children

and grandchildren play sports or taking them hunting and fishing. His close family, friends and neighbors will remember him cheerfully sitting on the porch or deck talking and sharing the news of the day.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents Cubid and Esther Epperly, also of Radford.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara Ann Allen Epperly; children and their spouses, Major General John Epperly and Kim, Robert Epperly and Amy Epperly; grandchildren and their spouses, Lieutenant Commander Matthew Epperly and Kaari and Lieutenant Michael Epperly and Erika; great-grandchildren, Declan Mark; sisters, Vicki and Jane; and many other nieces, nephews and special friends.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, at First Baptist Church of Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Kent Taylor and Pastor Diana White officiating. A graveside service with full military honors will follow at 2:30 p.m. in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. Military guests are invited to wear their Class A uniforms to both funeral and graveside services.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, Army Emergency Relief or the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

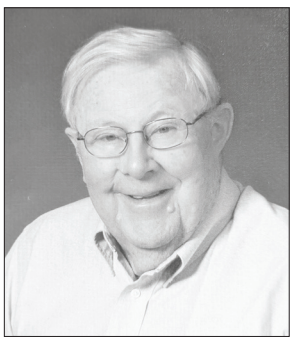
The Epperly family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Hundley, Melvin “Mel” Anthony

Melvin “Mel” Anthony Hundley, 93, of Dublin, passed away peacefully at Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center in Salem Jan. 24, 2025. Melvin was born in Franklin County May 8, 1931.

Melvin was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Richard Hundley and Icy Cora Bousman Hundley; his brother Joseph Richard Hundley, Jr; his niece Nancy Jo Hundley; and his nephew Joseph Carol Hundley.

Melvin is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jolane; his son, Richard “Rick” and wife Diana, and his son, Dr. Mark Hundley and Alice Cappellino; his granddaughter, Lindsay Moore and husband Hayden; his special dog, Gracie; and special friends/caregivers, Heather Jarrells and Terri



Shelor.

Melvin was a long time and faithful member of Dublin United Methodist Church, where he loved his church family and was maintenance chairman for many years. He loved gardening, was a dedicated Virginia Tech fan, and was a boy scout leader who influenced and encouraged many young men.

Melvin graduated from Martinsville High

School in 1949, and from Virginia Tech in 1958 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. Melvin worked as a chemical engineer Hazard Analyst at Hercules and retired after 33 years.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Dublin United Methodist Church.

Interment was held Friday, Jan. 31 at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin. The family received friends at Dublin United Methodist Church Friday, Jan. 31 followed by the funeral service with Reverend Don Shelor officiating.

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

Ross, Rachel Ruth Quesenberry

Rachel Ruth Quesenberry Ross, 79, passed away Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ben and Ruth Quesenberry; her husband, Billy Ross; brother, Eugene Quesenberry; brother-in-law, Larry Armbrister; and her sister-in-law, Carolyn Quesenberry.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Chuck Gamblin (Tracy) and Don Gamblin (Denise); sister-in-law, Lois Quesenberry; sister,

Carolyn Armbrister; twin brother, Richard Quesenberry; step-daughter and her husband, Mandy Keller (Ron); step-son and his wife, James Ross (Christy); grandsons, Troy Gamblin and Dustin Gamblin (Kimberly); great-granddaughter, Massey Gamblin; special friends and helpers, Jimmy Gravley, Toby at Agency on Aging, Kathy Surber, Donnie Atkins, and Sharon Dooley; and many other friends that helped on her journey.

The family would like to thank the staff at Lewis Gale Pulaski and the staff at the Shelia S Strauss Hospice House.

Per her request, there will be no public services held.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donation be made in her name to the Shelia S Strauss Hospice House, 4751 Cove Road, Roanoke, VA, 24017.

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

Shockley, Steven Alfred

Steven Alfred Shockley passed away Friday, Jan. 31, 2025 in the Salem Veterans Hospital. He was born Jan. 4, 1958 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Leigh Harris Shockley Williams and by a nephew, Austin Michael Sardella.

He is survived by his father, James E. Shockley, stepmother Cynthia Coleman Shockley, sister, Susanne Elaine Sammel, and brothers, David Arthur Shockley, John Coleman Shockley, and James Michael Shockley.

In his youth, he was very creative. He created characters and story lines that were illustrated as cartoons by his other siblings. While living in Kentucky, he was a member of the United Methodist Church and an active member

of their youth group. He had a wry sense of humor and especially enjoyed the humor of Saturday Night Live and George Carlin.

Steve always loved music, embracing an eclectic variety of genres, and was quite active in performance arts in his young years, participating in marching band as well as theater. He played drums, guitar, and keyboard.

Later he joined the U.S. Navy and during his service developed schizophrenia. With medical care and the help of his father, he was able to spend most of his young adult life living independently. He loved to walk around town and was recognized as a fixture around Blacksburg.

He lived his last years in Veterans Affairs-approved assisted living homes. His latest place

of residence was in Roanoke, Virginia, where he had numerous friends and could enjoy his beautiful downtown neighborhood. Recently he developed pneumonia, flu and a strep throat simultaneously and was sent to the hospital, where he eventually died. He will be missed by many.

The family would like to express their thanks to the staff and residents at the Magnolia Ridge Assisted Living facility for their support during the last year and to the staff at the Intensive Care Unit at the Salem Veterans Hospital for their help during the last few weeks of Steven’s life.

There will be a graveside service in Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. Friends are invited to join the family for that service.

Stanley, Jr., Herbert Daniel

Herbert Daniel Stanley, Jr., 65, of Hiwassee, passed away Friday, Jan. 17, 2025. He was preceded in death by his father, Herbert Daniel Stanley, Sr.; and his friends, Clifford and Mark Bowling.

Survivors include his loving wife, Linda

Stanley; son, Jason Atwell; daughter, Ashley Atwell (Jordan); grandchildren, Ashtyn Looney, Brandon Stoneberger, Tiffani Atwell (Bryson), Kendall Atwell, Devin Sheppard, and Mark Atwell; mother, Doris Perew; sister, Deborah Widener; brother, Mike Stanley;

and many other relatives and friends.

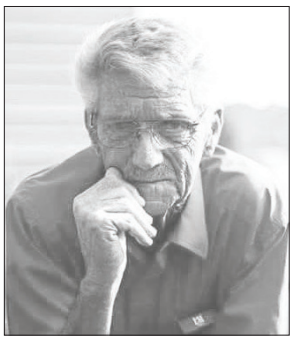
Service for friends and family to be held in the Spring at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Worrell, Sr., Johnny Douglas

Johnny Douglas Worrell, Sr., 80, of Radford, passed away Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank James and Mary Sue Bowman Worrell; and his siblings, Wayne Worrell, Pete Worrell, Clara Lewis, Nancy Hopkins, Mickey Quesenberry and Brenda Worrell.

Survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, Johnny Worrell, Jr. (Lisa), Jimmy Worrell (Angie), and Jeff Worrell (Christina); grandchildren and their spouses, Paige Dripps (Jeremy), Jeremy Worrell, Whitney Hunt (Jordan), Jamie Worrell (Laura), Johnny Worrell



and Jocelyn Worrell; great grandchildren, Amelia Sweet, Camden Sweet and others; special niece, Carolyn Phillips; and many other family members and friends.

He was an avid fisherman, with many citation catches during his lifetime, and he

enjoyed hunting. His family was very important to him and he loved spending time with them any chance that he got. Even in his later stages of life, he had many friends who he loved to visit and spend time with. He was always on the go. He passed peacefully, with his family by his bedside. He will be dearly missed and we cannot wait to see him again.

Per his request, a memorial service will be held at a later date with his family and friends.

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

Roanoke College expands Rapid Maroons program with New River Community College

Roanoke College and New River Community College (NRCC) have created a new partnership under the Rapid Maroons program that establishes a direct path to Roanoke College for students who earn their associates degree at NRCC.

