

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

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Christiansburg

USPS 016-490

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Blacksburg Town Council approves ordinances to make way for Main Street eight-story housing development

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

B L A C K S B U R G — An ordinance to rezone a parcel of land, along with two other associated ordinances, located at 801 North Main St. in Blacksburg, for the purpose of a housing development was approved during the town council's March 11 meeting in a four-to-three vote.

Council members Susan Anderson, Jerry Ford and Lauren Collier expressed concerns over the density and height of the building as well as parking concerns, voting against the proposed housing project.

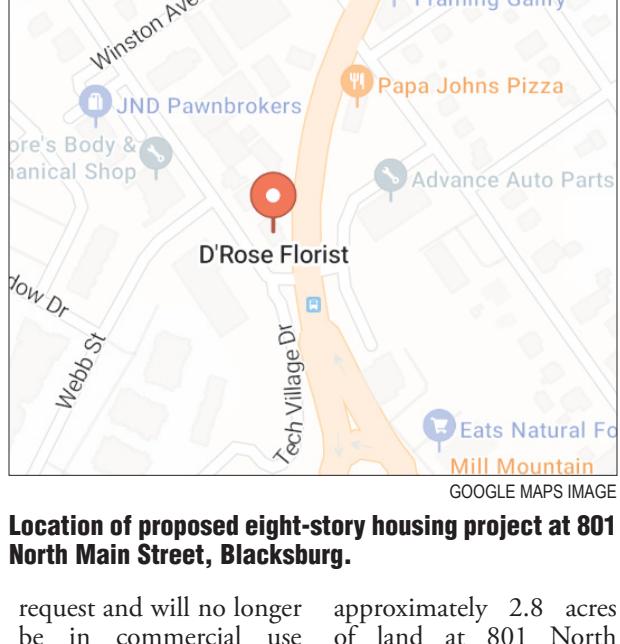
All three ordinances were presented and discussed, but voted on separately, with the rezoning of an alley way first in the presentation.

Ordinance 2063 will vacate approximately 2,000 square feet of a town-owned alley right-of-way between the 800 block of Kabrich Street and the 900 block of Progress Street NW.

A public hearing followed a staff presentation by Kinsey O'Shea with the Town of Blacksburg Planning and Building Department concerning the proposed site, which also includes three-story townhomes.

According to O'Shea, this is "an existing alley that runs parallel to Kabrich and Progress streets that exits onto Main Street at a curb cut near the Speedway gas station."

O'Shea also said that there is no current residential access to the alley; however, the connected properties are subject to the rezoning



Location of proposed eight-story housing project at 801 North Main Street, Blacksburg.

request and will no longer be in commercial use if the rezoning request is approved. The alley is separate from the Speedway gas station property.

Ordinance 2062 was approved for rezoning of

approximately 2.8 acres of land at 801 North Main Street, 800 Block of Kabrich Street, 100 Block of Winston Avenue and 900 Block of Progress Street from General

See Housing, page 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

Blacksburg Police Chief Todd Brewster

Blacksburg Police Chief Todd Brewster to retire

BLACKSBURG — Team and serving as the DMV Grant Coordinator.

Brewster was promoted to Police Services Captain in Nov. 2020, where he was responsible for the criminal investigations unit, accreditation, community outreach, recruiting and hiring and the training unit. In July of 2022, he was appointed to his current position as Chief of Police. In 2023, Governor Glenn Youngkin appointed Brewster to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management 9-1-1 Services Board. In addition to serving on the 9-1-1 Services Board, he is also chairman of the PSAP Grant Committee.