Roanoke College President Frank Shushok Jr. and NRCC President Robert Brandon signed the agreement Thursday, Jan. 30.

The Rapid Maroons program, which first launched in Sept. 2024 with a partnership between Roanoke and Virginia Western Community College, will give NRCC students access to joint advising and student activities, along with a streamlined application process. With Rapid Maroons, NRCC students can save time and move seamlessly to the next step in their educational journey.

The program will be jointly administered by Roanoke College and NRCC to support degree attainment for students of both institutions. Students in the program will enroll in courses at New River and be encouraged to complete their associate degrees there; they will also declare a curricular program at Roanoke College and receive academic counseling designed to ensure

a smooth transfer to Roanoke following completion of their community college studies.

Rapid Maroons also have access to privileges and opportunities available to Roanoke College students, such as clubs, intramural sports, facilities such as the game room or Belk Fitness Center, and community events such as art exhibitions, theater performances, athletic matchups and guest speakers. This is in addition to the support services, activities and events available to students at NRCC.

Rapid Maroons students from NRCC who earn a transfer-oriented associate's degree and obtain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 are eligible to directly enroll in Roanoke College courses without needing to reapply. NRCC students will also establish early relationships with other students and Roanoke faculty and staff, making their eventual transition to Roanoke smoother.

"This vital partnership is about more than just simplifying the transfer process," Shushok said. "It's about making a promise to students that their education matters, and we're here to help them keep moving forward without battling unnecessary

hurdles. It's about giving every student the opportunities they deserve."

"New River Community College is proud to celebrate this new agreement with Roanoke College, which offers many exciting opportunities for our graduates," said NRCC President Robert Brandon. "This pathway reflects the strong collaboration and shared vision between our institutions, meeting the needs of our two colleges and, most importantly, the aspirations of our students."

Rapid Maroons is just one of several partnerships Roanoke College has created recently to help develop pathways for students to enter Roanoke College and to pursue careers and graduate education opportunities. Other initiatives include Direct to Tech, a partnership with Deloitte for student career training, and several pre-professional partnerships to give Roanoke students with qualifying grades access to admissions slots or guaranteed interviews at medical, nursing and physical therapy programs.

To learn more about the Rapid Maroons program, visit roanoke.edu/rapidmaroons.

New River Community College

Christiansburg cadet presented with Citadel's President's List award



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LONG FAMILY

Tanner Long, of Christiansburg, a sophomore at the Citadel Military College of South Carolina, was named to the Citadel's fall 2024 President's list and a ceremony was held Jan. 24, 2025, at the Citadel. Long, the son of David and Jill Long, received his award from General Glenn M. Walters, President of the Citadel. The President's List is one of the most distinguished cadet awards presented by The Citadel. It indicates excellence in academics and military duties. The list is a combination of the Dean's List and the Commandant's Distinguished List and is composed of cadets who contribute the most to their

companies while maintaining excellent military and academic records. Long was also presented gold stars, which are awarded to cadets and students at The Citadel who achieved a 3.7 grade point average or higher. Cadets and students who achieve gold star recognition are also placed on The Citadel's dean's list. Those cadets may wear gold stars on their uniforms throughout the semester following their academic achievement. A gold star recognition certificate is awarded to non-cadet students who meet the requirements; veteran and active-duty students are also awarded challenge coins.

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Silverman from page 4

important.

A continuing puzzlement too is advocating for substantial tax cuts while also advocating for increased spending of tax dollars. If tax revenues fall – there is less to spend. It's that simple. Yet, we read only about proposals to cut taxes while also using more tax dollars. The state is in a highly unusual situation now with a budget surplus due to an unexpectedly good

economic situation, but that surplus is temporary. And when discussing lowering energy costs – let's be clear that the price of solar generated electricity now is meaningfully less than that produced from gas or other fossil fuels. And the cost savings from solar does not even include the massive expense associated with carbon release – think of the costs of the fires in California as well as the costs of the flooding here

from Hurricane Hanna (with over \$127 million of our budget surplus currently proposed to help partially recover from the flooding). These kinds of disasters are only going to become more severe, more frequent, and more expensive.

Great would be regularly learning from our delegate what both political sides are proposing, including what the various proposals would mean to the Commonwealth. For example,

Republicans want a tax break for gun safes. How much would that cost the state, and how many lives would it save? Democrats want more money for schools. How much would it cost and what would it mean toward providing our kids with a better education? And of particular interest would be while reading about tax cuts and the use of more tax dollars locally– what is being advocated to be cut?

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

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

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.

(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.

LUTHERAN
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.

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

WORDS OF RELIEF
Read Job 15:1 through 22:30

Justin sat in Caleb's apartment, hoping his big brother could provide some words of encouragement. An official letter from his college had arrived, announcing that Justin was on academic probation. Justin never realized those two words would cause his parents so much pain, anger, and disappointment.

Caleb was frustrated. He knew the sacrifices his parents made so that Justin could attend college. College loans, scholarships, and money did not come easy. His parents worked hard at obtaining all the financial aid they could gather. His dad picked up extra shifts at work to cover the cost of books. Now, to hear that Justin "blew it" was more than Caleb could bear. He wanted to explode, but the Holy Spirit urged him to listen. After several moments, Caleb sat down beside Justin and placed his arm around him. Caleb whispered, "Mind if I pray for you?"

Justin grinned, "Thanks, man. I sure could use it!"

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief (Job 16:5).

Do your words bring comfort or condemnation?

Challenge for Today: Provide comfort and encouragement to someone close to you.

Quicklook: Job 16:4-6

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

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, Pastor James Henricks, who is a guiding light for our lives. 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

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpaulumcc). 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!"



Marketplace



Help Wanted

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for part-time,
M-F private duty assignment near Catawba, VA

5-6 hrs/day, no holidays/ weekends.
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Pay based on experience & references
Contact Susan Wirt, susan@wirtandassociates.com
540-529-3631 for details

ERP Business Analyst sought by TMEIC CORPORATION AMERICAS in Roanoke, VA,

to define, dvlp, & configure the content, processes, & procedures associated w/ the Oracle enterprise application. Availability to travel domestically & internationally, less than 5%. Min Req: Bach's Deg in Comp Sci, Comp Applications, or a related field or foreign equiv deg. 36 months of exp in dsgn & deployment of enterprise applications, through project life cycles. 1 yr exp in ERP implmtn or support. Demonstrated exp in Oracle PL/SQL. Proficiency w/ SQL & Microsoft Excel, Word, & Outlook. Send resume to recruitment@tmeic.com. Ref#8021.

Legals - Craig County

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE,

of all that certain lot, tract or parcel designated as Lot Three (3) containing 29.204 acres in the Simmonsville Magisterial District of Craig County, Virginia, designated as Tax Map Number 114-A-17, in execution of a Deed of Trust, in the original principal amount of \$72,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 6.0% dated November 3, 2015, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the COUNTY OF CRAIG as Deed Instrument Number 150000517,

the undersigned appointed Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the COUNTY OF CRAIG, at the front of the Court House building for the County of Craig located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127, on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., the property with improvements to wit: 29.204 Acres – Tax Map Number 114-A-17; THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH OR CHECK. Additional terms to be announced at sale.

Trustee, John N. Spicer, C/O Spicer, Olin & Associates, P.C., 504 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060 (540) 552-0007.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING TO: CITY OF SALEM REAL ESTATE OWNERS

The Board of Equalization for Real Estate Assessments in the City of Salem will meet on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room at City Hall located at 114 N. Broad Street, Salem, Virginia. The Board will continue its meeting from time to time thereafter, by adjournments, at and for such time or times, at the same place or such other place or places, as may be designated and deemed necessary by the Board to accomplish and complete its task of equalization of real estate assessments and to perform the duties imposed by law upon the Board.

Said meeting will be adjourned on April 22, 2025, unless the powers of the Board are extended by order of the Circuit Court for the City of Salem. The purpose of the Board meeting is to equalize property assessments in the City and to hear and give consideration to all complaints of any inequalities in such assessment so that the

Legals - City of Salem

burden of real estate taxation shall rest equally upon all owners.

At its meeting, the Board will hear and decide all inequality protest complaints, whether made by property owners, the City, or any taxpayer, on appeal to this Board by property owners.

The Board may equalize any assessment by raising, or lowering assessments fixed by the Assessor, in proper cases, in order to make assessments uniform in the City as far as practicable.

If you wish to discuss the assessment with the Board, call (540) 375-3058 for an appointment by February 21, 2025. Upon request, the Assessor will provide copies of assessment records pertaining to the determination of fair market value.

Information pertaining to the Assessor's valuations, along with forms for appeal to the Board of Equalization, may be obtained from the Assessor's office by calling (540)3753058, or online at www.salemva.gov.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SALEM

Kathy Fitzgerald
Wendel Ingram Jr.
David Prosser
Janie Whitlow

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment and additional appropriation to the Town of Vinton's FY 2024-2025 budget to appropriate funding for the purchase of real property in the total amount of \$200,000.00 in the Capital Fund. State law requires a public hearing to be held whenever a proposed budget amendment exceeds 1% of the locality's total budget.

Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Antonia Arias-Magallon
Town Clerk/Administrative Manager

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Planning Commission of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. The Planning Commission will also hold a work session on February 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., prior to the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments concerning:

The petition of Winter Properties Partnership LLP, to rezone the portions of currently split-zoned properties located at 0 Highland Road, tax map numbers 060.11-04-29.00-0000 and 060.11-04-30.00-0000, from the R-2 Residential District to the M-1 Limited Industrial District.

Further information concerning this public hearing may be obtained in the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, during business hours, or via phone: (540) 983-0605. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing.

Legals - Town of Vinton

Given under my hand this 22nd day of January 2025.

Anita J. McMillan
Planning and Zoning Director
Secretary, Vinton Planning Commission

NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend the meetings. Please call (540) 983-0605 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that proper arrangements may be made.

Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

VIRGINIA: IN THE BOTETOURT COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT IN RE: SURPLUS FUNDS DERIVED FROM THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 423 TINKERVIEW DRIVE CLOVERDALE, VA 24077 Case No. CL25-25 THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF DENNIS N. MAAS

Please Serve by Publication Interested Parties.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to interplead surplus funds into the Court's registry and allow potential claimants to file claims for the funds derived from the sale of real property known as 423 Tinkerview Drive, Cloverdale, the Unknown Heirs at Law of Dennis N. Maas appear in the Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia to protect their interest in this matter on or before March 10, 2025, and

It is further ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Fincastle Herald, a newspaper of general circulation in Botetourt County, Virginia. The Fincastle Herald shall send the Certificate of Publication and the bill to: BWW Law Group, LLC, c/o Kathryn H. Kellam, Esq., 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. Enter this 22nd day of January, 2025.

I ASK FOR THIS, Kathryn H. Kellam, VSB No. 82277 Managing Attorney BWW Law Group, LLC 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240 Richmond, VA 23229 P: (804) 282-0463 ext. 4204 F: (240) 482-0824 Kathryn.Kellam@bww-law.com

Counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC
Date: 1/14/2025

ABC NOTICE

LND VA STORES LLC., trading as EZ FUEL STOP, 475 ROAOKE ROAD, DALEVILLE,VA 24083

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Specialty Establishment app-Convenience Store, Wine, Beer, OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jay Ashokbhai Patel, MEMBER.

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

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 February 12, 2025 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 Ordinance:

Legals - Montgomery County

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 ENTITLED ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA BY AMENDING SECTION 10-52 TO CLARIFY THAT ZONING COMPLIANCE OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATORS ARE AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR IN ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE AND BY ADDING DUTIES AND POWERS AUTHORIZED BY STATE LAW AND BY UPDATING THE CRIMINAL AND CIVIL VIOLATION PENALTIES

Copies of the proposed ordinance 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>.

ABC NOTICE

LND VA STORES LLC., trading as EZ FUEL STOP, 1211 TOM'S CREEK ROAD, BLACKSBURG, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA 24060

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Specialty Establishment App-Convenience Store, Wine, Beer, OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jay Ashokbhai Patel, MEMBER.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

pursuant to § 15.2-3107 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, that on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter in the Board Room, located on the 2nd Floor of the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia ("the County") shall hold a public hearing to hear citizen comments on the Board's intent to approve a proposed Boundary Line Adjustment Agreement between the Town of Christiansburg and County of Montgomery and will thereafter consider for passage a resolution approving the Agreement.

The Agreement is authorized by § 15.2-3106 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and provides that the boundary line between the Town of Christiansburg and the unincorporated area of the County of Montgomery will be changed by moving approximately 1.084 acres into the incorporated Town of Christiansburg boundary of the County of Montgomery. The proposed boundary adjustment area is located on the southwest boundary of the Town of Christiansburg and the unincorporated area of the County of Montgomery the property being identified as 1.084 acre parcel, Tax Parcel 093-(A)-6, Parcel ID #160135 in the Riner Magisterial District shown more particularly on the plat entitled "EXHIBIT FROM RECORDS SHOWING BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT OF TAX MAP NUMBER 093-A-6 TO BE RELOCATED FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO BE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA SURVEYED JANUARY 17, 2025".

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00pm in the City of Radford Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

Brame Family Properties, LLC (applicant/property owner) to rezone 3,500 SQ FT of 14-(5)-SEC12-8, from B-1 Limited Business, to R-3 Single Family Residential, and to rezone 1,347 SQ FT of 14-(5)-SEC12-7 from R-3 Single Family Residential to B-1 Limited Business. The request will provide conformity to existing structure known as 901 8th Street, and provide lot line revision to allow for the development of 2 single family structures. Comments may be presented at the meeting and by phone or in writing prior to the meeting. Additional information on this request may be obtained in the Community Development Department, 10 Robertson Street, Radford VA 24141, 540.267.3188 or by email at Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov.

Legals - Montgomery County

Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Copies of the Agreement will also be available at the public hearing. The public is invited to attend the public hearing and comment on the Agreement.

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

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. **CL24-645**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT 55 EAST MAIN STREET SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Crystal Gayle Edwards v. Eddie Keith Edwards

The object of this suit is to: Divorce

IT IS ORDERED that Eddie Keith Edwards appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before March 31, 2025 @ 9:00AM

Entered 1/28/25 by Honorable Judge Robert M.D. Turk

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, the Radford City Council hereby gives notice of a joint public hearing with Planning Commission to be held on February 10, 2025 at 7:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA, in order to hear citizen comments regarding City Council's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Katrina Compton (applicant) on behalf of Conner Compton (owner) for a Special Use Permit to allow for a duplex. The use is defined as "building that contains 2 dwelling units" which is allowed in the R-3 Residential District only by an approved Special Use Permit. The property is located at 2016 Fourth Street, further identified as Tax Parcel 18-(3)-SEC 19 Lots 12&13, with 15,000 square feet. The property is designated as Moderate Density Residential in the Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plan, applications, ordinances may be examined at the Community Development Office, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00pm in the City of Radford Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

Brame Family Properties, LLC (applicant/property owner) to rezone 3,500 SQ FT of 14-(5)-SEC12-8, from B-1 Limited Business, to R-3 Single Family Residential, and to rezone 1,347 SQ FT of 14-(5)-SEC12-7 from R-3 Single Family Residential to B-1 Limited Business. The request will provide conformity to existing structure known as 901 8th Street, and provide lot line revision to allow for the development of 2 single family structures. Comments may be presented at the meeting and by phone or in writing prior to the meeting. Additional information on this request may be obtained in the Community Development Department, 10 Robertson Street, Radford VA 24141, 540.267.3188 or by email at Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov.