Brewster, a graduate of Radford University, began his career with the Town of Blacksburg as a volunteer with the Blacksburg Fire Department in 1995. While volunteering with the fire department, Brewster was hired as a driver for Blacksburg Transit before being hired as a Communications Officer in the dispatch center for the police department in 1997. In 1999, he transitioned from dispatch into the ranks of the police department as an officer. He continued to advance in his career with the department, working as sergeant and lieutenant while supervising the Accident Reconstruction

See Chief, page 5

100+ Women Who Care donate \$10,000 to Gun Aware Project



PHOTO COURTESY OF 100+ WWC NRV

100+ Women Who Care of the NRV present \$10,200 Awarded to Gun Aware Project.

NEW RIVER VALLEY — The local chapter of 100+ Women Who Care (100+ WWC NRV) has donated \$10,200 to the member selected organization, Gun Aware Project (GAP) in Blacksburg.

The Gun Aware Project was formed in response to the murder/suicide of two Blacksburg teens in Nov. 2023 by a group that wanted to do something positive to prevent

more children and teens from dying from gun violence.

GAP is working in the New River Valley to educate people, especially parents, about the importance of gun safety and to promote awareness; and expand suicide prevention and mental health services in the New River Valley region. To date, GAP has focused on secure gun storage

by distributing free gun locks and using the BE SMART (see besmartforkids.org) to promote gun safety in homes.

Nick Fischer with GAP said "the funding from 100+WWC NRV will provide a tremendous boost to several efforts GAP is

See Donation, page 12

Annual Allegheny Spring Road Volunteer Trash Pickup Day set for April 5

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

SHAWSVILLE — The 5th annual volunteer trash pickup of Allegheny Spring Road in Shawsville will be held on April 5 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., rain or shine.

The areas for trash pickup will include Kirk Hollow Road to Jewel Drive. Supplies for this event are available at Wyatt's Country Store on Allegheny Spring Road and interested volunteers can visit the store between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. to sign in and get supplies.

In the past, volunteers have averaged about 55-65 bags of trash annually. New volunteers are welcomed and encouraged each year, and anyone can join in the fun of keeping roadsides clear of debris. Picking up trash along roadsides not only reduces flooding

issues but maintains the beauty of the Allegheny Spring region of Montgomery County.

This area of the county is home to Camp Alta Mons, an outdoor ministry of the Valley Ridge District of the United Methodist Church, according to their website at www.altamons.org. Tent and RV camping, a swimming pool, a children's summer camp, and spaces to rent for special events are all part of the Camp Alta Mons experience.

Stiles Falls can also be accessed through the Camp Alta Mons entrance and is a three-mile round trip walk with hikers experiencing a 40-foot waterfall. The natural beauty and historical relevance are even more reasons to keep the area

See Trash Pickup, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.ALTMONS.ORG

Camp Alta Mons and Stiles Falls are two of the attractions that bring many visitors to Allegheny Spring Road.

MCPS addressing disproportionality in student discipline through Student Support Services

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY CO. — Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard Bragen, Jr.'s second goal for improving learning in the division was addressed during the March 4 school board meeting.

This goal focuses on disproportionality in student discipline across the four strands of the division and steps MCPS is taking to better serve students. Director of Student Support and Intervention Willie Howard presented a plan for the Montgomery County Division to improve student discipline outcomes.

"Our goal is to reduce disciplinary disparities for economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and students with disabilities through systemic and data driven interventions," Howard said. "Tiered Intervention Specialists

See MCPS, page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, Wednesday, Mar. 19:

RCPS art show

Glencoe Mansion is pleased to announce the Radford City Public Schools Art Show, which features the artworks of students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The show is open through April 27. There is an opening reception 5:30 – 7 p.m. We encourage the community to visit and show their support for these talented Bobcats. The event is free to attend and suitable for all ages.

Thursday, Mar. 20:

MCPS art show

The Montgomery Museum of Art & History is hosting Montgomery County Public Schools for a Student Art Show. Reception for the 5 – 7 p.m. Judging for the middle and high school student show will be made by a local retired art educator and local artist. Cash prizes and acknowledgement certificates will be awarded to winning students.

Saturday, Mar. 22:

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.