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Salem Storage
736 Roanoke Street
Salem, Va. 24153
February 20, 2025 at 11 AM
Salem Storage will conduct a public sale of merchandise to collect liens from the following delinquent building.
Owner: Rebecca Wentworth
Unit 55
Cash Only
We reserve the right to refuse bids.

Auctions

Notice of Public Auction

The contents of the following storage unit(s) will be sold at Public Auction to enforce our owner's lien: Unit #26 and #403
Sale will be conducted at B&B Storage, At 645 Radford Street, Christiansburg VA on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. All sales are final & CASH only

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Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH APRIL 11, 2025

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. The scholarship is now available to those individuals and to their descendants. The program is open to eligible applicants for the 2025–2026 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit: **BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV**

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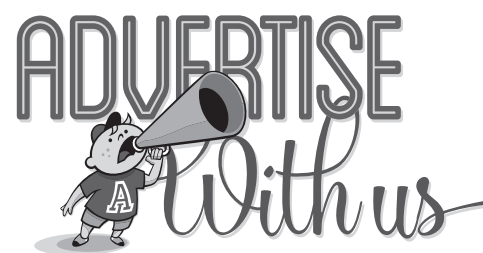


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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Pro soccer to play in southwest Virginia

Rush United FC has announced its men’s and women’s teams will be competing in the United Premier Soccer League (UPSL) Premier Division, starting this March.

The UPSL is renowned for its high level of competition, bringing together some of the best talent from across the region to compete on a national stage.

Playing in the Premier Division offers athletes a unique opportunity to develop their skills, face top-tier competition, and gain exposure to collegiate and professional pathways. With an unlimited age league, the teams will feature a mix of experienced players and rising stars, showcasing the depth of talent in our community.

The United Premier Soccer League (UPSL) is an American soccer league that was founded in Santa Ana in Southern California, with teams in regionalized conferences throughout the United States, and recently Canada and Mexico. The league was founded in 2011 by Santa Ana Winds FC President Leonel López as a regional league for teams in Greater Los Angeles, but expanded to include 350 teams from 36 states as of the 2021 season.

Two seasons are played each year, with regional play culminating in a playoff system that crowns a single national champion each season. The league features internal promotion and relegation with up to three levels in some regions; only clubs in the top tier Premier Division are eligible to compete for the national championship.

The league is a National Affiliate member of United States Soccer Federation, and a National League within the larger United States soccer league system.

The local teams will play in the Mid-Atlantic League with games throughout southwest Virginia at many of the area’s current stadiums.

Rush United’s season will kick off in March, promising thrilling matches and exceptional soccer for fans to enjoy. This is a fantastic opportunity for local soccer enthusiasts to support high-level competition right in their backyard.

Trials are now open for players interested in joining the squad. If you are ready to test your skills against the best, contact UPSLDirector@swvarush.com for more details.

Rush United FC is proud to offer sponsorship opportunities for local businesses looking to align with the excitement and community spirit of the UPSL. Sponsors will gain visibility at games, on team gear, and through extensive social media promotion, while supporting the growth of soccer in our region.

For more information on sponsorships, trials, or the upcoming season, contact UPSLDirector@swvarush.com.

SWVA Rush Soccer



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

This past week, Blacksburg High School’s Riley Price reached the 1,000-point scoring mark.

Price hits 1,000-point plateau at BHS

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Blacksburg’s Riley Price has joined the 1,000-point club.

This past week, she put in a short basket from the paint to eclipse the mark in her high school basketball career.

The 6-3 center called reaching the mark as an indescribable, surreal and rewarding feeling. She missed her entire freshman season to an injury and wondered if she would ever be able to reach the scoring mark.

“My countless hours in the gym, perseverance, determination and giving basketball my all was what allowed me to reach my goal,” she said.

Recently, Price has announced her plans to continue her basketball career at

Western Carolina University.

Last year, Price was first team All-District, first team All-Region, first team All-Timesland, and team captain for the last two years.

In college, Price wants to work hard, be a good teammate and contribute in any way she can to make the team successful.

“But mostly I want to leave some kind of positive impact,” she said.

Price plans to major in sports psychology with a double minor in communications and public relations. Her goal is to start a program for therapy dogs for athletes.

Mental health is a very important thing to me, and I think we should keep talking about it,” she said.

Price hopes to play the power forward position in college.

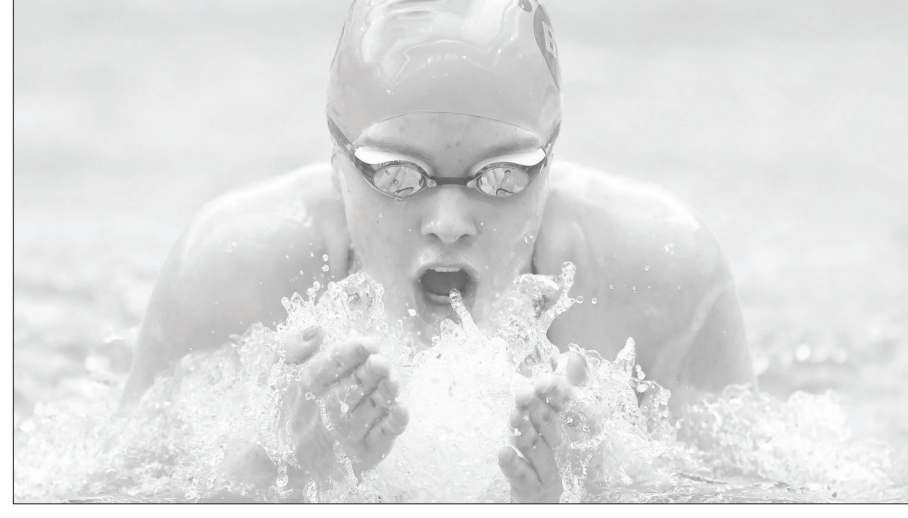
Southwest swim meet held at CAC



Blacksburg's Adeline Boyer executes an inward pike dive during a weekly Christiansburg Aquatic Center diving competition.



Auburn's Sophia Linkous swims in the 200-yard freestyle during Tuesday's CAC swim meet.



Blacksburg's Caroline Linkous won the 200-yard IM during Tuesday's CAC swim meet.



Christiansburg's Maddi Darling races in the 100-yard butterfly during a CHS home meet at the CAC.



Auburn's Kinley Santiago competes in the 100-yard butterfly at the CAC.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Radford native and current Virginia Tech basketball coach Mike Young now has 400 career wins after this week's win over Florida State.

Young joins elite company

In a milestone victory on Jan. 29, 2025, Virginia Tech's men's basketball team prevailed over Florida State, 76-66, marking head coach Mike Young's 400th career win.

This significant achievement underscores Young's enduring impact on college basketball, highlighting his leadership and strategic acumen.

Young's coaching journey began at his alma mater, Emory & Henry, in 1986 as an assistant coach, followed by one season at Radford as a graduate assistant in 1988-89. Then, Young embarked on a 30-year career at Wofford, where he served as head coach for 17 seasons, amassing 299 wins and leading the Terriers to multiple NCAA tournament appearances.

Since taking the helm at Virginia Tech in 2019, he has continued to build a legacy of success, culminating in this recent milestone. The victory over Florida State not only added a significant chapter to Young's storied career but also showcased the team's resilience and growth under his guidance. As the Hokies look ahead, Young's 400th win stands as a testament to his dedication and the promising future of Virginia Tech basketball.

Four hundred career wins is an impressive feat, but there are multiple games that stood out among the rest in Young's impressive career.

First career win: Nov. 26, 2002 vs. Emmanuel College (80-54)

Under the direction of first-year head coach Mike Young, the Terriers posted their best season since transitioning to Division I with a 14-15 record. Young's first career win was a season-opening thumping of Emmanuel College, where the Terriers had 12 steals leading to 33 points off turnovers.