Monday, Mar. 24:

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.

Tuesday, Mar. 25:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

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

Thursday, Mar. 27:

Montgomery Museum of Art & History exhibits reception

In a rich celebration of local history and art, the Montgomery Museum is hosting two exhibits: Portraits of the Blues developed in collaboration with the New River Blues Society and the traveling exhibit Shining a Light on Christiansburg Institute from Christiansburg Institute, Inc. The museum is pleased to share these two special exhibits with the community. Reception for Portraits of the Blues and Christiansburg Institute's Shining a Light traveling exhibit is Thursday, Mar. 27, 5 – 7 p.m. Food and refreshments will be served. Live Blues music will be performed during the reception.

Saturday, Mar. 29:

Warm Hearth Village Arts and Crafts Fair

Come to the Warm Hearth Village Center, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg to shop handmade items from local artists and crafters, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Huckleberry Cafe will be open until 3 p.m. serving a variety of sandwiches, baked goods, and drinks. If you would like to be vendor, contact Mardy Baker: mbaker@warmhearth.org.

Blacksburg Kids Consignment Sale

The Blacksburg Kids Consignment Sale will be held from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. Attendees will find great deals on seasonal kids clothing, shoes, toys, books, baby gear, sports equipment, maternity clothing, and more. Many items are like-new (some even brand-new), and some items will be half-price between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.; shop early for the best selection! Cash or check only. There is still space for consignors. Please email bumckidsale@aol.com for more information. Consignors retain 80% of the proceeds from the sale of their items and can shop pre-sale before it opens to the public.

Red Cross blood drive

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 E. Main St., Christiansburg, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Appointments: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>.

Saturday, April 5:

Spring Leaf Mulch Giveaway

Leaf mulch is available for pick up at Glade Road Growing, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive, for composting. This is an important service as composted leaf mulch keeps leaves out of landfills. Leaves can take up valuable landfill space and produce harmful greenhouse gases. To arrange pickup, residents must register and follow these guidelines: Register for a 30-minute time slot. Time slots are in 30-minute intervals starting at 8 a.m. Limit two cubic yards per truck or trailer. The town will load your truck or trailer. Notice: The process of loading leaves may cause scratches or dents to your truck or trailer as well as possible suspension damage due to the weight. By participating in this program, you assume the risk inherent with loading leaves in your truck or trailer. No dogs are permitted outside of their owner's vehicle during the event for the safety of the farm's livestock.

Cherokee War of 1776 event

This free public event at Historic Smithfield in Blacksburg will bring together Cherokee people and a descendant of the 6,000-man militia army that invaded the Cherokee lands in 1776 in reprisal for a Cherokee effort to take back what they saw as their lands in what is now east Tennessee, Western North and South Carolina and Kentucky from Southern backcountry settlers. Includes a forum between descendants on the legacy of the war, living history recreations of those on both sides of the conflict, historic trade demonstrations, and a dramatization of the Avery Treaty of 1777 that ended the war at the Long Island of the Holston (present day Kingsport, Tenn.). The event will be held at the actual 1776 house (still in its original location after nearly 250 years) of the Virginia commander of the militia at the Long Island treaty Colonel William Preston, where his deputy and fellow commissioner to the Long Island Treaty William Christian organized the Virginia wing of the offensive against the Cherokee. Everyone is invited and the event is free to the public, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 12:

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/MtTaborRuSritan>.

On-going:

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.

Clear scenery, complex gym shots win photo contests



Photo by Jennifer Allison Franklin



Photo by Christian Marsh

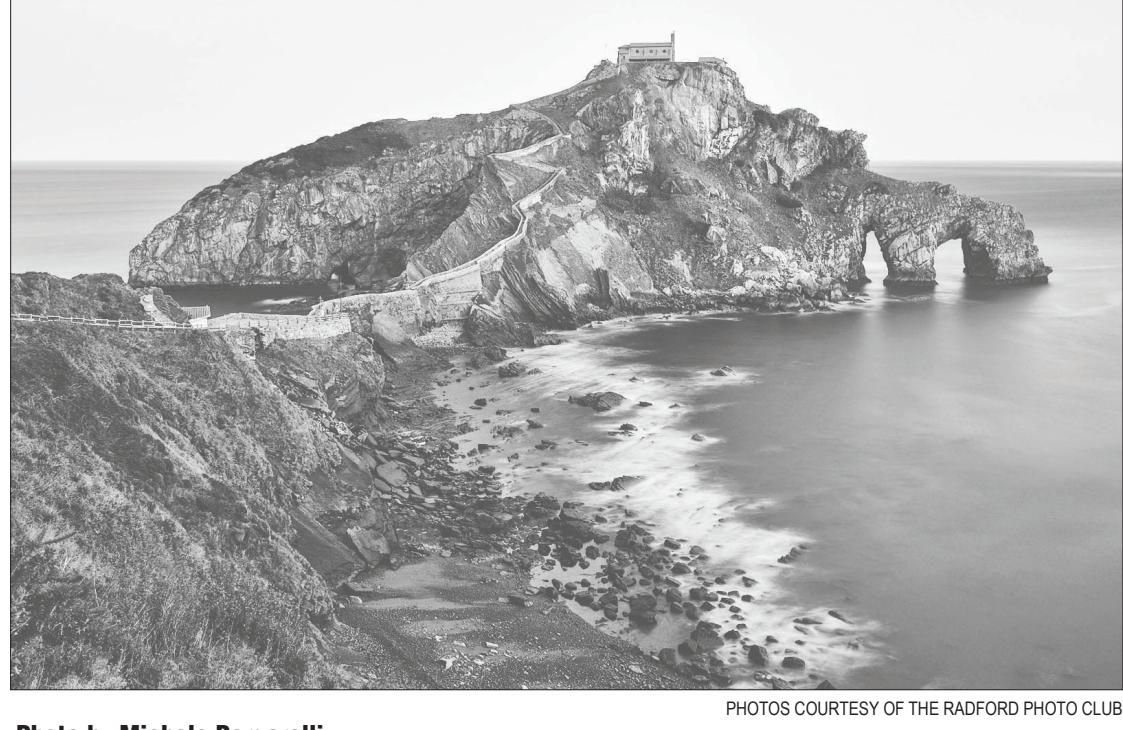


Photo by Michele Borgarelli

RADFORD - Two hermitage houses votive offerings from sailors who survived shipwrecks. This location was used for filming scenes for season seven of Game of Thrones. This image was taken early in the morning, a time of the day I particularly love because you can enjoy places like this alone and because the light is soft. This is one of the aspects that gives me joy with photography."

Marsh explains that the photo is not particularly about focusing through a lens, although that's involved, but more of the process of being focused and in turn then achieving focus - "being in that deep photographic mindset that brings you to the Zen state of creativity allowing you to create what lives in your mind's eye. The photo was taken with a Nikon Nikkor 200mm f4 @f4, using room light and one multi fixture softbox through a device I designed and built to achieve the result. The image is a single exposure and no photoshop was involved, only converted to black and white."

Borgarelli explains, "Gaztelugatxe is an islet on the coast of Basque Coast, in Spain. It is connected to the mainland by a man-made bridge. On top of the island stands the hermitage Gaztelugatxe Doniene in Basque or San Juan de Gaztelugatxe in Spanish that might date back to the 10th century. The

Radford Photo Club

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RADFORD PHOTO CLUB

OBITUARIES

Long, Mary Ann



Mary Ann Long, 67, a beloved daughter, mother, grandmother, sister and friend went to her heavenly home with Jesus Friday, Mar. 7, 2025.