100th career win: Jan. 9, 2010 at Elon (72-55)

By his ninth season at Wofford, Young started to build a powerhouse. It was a historic season for him and the program. Young hit his 100th career win milestone in the middle of the season with a win over Elon, 72-55, en route to winning the SoCon Coach of the Year and the Hugh Durham National Coach of Year. He steered the Terriers to a 26-9 record along with their first-ever SoCon regular season and tournament championships, as well as their inaugural NCAA tournament appearance in 2010.

The following season, Young was able to guide the Terriers back to the SoCon regular season and tournament championships, culminating with a trip to their second straight NCAA tournament.

200th career win: Jan. 5, 2015 at Chattanooga (68-64)

Leading Wofford to dominance in the SoCon, Young secured his 200th career win during a season in which he guided the Terriers to a remarkable 28-7 record, including a 16-2 mark in conference play. Under his guidance, Wofford claimed both the SoCon regular season and tournament championships and earned a spot in the NCAA tournament for the second straight season. Young earned SoCon Coach of the Year for the third time in his career.

First career NCAA tournament win; No. 299: Mar. 21, 2019 vs. Seton Hall (84-68)

In his final season at Wofford, Young led the Terriers to a historic 30-5 record—the best in school history—while achieving a perfect 18-0 mark in conference play.

Wofford secured both the SoCon regular season and tournament championships, earning its fifth trip to the NCAA tournament. Entering as a program-best No. 7 seed, the Terriers faced No. 10 seed Seton Hall and claimed their first-ever NCAA tournament victory with a dominant 84-68 win in Jacksonville, Fla. Reflecting on his career at Wofford, Young finished with a 299-244 record, four SoCon regular season championships, five SoCon tournament titles, five NCAA tournament appearances, four SoCon coach of the year awards, the Hugh Durham Award and the Sporting News Men's College Basketball Coach of the Year honor.

First win at Tech; 300th career win: Nov. 5, 2019 at Clemson (67-60)

In his first game with the Hokies, Young led his new team to a 67-60 win on the road versus ACC foe Clemson.

The win over the Tigers was just the start of Young's career in Blacksburg, but clinched his 300th career victory.

The Hokies won the game behind redshirt freshman Landers Nolley's 30-point performance, which is a Hokie record for most points by a freshman in their collegiate debut.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Radford rolls in dual wins



PHOTO COURTESY OF RHS WRESTLING

Radford High School honored its senior wrestlers this past week. The group includes (from left) Maggie Page, Tavern Williams, Josh Porter and Bryant Weaver.

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The Radford High School wrestling team picked up three wins this past week with a dual meet against Galax, Ft. Chiswell and Giles.

Radford downed Galax 42-39, Ft. Chiswell 42-24 and Giles 45-31.

Bryant Weaver, Tavern Williams, Cole Martin and Josh Porter all finished

undefeated on the day and took their matches.

Also, the Radford High School girls' squad dominated regional competition in Abingdon. Maggie Page took first place in the regional qualifier as the team tallied 79 points, the most for team points in the event.

Lily Brunner and CJ Gilbert placed second, Ella Guedes third, and McKenzie Leighton and Jackson Barnett fourth.

Hokies unveil 2025 schedule

Marty Gordon

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Virginia Tech will start the 2025 football season as part of the "Beamer Bowl," with a season opener against South Carolina in the Aflac Kickoff Game on Sunday, Aug. 31 in Atlanta, Ga.

Tech's football schedule was fully released by the ACC this past week.

This marks the first meeting between South Carolina and Virginia Tech since 1991, and with the game taking place on Sunday, it's a primetime opportunity for the Hokies in Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

A compelling storyline for Virginia Tech's 2025 season opener against South Carolina will center on the Beamer family legacy. South Carolina head coach Shane Beamer will lead the Gamecocks against the program where his father, Frank Beamer, built a storied career as Virginia Tech's legendary head coach. Shane, a 1999 Virginia Tech graduate, contributed to five bowl appearances and three Big East championships as a long snapper and wide receiver during his playing days. Beamer later joined his father's coaching staff from 2011-15, serving as associate head coach and running backs coach, making this matchup a unique blend of personal and program history.

Now South Carolina, coming off a strong 9-4 season, is poised to be a nationally ranked team for 2025. Key returning players include quarterback LaNorris Sellers, who threw for 2,534 yards and 18 touchdowns, and defensive end Dylan Stewart, who tallied 6.5 sacks. The Gamecocks also had a successful early signing period, adding 25 recruits to their 2025 class, which ranks 19th nationally according to 247Sports.

Among the 25 signees are 11 players from in-state schools and several notable prospects, including wide receiver Malik Clark, ranked No. 125 nationally, and defensive lineman Zavion Hardy, the top JuCo prospect. South Carolina also bolstered its transfer class, currently ranked No. 13 from 247Sports, with key additions like four-star running back Rahsul Faison from Utah State.

Virginia Tech football will bring ACC play on the road at NC State on Saturday, Sept. 27.

This will mark the second time the Hokies have started ACC play in Raleigh, defeating the Wolfpack 20-16 in 2005. Tech is 15-6 in ACC openers and its first ACC road contest, while being 28-20-4 versus NC State all time. Out of their 22 seasons in the ACC, the Hokies have started conference play on the road just eight times.

On Thursday, the ACC announced Tech's season opener against South Carolina in the Aflac Kickoff Game on Sunday, Aug. 31 in Atlanta

The Hokies will host a diverse group of schools at Lane Stadium in 2025, with programs representing the SEC, ACC, Sun Belt Conference and Southern Conference. Tech's slate includes four ACC opponents (Louisville, Wake Forest, Miami and Cal), Vanderbilt representing the SEC, Old Dominion from the Sun Belt and Wofford as the lone FCS program.

Early scouting reports have some interesting matchups. Information provided by the Tech program:

Miami (Fla.)

Miami headlines the group as the only program to end the 2024 season in the AP Top 25 and provides an intriguing opportunity for the new-look Hokies. The Hurricanes will boast new schematic identities of their own with the departure of quarterback Cam Ward to the NFL Draft and a revamped defensive staff. Head coach Mario Cristobal named Corey Hetherman as their new defensive coordinator in mid-January after he spent last season in a similar role with Minnesota. Hetherman will have his hands full as he attempts to improve a defense that allowed 421.3 yards per game. Another significant move from Miami in the offseason includes the addition of former Georgia standout quarterback Carson Beck. Beck likely steps in as the starter to replace Ward and brings a 24-3 record over the last two seasons to the Sunshine State.

California

A traveling opponent that fans may have less familiarity with is the Cal Golden Bears. Following the major conference realignment in 2024, Tech's matchup against Cal will be the first meeting with the Golden Bears as members of the ACC. Overall, Virginia Tech and Cal have a limited series history, with the lone matchup coming back in 2003 during a high-scoring

affair in the Insight Bowl. The Golden Bears went through staff changes of their own following a 6-7 record last season that concluded in a 24-13 defeat to UNLV in the Art of Sport LA Bowl. Head coach Justin Wilcox will head to Blacksburg with higher expectations from his offense following a complete overhaul that includes new offensive coordinator Bryan Harsin, wide receivers coach Kyle Cefalo, offensive line coach Famika Anae and senior assistant Nick Rolovich.

Wofford

On the other hand, Wofford is a familiar name after making its first trip to Blacksburg in 2022 for Pryor's inaugural season. The Terriers return to Lane Stadium after Tech won the first ever matchup between the programs 27-7. Led by head coach Shawn Watson, Wofford aims to improve on a 2024 campaign after finishing the regular season 5-7. Co-defensive coordinators Jonathan Saxson and Andrew Warwick boast a talented duo of Freshman All-Americans in DL Marion Smoke and safety C.J. Coombes to anchor their defense. Offensively, run game coordinator Corey Woods hopes Freshman All-American offensive lineman Luke Moise can open running lanes on the interior.

Louisville

After a break in their meetings in 2024, ACC foe Louisville returns to the conference slate. The Hokies last faced the previously nationally ranked program in 2023. The Cardinals present another quality litmus test for the Hokies' young roster after the team received multiple votes for the AP Top 25 following the 2024 season. Louisville went on to finish the season with a 35-34 victory over Washington in the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl and a 9-4 record. Head coach Jeff Brohm builds on a talented roster that placed 12 student-athletes on All-ACC teams and features the reigning ACC Offensive Player of the Year, running back Isaac Brown. Brohm also welcomed 15 signees on National Signing Day, boosted by four-star recruit defensive lineman C.J. May, who ranks as the No. 18 player in the state of Alabama.

Wake Forest

Wake Forest comes back to compete on Worsham Field after the Hokies earned a 30-13 victory during the Maroon Effect game in 2023. This time around, the program will look completely different following the hire of new head coach Jake Dickert. Dickert takes the helm after four seasons leading Washington State to three bowl game appearances. Joining the Demon Deacons' new leader are defensive coordinator Scottie Hazelton (Texas), offensive coordinator Rob Ezell (South Alabama) and special teams coordinator Nick Whitworth (Washington State). The new-look staff will aim to turn around a program that finished each of the previous two seasons with a 4-8 record.

Vanderbilt

Led by head coach Clark Lea, 2024 SECCoach of the Year, the Commodores offer another unique challenge, with their program appearing in the Top 25 rankings in late October. Vanderbilt capped off a winning season in 2024 after defeating Georgia Tech 35-27 in the Birmingham Bowl. Lea can lean on multiple returners, including the likes of SEC Newcomer of the Year quarterback Diego Pavia and three All-SEC first-teamers, right end Eli Stowers, punter Jesse Mirco and return specialist Martel Hight. The special teams unit, instructed by coordinator Jeff LePak, will also receive a lift from kicker Brock Taylor, who was named to the SEC All-Freshman team in 2024.

Old Dominion

Old Dominion wraps up the list of home opponents with recent contests from the 2024 season. The Monarchs will compete against Tech in its fourth matchup in as many seasons, with the Hokies winning two of the last three contests. Entering his fifth season as head coach, Ricky Rahne can further develop his program that saw 10 student-athletes named to All-SBC teams. Rahne and staff also brought in 27 signees on National Signing Day to bolster its roster. Old Dominion is also hopeful that now-sophomore quarterback Quinn Henicle will build off his regular-season finale performance, which earned him Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Week. Looking at the Hokies, offensive coordinator Tyler Bowen aims to continue his success against the Monarchs, as the team has scored at least 36 points in the last two meetings.

Tech 2025 Spring Game is set for Saturday, April 12.

Sports notes: Five straight days of ACC football

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The Atlantic Coast Conference has announced its football schedule of games for Week 0 and Week 1.

The lineup features five consecutive days of ACC Football over Labor Day Weekend, ensuring unparalleled action for fans to open the 2025 college football season.

The 2025 football season kicks off with seven ACC teams opening with Power 4 non-conference opponents, including Notre Dame, and five others with FBS foes over Week 0 and Week 1. The ACC's Labor Day Weekend is anchored by a Sunday football doubleheader on August 31 featuring both Miami and Virginia Tech against top-25 competition.

The opening week concludes with North Carolina playing host to TCU on Labor Day Monday, Sept. 1, as Bill Belichick makes his coaching debut on a familiar night.

The Sunday night showdown between Miami and Notre Dame will kick off at 7:30 p.m. on ABC and the North Carolina against TCU primetime matchup on Monday night will start at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN.

The ACC will headline Sunday, Aug. 31, with two pivotal early season matchups, as Miami will host Notre Dame at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, and Virginia Tech will meet South Carolina in the second of the two 2025 Aflac Kickoff games at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta this season.

The ACC will once again anchor college football on Labor Day Monday to wrap up the opening weekend of ACC football as Coach Bill Belichick will make his debut for North Carolina as the Tar Heels host TCU. This will mark the 16th straight year (the exception being the 2020 COVID season) that the ACC has played on Labor Day and the 19th year since Florida State and Miami played in the inaugural Labor Day night game in 2005.

The Labor Day Weekend action begins on Thursday, Aug. 28, with NC State playing host to in-state foe East Carolina.

Friday, Aug. 29, will see the debut of new Wake Forest head football coach Jake Dickert as the Demon Deacons host Kennesaw State in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for the two teams' season openers.

The slate for Saturday, Aug. 30,

is highlighted by three ACC/SEC matchups, including a neutral site tilt between Syracuse and Tennessee in the first of two Aflac Kickoff Games at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, a battle of the Tigers when LSU visits Clemson, and a matchup of two historical programs when Florida State plays host to Alabama. Georgia Tech will travel to Colorado for an ACC/Big 12 showdown, California will hit the road to take on Oregon State and Virginia will play at home versus Coastal Carolina in the two teams' season opener.

Concord preseason #3

The Concord University baseball team has been picked to finish third in the Mountain East Conference South Division with the announcement of the MEC Preseason Coaches' Poll. The roster includes five former players from Christiansburg High School and is coached by a CHS Alum, Drew Bailey.

Concord finished last spring with a record of 26-20, but did miss the MEC Tournament after going 16-14 in league games. The Maroon and Gray were exceptional at home with a mark of 21-8. Individually, Christiansburg's Junior outfielder Dawson Gragg batted .321 with three home runs and 28 RBI. Four-year starter MJ Hunter sported a .301 average to go with 28 more RBI and a team-best 13 stolen bases.

Lemley, McMillan Preseason All-ACC

Virginia Tech softball continues to earn preseason accolades as seniors Emma Lemley and Cori McMillan were named to the Preseason All-ACC team.

Lemley has shined in her three seasons so far at Virginia Tech. The Forest, Va., native recorded a 2.64 ERA in 2024 with 158 strikeouts. She went 13-5 over 127.1 innings pitched and held opponents to just a .189 batting average.

Throughout her career, Lemley has a 2.95 ERA and 653 career strikeouts. She earned her 50th career win in last season's NCAA Regional game against San Diego State (May 17). Lemley garnered back-to-back Second Team All-ACC honors in 2023 and 2024 and was also the 2022 ACC Freshman of the Year.

McMillan, a 2024 NFCA Second Team All-American, was instrumental in the Hokies' NCAA Tournament run last season. Batting .379, McMillan set the single-season home run record with 21 and also set the single-season program record slugging percentage (.869).

Commonwealth Clash food drive

On Saturday, Feb. 15, Smithfield,

the presenting sponsor of the Commonwealth Clash, is challenging all attendees of the UVA vs. Virginia Tech basketball game to bring in nonperishable food items for donation to support The Market of Virginia Tech. And the Commonwealth-based brand will also be donating an additional \$5,000.

Since the 2014-2015 academic year, the brand has partnered with the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech in the rivalry between the schools across all school-sponsored sports — becoming the presenting sponsor of the Smithfield Commonwealth Clash in the 2021-2022 season. But for Smithfield, this sponsorship means more than just promoting athletics, it also supports the local communities surrounding UVA and Virginia Tech, including each school's food pantry.

Supported by a \$1.5 million donation from alumni couple Hema and Mehul Sanghani, the program launched in 2020 to provide up to 115 students at a time with weekly grocery shopping. The Market's top preferred foods are rice, pasta, peanut butter, canned chicken or tuna, canned soup and granola bars.

Hokie softball ranked

Virginia Tech is ranked in all four major preseason polls ahead of the start of the 2025 campaign.

Virginia Tech is ranked No. 16 by D1 Softball, No. 17 by NFCA/GoRout, No. 18 by ESPN.com/USA Softball and No. 22 by Softball America.

The Hokies finished the 2024 campaign at 40-14-1 and advanced to a fifth-straight NCAA Tournament appearance. The Hokies finished the 2024 season ranked No. 20 in the RPI — its fourth straight season with a top 25 RPI.

Tech also shattered eight single-season team records last year, including program-highs in batting average (.342), home runs (115) and slugging percentage (.633). The Hokies finished third in the ACC standings as well at 18-6, its fifth straight season finishing in the top five in the conference.