Mary Ann was preceded in death by her father, Charles Monroe King, Sr.; uncle, Danny "Muscles" King; brother-in-law, Rocky Walls; maternal grandparents, Thomas and Hazel Vaughan; paternal grandparents, Frances Duncan King and Hugh Watkins; and her maternal great-grandparents, Martha Elizabeth and Charlie Rorrer.

She is survived by her mother, Elizabeth King; her children, Janet Frost (Matthew), Wendy Anderson (Drake), Donnie Kidd (Crystal), Christy Epperley (Casey), Jamie Long (Angela), and Courtney Long; her grandchildren, Chelsey Hancock (Jon), Ashley Frost, Dylan Kidd (Neileen), Alexis Frost (Cody), Taylor Dinger, Zach Kidd, Brittany Goad (Grant), Kameron Boerstler (Jenna), Charli Long, Gabe Long and Sadie Long; her extended bonus grandchildren, Lindsay Henderson (Colton); her great-grandchildren, Gavin, Kahlia, Kyhree, Kehmila, Kohana, Kyhros, Adalynn, Raelyn, and Colt; her extended bonus great-grandchildren, Nori and Joel; her sisters, Janet Wyatt (Alfred), Kathy King, and Susan Lane (David); her brothers, Charlie King (Brenda) and Timmy King (April); and many other relatives and friends who loved her dearly.

If you knew Mary Ann, you experienced the warmth of her love. Whether it was her beautiful smile, her gentleness, her thoughtfulness, a listening ear, sharing God's love and wisdom, enjoying her home cooked meals and baked

goods made with love, or simply having a cup of coffee in her presence. Growing up, she loved to help her mother care for her younger siblings and would ask "Momma, can I have babies when I grow up?" Her mother would reply "Yes, you can have all the babies you want" and she did just that having six beautiful children and giving her mother six beautiful grandchildren. She created a beautiful legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.

She loved to decorate her home for the holidays and have all her family gathered for meals, games, and laughter. She loved to spoil her grandchildren that she held dear to her heart that called her "MawMaw." She always had a sweet treat and craft waiting on them when they came to her home. She had a love for cooking and that began early in her childhood years helping her mother make biscuits. She spoke of her fondest childhood memories; one being helping her father in the garden and picking berries on his shoulders. Mary Ann enjoyed the simplicities of life and being able to share them with those she loved the most. She enjoyed camping and trips to Tennessee with her family as well as traveling to South Carolina to visit her family there. There were many trips she was able to take with her family recently before her passing that brought her so much joy.

The family received friends Thursday, Mar. 13, 2025, at New Hope Church in Pulaski. Funeral services followed with Dr. Joann Menefee officiating. Burial followed in Thornspring Cemetery in Pulaski.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Emerson Rose Heart Foundation at <https://emersonroseheartfoundation.org/donate/>.

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

A graveside service with full military honors was held on Monday, March 17, 2025, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery with Pastor Leon Alley officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Sonny's honor to the Children's Miracle Network.

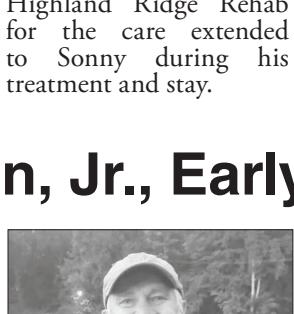
"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

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

brother-in-law, Earl Poff.

Special thanks to Lewis Gale Cancer Center and Highland Ridge Rehab for the care extended to Sonny during his treatment and stay.

Moser, Melville "Sonny"



"Our loss is Heaven's gain."