ACC sponsorship

The ACC, ACC Network and Disney have announced T. Rowe Price is an official sponsor of the league. The relationship is part of a multi-year agreement with T. Rowe Price also becoming the exclusive title sponsor of the ACC Men's Basketball Tournament through 2027.

As the official wealth management sponsor of the ACC, T. Rowe Price will

have a significant presence at numerous events throughout the season. This includes events on ACC Network (ACCN), as well as during ACC Championship events.

As a large global asset management company known for investment excellence, retirement leadership, and independent proprietary research, T. Rowe Price serves millions of clients globally.

McClung back for possible three-peat

Reigning two-time NBA slam dunk contest champion Mac McClung will compete in this year's event at All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, sources tell ESPN.

McClung, who signed a two-way contract with the Orlando Magic in October, will look to claim the first dunk contest three-peat.

The return of McClung means the four-man field is set. McClung will compete against San Antonio Spurs rookie Stephon Castle, Chicago Bulls rookie Matas Buzelis and Milwaukee Bucks second-year player Andre Jackson, Jr.

No player has ever won three consecutive dunk contests, though Nate Robinson is a three-time champion. A guard, McClung led the G League in scoring with 25.7 points per game in 2023-24, and was named G League MVP for the Osceola Magic.

RU fifth in Big South poll

Mercer received seven of the nine first-place votes and finished with 79 points to win the Big South Women's Lacrosse crown in 2025. The Bears enter the 2025 campaign with seven letterwinners and four starters returning from the 2024 squad that won the regular-season title with an 8-0 Big South record. Since becoming associate members in 2022, Mercer is 25-1 in Big South matches and a perfect 6-0 in the conference tournament with three championship crowns.

High Point finished second in the preseason poll with 73 points and collected the two remaining first-place votes. Associate member Furman was third with 62 points, while associate member Wofford finished fourth in the voting with 55 points. Radford followed in the fifth spot at 41 points. Longwood landed in sixth-place with 35 points, and Winthrop received 26 points for the seventh position in the poll. Presbyterian College placed eighth with 22 points, with Gardner-Webb (ninth, 12 points) rounding out the preseason ranking.

Radford boys fall to Roanoke Catholic



Radford's Sincere Taylor shoots a three-pointer against Roanoke Catholic. Taylor finished with four points in the contest. Jaden Hendricks led Radford with 19 points.



Ashton Taylor shoots a floating jumper in the paint and would finish with nine points for Radford against Roanoke Catholic.



Colten Garner-Rollins gets free inside to score a bucket in this past week's 55-53 loss.



Koreyon Ferguson drives to the basket for a lay-up in the Bobcats' loss. Radford is now 7-11 overall for the season.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Calfee Park to celebrate 90 years

Calfee Park is hitting a major milestone in 2025.

The venerable ballpark will be celebrating its 90th anniversary this year with commemorative promotions planned throughout the summer on Pulaski River Turtles game nights.

“Calfee Park is a special place, and our baseball community is blessed to call it home,” Calfee Park and Pulaski River Turtles general manager JW Martin said. “There is such a rich legacy here, and we’re excited to put a spotlight on Calfee Park’s history and heritage this year.”

Erected in 1935 through a grant from the Works Progress Administration, Calfee Park was originally designed to be a multi-use athletic facility with baseball dimensions rivaling Major League fields. A local government committee of six, helmed by Mayor E.W. Calfee, oversaw the unprecedented project. The facility was dedicated in Mayor Calfee’s honor on Oct. 11, 1935. It was reported to have cost \$25,000 to build.

The iconic stone entrance at Calfee Park was designed by J.L. Vaughan of Muir Monumental Works and was constructed of native stone from Draper Mountain. The enduring medieval-styled landmark is the only original structural component of the facility still in existence.

During its affiliated years, Calfee Park was recognized as one of the top 10 oldest Minor League ballparks still in operation in the United States. The facility is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. It has been home to Appalachian League baseball clubs since 1946.

Calfee Park underwent its first major renovation of the modern era in 1999. Following an ownership change in 2015, the Shelor Motor Mile began a generational transformation of Calfee Park through a series of award-winning infrastructure improvements. In 2024, the facility was donated to Pulaski County.

A commemorative promotional program celebrating Calfee Park’s 90th anniversary will coincide with Pulaski River Turtles home games this year, and will include giveaways, merchandise and other promotions. More details on the program will be revealed later this spring.

In addition to the Pulaski River Turtles’ 24-game Appalachian League home schedule, Calfee Park is slated to host numerous spring college baseball events in 2025, as well as a fall schedule consisting of amateur and youth sporting events.

River Turtles

Outdoor report: Tips on safely landing, releasing musky

The sport of musky fishing has grown tremendously in popularity among Virginia anglers in the last decade, and for good reason. The Old Dominion offers some fantastic opportunities to tangle with these elusive trophies in a diversity of waters, some of which are sustained entirely by wild, natural reproduction. In light of this trend—now, more than ever—it’s important for musky anglers (or even those fishing in waters with musky present) to be prepared with the appropriate tools and knowledge to safely handle and release these prized game fish without harming them or themselves, to help ensure a healthy and robust fishery for the future.

Here are a few things to consider.

Handling and Release Tools

There are a handful of tools that every musky angler should have handy at all times to minimize the impact of handling on the fish and risk to themselves.

The first is a landing net with a bag large enough to keep a 40- to 50-inch fish comfortably in the water. Musky love to roll and thrash in nets, which can grab teeth, jaw mandibles, fins, and even gill plates in smaller fish and cause lasting damage. The most suitable nets have rubber, non-abrasive coatings, and small, one- or two-inch meshes to minimize harm to thrashing fish.

A pair of long, strong pliers for hook removal should always be on hand. When it comes time to unhook a musky, the further you can keep your hands from their razor-sharp teeth and the pile of hooks that are pinned in their mouth, the better. You can purchase a tool that will do this job from any hardware store or fishing tool manufacturer.

A fish-handling glove is a good complement to a long pair of pliers. Even when lots of care is taken, it’s still possible to catch a tooth, gill raker, or hook, and a glove offers protection against all three.

Having removed hundreds of hooks from musky in over a decade of fishing for them, I’ve only been in a handful of situations where I’ve had to cut hooks out of a fish. However, I firmly believe that in nearly every one of those cases, cutting the hooks saved that fish’s life, or greatly reduced the physical trauma and stress it had to endure to be released. Thus, a quality pair of hook cutters should be in

every conscientious musky angler’s tool kit. They can also double as a first aid tool, should you end up with a hook in yourself and need to cut it for removal.

Jaw spreaders can be very inexpensive tools, but their utility in opening a defiant fish’s mouth to remove hooks can’t be overstated. For years, I carried a standard pair of metal, spring-loaded jaw spreaders that opened to a very wide angle and had small, sharp points of contact with the fish’s mouth, and I used them sparingly because they were cumbersome and could do serious damage to smaller fish. A new ratcheting design, the O’Pros Out Tool, has proven much more useful and gentle on fish, particularly those on the smaller side, as they give the user easy and total control over the angle of opening.

Lastly, always have a first aid kit on hand. Even with all of the aforementioned aids and precautions, it’s still possible to take hooks and teeth to the hands, and these wounds can be more than minor.

Handling Tips

Even with proper release tools, there are ways to harm fish when handling them that may result in death post-release, even if they swim off strongly. This concept is called delayed mortality, and while there are some instances of mortality in catch-and-release fishing that can’t be avoided, the rate at which it occurs can be drastically minimized by an angling population that strives to handle their catches responsibly. The vitality of all of our future fisheries depends on it, but this is particularly true in the case of a low-density, slow-growing fish like a musky.

Given the use of a large net, once a fish has been bagged, keep them submerged while you grab your release tools. Once unhooked, it’s a good idea to return them to the water inside the net while you ready a camera, so that the fish can be pulled out of the water for just a few seconds and a shutter click before being returned. Time out of water should always be minimized.