Melville "Sonny" Moser, 78, of Radford, passed away Friday, Mar. 14, 2025. He is survived by a son, Arron Moser; brother, Roger Moser; sister Gail Poff; grandchildren, Sierra, Brandon, Jaelyn, Serenity, and Levi; and many nephews, nieces and friends including, Cynthia Moser.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Peyton and Dorothy Vaught Moser; brother, Richard Moser and

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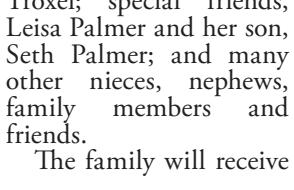
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Duncan, Jr., Early Bryant



Early Bryant Duncan, Jr., 67, passed away Tuesday, Mar. 11, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Early Bryant and Ardella Boyd Duncan; his loving wife, Barbara Knepper Duncan; brother, Bobby Lee Duncan; and his sister, Sara Mae Troxel.

Survivors include his sister, Brenda Lee Correll; brother-in-law, Douglas Martin; nephews, Perry Martin (Christina), David Martin (Kala), Jeremiah Correll, Matthew Correll, Bryton Sayers and Peyton Sowers; nieces, Rachael Campbell and Cynthia

Troxel; special friends, Leisa Palmer and her son, Seth Palmer; and many other nieces, nephews, family members and friends.

The family will receive

friends from 2 until 3 p.m. Sunday, March 23, 2025, at the Fairlawn Presbyterian Church in Fairlawn. Memorial services will begin at 3 p.m. with Rev. Allison Unroe and Pastor Stuart Davis officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Giles County Christian Mission, 516 Wenonah Avenue, Pearisburg, VA, 24134.

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

Duncan, William Lee



William Lee Duncan, 77, of Radford, passed away Tuesday, Mar. 11, 2025. He was a U. S. Army veteran and worked in the textile industry for over 32 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Eddie and Gracie Lee Duncan; sister, Margaret Duncan; and brothers, Edward and Bobby Duncan.

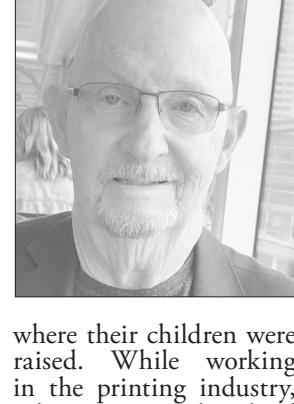
Survivors include his wife, Doris T. Duncan; children, John J. Duncan (Cindy), William J. Duncan (Jeanna), Gracie

Jennings; sister, Patricia Cox (Sherman); and many other relatives and friends.

The family receive friends Friday, Mar. 14, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services with full military honors followed in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Absalom, III, John Howard



John Howard Absalom, III, 83, of Christiansburg, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Howard Absalom, II, and Ann Tully Rigaud (Charles); spouse, Karen Lee Absalom; son, Michael Dean Rotsel; sister, Mary Elizabeth Absalom Tuck; and brother, Howard David Absalom.

Mary Ann worked as a caregiver to individuals with special needs at NRVCS and Encircle Family Services for many years, she enjoyed making others' lives better and helping anyone she could. Mary Ann was a member of Crandon Pentecostal Church in Bland, Va. for many years, where she was loved by many of whom also called her mom.

The greatest gift she gave on her journey in life was love. She was a beautiful soul, inside and out and precious in the sight of God. Everyone who knew her loved, adored, and cherished her. Mary Ann was always a friend to anyone and wanted all to feel welcome no matter what. She was one of a kind. She showed such great strength throughout her battle with cancer, and she always put her faith and trust in God. Though we are deeply saddened by the loss of Mary Ann, we know that we will see her again one day.

The family received friends Thursday, Mar. 13, 2025, at New Hope Church in Pulaski. Funeral services followed with Dr. Joann Menefee officiating. Burial followed in Thornspring Cemetery in Pulaski.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Emerson Rose Heart Foundation at <https://emersonroseheartfoundation.org/donate/>.

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

A graveside service with full military honors was held on Monday, March 17, 2025, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery with Pastor Leon Alley officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Sonny's honor to the Children's Miracle Network.

"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

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

brother-in-law, Earl Poff.

Special thanks to Lewis Gale Cancer Center and Highland Ridge Rehab for the care extended to Sonny during his treatment and stay.

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OPINION

Government restrictions protect the herd

Puzzling to some when reading about the measles epidemic sweeping through the country may be the use of "herd immunity" as justification for requiring immunizations. This term that used to be found mainly in epidemiology textbooks now has managed to enter common usage. Perhaps it needs a little more explanation.

To provide context, let's first consider how one role of government is to protect its people. Many readers will agree that people should be left alone to do whatever they want, unless it hurts other people. Yet, few would argue that government has a role in protecting people from the actions of others. Easy examples are on the highway. I may want to drive my new Corvette (certainly a hypothetical example) 100 mph on a country road, but the government does not allow that. It's too dangerous to others. Same thing with drunk driving – it may be a major inconvenience to me to not be able to drive home after an evening at a local bar, but government doesn't allow it – too dangerous to others. To pick another context – a restaurant may have limited refrigerator space and want to leave its food out on a counter overnight before reheating it the next day. Same idea – the government (in this example the local health department) doesn't allow it as it could hurt others.

Gary Silverman

Columnist

Now let's turn to the schools – they have requirements that kids are vaccinated. Why not leave it up to their parents to decide? One reason is simple – it's to protect others. Receiving the recommended two doses of the measles vaccine is about 97% effective in preventing measles. This means that in a school of 100 children, if all were vaccinated, about three of them would still be at risk if someone with measles enters the school. Let's imagine that a plumber with measles (but with few symptoms yet) comes in the school to fix a water fountain – the risk of those three children passing by while the plumber is at work is relatively low. And if one of those three happens to pass by and contracts measles, the risk of that child passing by either of the other two kids is pretty small. Now let's say that only about 75 of

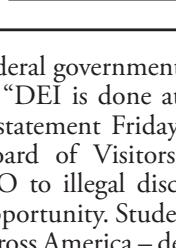
the kids in that school are vaccinated. That would leave 25 - 27 kids at risk of getting measles. The likelihood of one of those children passing by the infectious plumber would be relatively high. If one of those kids did get measles, then about every four classmates that each interacted with could get measles! The outbreak would most likely be widespread.

The "herd" here is the population of kids at potential risk. If any child is not vaccinated, that adds to the likelihood of getting measles and passing it on – even to the kids who were vaccinated but are part of the unlucky few who were vaccinated but are still unprotected. So – deciding not to get the vaccine puts the child at risk plus all other children in that "herd." And, of course, not getting the vaccine greatly increases the risk of that child getting a serious illness (as physicians and disease scientists overwhelmingly agree) – denying it is sort of like saying that driving 100 mph is safer because it gets you off the road quicker. I guess there is a kernel of truth in that – but it's simply not a reasonable argument. We know that the key to preventing measles outbreaks is to keep the unprotected part of the herd extremely small – as not being vaccinated not only puts the individual child at risk but classmates as well. Not very different from having speed limits.

Delegate lauds the end of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies at UVa, VMI

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies are on their way out at two of Virginia's major universities. Last week, the University of Virginia Board of Visitors voted to end all DEI programs at the school, while their counterparts at the Virginia Military Institute declined to renew the contract of a superintendent hired to bring DEI into the school.

On Mar. 7, the University of Virginia Board of Visitors voted to dissolve and discontinue the school's DEI program and departments. The school spent somewhere between \$6 million and \$20 million each year on such programs. The move brings UVA into compliance with federal law, which bans discrimination on the basis of race, sex, or religion. President Donald Trump has issued a number of Executive Orders designed to bring about similar results throughout the



Delegate
Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

federal government.

"DEI is done at UVA," Governor Youngkin said in a statement Friday. "Today, the University of Virginia Board of Visitors voted for common sense, saying NO to illegal discrimination and YES to merit-based opportunity. Students at Mr. Jefferson's University – and across America – deserve unlimited intellectual freedom, not ideological gatekeeping."