When measuring fish, make sure to wet your measuring device, as dry surfaces can damage a fish’s protective slime layer. Your hands should always be wet when handling the fish for the same reason.



PHOTO BY MATT REILLY

Minimizing time out of the water helps keep the fish healthy and safe.

There are multiple safe ways to hold a musky, but all are horizontal.

One common hold is the gill hold, in which four fingers are slid up the inside of the gill plate (not grabbing the gill rakers) and a thumb placed in the natural groove under the fish’s jaw. Pressing these fingers together in this hold, while supporting the belly with your other hand, is a strong, safe way to control a musky’s head and support its body, and results in fewer fish being dropped.

Another safe hold is a tail hold, wherein one hand grips the base of the fish’s tail and another supports the fish’s belly and head. This method is very safe for the fish but doesn’t allow you to control the fish’s head strongly if it decides to thrash. For this reason, this hold should be used over water or the net to avoid dropping the fish’s head on a hard boat deck, rocks, or the ground.

When releasing a fish, hold it in the water by the tail, head facing upstream if in a river, and allow the fish to get comfortable and begin to flare its gills and attempt to kick its body and tail. If the fish indicates that it can maintain its belly-down stability in the water and has enough strength to swim off, give it a small push and allow it to swim off.

We are very lucky to have a thriving southern musky fishery in the state of

Virginia. However, with that should come a word of warning. When our summer water temps begin to climb into the mid-70s, musky make moves to summer, cold-water refuges. Often these are spring seeps and creek mouths, and while these fish can be very visible and tempting to target, they are generally not feeding, but surviving. The warmer water becomes, the less dissolved oxygen it’s capable of holding. Dissolved oxygen is what fish pull from the water with their gills to breathe, and what they must have to combat lactic acid buildup that results from a battle with an angler. If dissolved oxygen levels are low enough to prevent recovery from this buildup, death occurs, often in the form of delayed mortality. Thus, it’s advisable to limit musky angling to water temperatures below 75 degrees.

Musky fishing is a wildly exciting, addicting, and rapidly growing sport, one that we’re incredibly fortunate to be able to enjoy in our home state. Taking steps to ensure the survival and health of the fish that we come into contact with as anglers has never been more important, and doing so will allow us to enjoy a tremendous fishery for many years to come.

Matt Reilly for the Virginia DWR

RU women’s lacrosse give back to community

The Women's Lacrosse team made a positive impact on the NRV community with their contributions during the fall and winter.

During the fall semester, the Women's Lacrosse team would contribute aid to those affected by Hurricane Helene back in September. Through their efforts, the Highlanders were able to make blankets for those in need and were able to make donations to the United Way of Southwest Virginia. They also contributed to the cleanup that started at Bisset Park and concluded at Veteran's Field, traveling 1.2 miles during their efforts, and collected much-needed items for a clothing and food drive that would be sent to local Hiwassee, Va. for the relief for those in the area affected by the hurricane.

"After the hurricane, we just showed up for our neighbors—teamwork and a little care go a long



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

The women’s lacrosse team from Radford University has given back to the local community in many ways including flood cleanup in Bisset Park and at a clothing bang in Hiwassee.

way," said Head Coach Samantha Jones when asked what inspired her to go out and help the local community at the time.

However, the contributions from the Women's lacrosse team didn't end there, as for MLK Day of Service on Jan. 20, the Highlanders would once more go out to the community and volunteer their time at Feeding Southwest Virginia an organization known to help address food insecurity in the area. The women's lacrosse

team would lend a hand in organizing, cleaning, and packaging donations that would be sent out to those in need.

"Being active community members and helping those in need is a big part of being a member of the Radford Women's Lacrosse program. We are fortunate to be willing able to contribute the New River Valley, our home away from home," said Jones.

Radford University Athletics

Hokie wrestlers dominate UVA

No. 10 Virginia Tech wrestling (6-2, 2-1) was down two starters, but their power was on full display last Friday night against the Virginia Cavaliers (4-4, 0-3) in Cassell Coliseum.

The Hokies won nine of ten bouts with six bonus point victories including two wins by true freshmen in front of 3,755 Hokie faithful to extend their win streak to 13 over the Cavaliers.

Bonus point party

No. 5 Eddie Ventresca got the party started with a dominant major decision in a ranked victory over No. 30 Keyveon Roller. Ventresca was all offense en route to two takedowns, an escape, and riding time point to get the 8-0 victory.

No. 19 Connor McGonagle made his second appearance in Cassell to the tune of a 10-0 major decision against another ranked opponent. McGonagle secured a crafty takedown in the first and wouldn't look back as he picked up a reversal, backpoints, and a riding time point to give the home team another bonus point victory.

No. 10 Sam Latona faced another top-20 opponent in No. 17 Dylan Cedenno at 141-pounds and it was Latona with a veteran performance. Latona was persistent with his attacks and defense on point to secure a takedown and pick up an escape and

riding time point for the 5-1 decision.

The Hitman returned to the lineup since his last match on December 19 and didn't miss a beat. No. 1 Caleb Henson was slowed down to a 6-2 lead in the first two periods before an offensive outburst in the third to pick up the 19-5 major decision.

The defending ACC champion at 184-pounds is catching fire – a 1:36 pin for yet another bonus point victory for the Hokies. No. 24 Thomas Stewart Jr. showed superb defense to offense to take his opponent from feet to back to secure the fall in the first period.

No. 14 Jimmy Mullen ended the dual in thrilling fashion with heavyweight leg defense right into a cradle for the second period fall. The redshirt freshman is continuing a strong season in the lineup with another bonus point victory.

Freshmen win dual debuts, Smith returns to lineup

Two freshmen made their dual debuts – Matt Henrich and Gage Wright – in thrilling fashion for the Hokies. Henrich was subbing in for Rafael Hipolito Jr. at 157-pounds and had to dig deep for a takedown in the last :20 seconds of the match while trailing to pick up the come from behind victory. Wright answered the call at 174-pounds and after giving up the first takedown, wouldn't look back to the tune of a 12-5 victory.

No. 8 Andy Smith also returned to the lineup in his first action since North Carolina on January 10 and was all grit in a 2-1 victory over Virginia on Friday night for the Christiansburg

native despite multiple offensive efforts.

The result gives the Hokies a point in the Commonwealth Clash, presented by Smithfield. The score for the Commonwealth Clash currently is 5.5-2.0 in favor of Virginia. For more information visit hokiesports.com/commonwealth-clash.

The Hokies return to action Feb. 7 against Stanford in Palo Alto, California. Follow Hokies Wrestling on X, Instagram, and Facebook for the latest news and updates.

Dual result

No. 10 Virginia Tech – 36, Virginia – 3
125 – No. 5 Eddie Ventresca (VT) | MAJ DEC | No. 30 Keyveon Roller (UVA), 8-0
133 – No. 19 Connor McGonagle (VT) | MAJ DEC | No. 26 Gabe Porter (UVA), 10-0
141 – No. 10 Sam Latona (VT) | DEC | No. 17 Dylan Cedenno (UVA), 5-1

149 – No. 1 Caleb Henson (VT) | MAJ DEC | No. 30 Jack Gioffre (UVA), 19-5
157 – Matt Henrich (VT) | DEC | Nick Sanko (UVA), 4-2
165 – No. 22 Nick Hamilton (UVA) | DEC | No. 29 Mac Church (VT), 4-2
174 – Gage Wright (VT) | MAJ DEC | Michael Murphy (UVA), 12-5

184 – No. 24 Thomas Stewart, Jr. (VT) | FALL | Hadyr Danals (UVA) 3-0, 1:36
197 – No. 8 Andy Smith (VT) | DEC | Ethan Weatherspoon (UVA), 2-1

285 – No. 14 Jimmy Mullen (VT) | FALL | Gabe Christenson (UVA), 4:17

Virginia Tech Athletics

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