DEI is also at the heart of the fight at the Virginia Military Institute, where the sitting superintendent's contract was not renewed. The conflict began not long after former Governor Northam's yearbook picture scandal, when Northam acted beyond his authority to fire the sitting superintendent. Members of the Board

of Visitors appointed by Northam then appointed the current (and soon to be former) superintendent with an eye toward implementing DEI policies throughout the school. Now, the board is under the control of Youngkin appointees and has decided to reverse course.

The bottom line is this: Virginia's universities should aspire to excellence-driven, merit-based success. The actions recently taken at UVA and VMI ensure that will be the case, and I hope other institutions of higher learning will soon follow suit. The playing field should be even for all, and programs that have a singular focus on the color of your skin, who you marry, or other predetermined criteria versus what you can contribute to a school, business, or our broader economy should be critically examined. I am happy to see this starting to take place in the Commonwealth.

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 DelBallard@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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

doing it.

As I walked along the signs and talked to the people, I could tell as a whole they were displeased that Morgan Griffith says nothing, does nothing, just there for the paycheck.

They had little to say about tariffs, or Ukraine (one lady did have a Ukraine flag and I wore a yellow sweater).

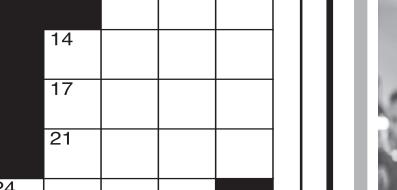
What concerned them most was the power that Elon Musk has in the Trump administration: potential reduction in Medicare, Social Security, and education. They were also frightened at the

possibility of losing the privilege of being able to express their opinion on matters and on events that are happening in this country.

They handled the rally in a professional manner as cars drove by. Many cars honked, showing their approval and saying thanks for stepping forward.

The rally went from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At one, everyone collected their signs and went home, knowing they had helped keep the American dream alive.

Steve Huppert
Christiansburg



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS
1. One who regrets
5. Time zone
8. Subway dweller
11. Bend in a river
13. Alias
14. Isodor ___, American Nobel physicist
15. Very (music)
16. Zero
17. Phil ___, former CIA
18. Competitions
20. Unwell
21. Puts in place
22. Gets rid of
25. Allows light to pass through
30. Climbed quickly
31. We all have it
32. There's a North & South
33. Emaciations
38. Supervises flying

CLUES DOWN
1. "Et ___. "And wife" (Latin)
2. Computer memory
3. Ancient Syrian city
4. College army
5. Unwanted
6. Grants
7. Three visited Jesus
8. Wife of Amun
9. Broadway actress Daisy
10. A Spanish river
11. I (German)
12. French opera composer
13. Six (Spanish)
14. Last letter
15. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
16. A curved shape
17. Make a mistake
18. Tall plant
19. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
20. Midway between north and northeast
21. Where birds fly
22. Midway between north and northeast
23. Good friend
24. Stationary portion of a generator
25. Expression of disappointment
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Where birds fly
28. Midway between north and northeast
29. Chaotic states



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Lazenby selected as Blacksburg Chief Financial Officer

Jeff Lazenby has joined the Town of Blacksburg as Chief Financial Officer/Director of Financial Services.

Lazenby comes to Blacksburg from the City of Marble Falls, Texas, where he held the position of Finance Director since 2021, following his service as Finance Director for the City of Blaine, Washington for 12 years.

Lazenby holds a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Vanguard University, and a master's degree in public administration and finance from California State University, Fullerton. He also holds a master's degree in governmental accounting from Rutgers University.

For 20 years, Lazenby has specialized in local government finance, preparing and monitoring governmental operating and capital budgets, managing annual financial reports and leading finance staff. He's an astute leader in the areas of research, trend analysis, software implementation, risk management, intergovernmental relations, and contract compliance.

"I am honored to join the Town of Blacksburg and contribute to the Town's mission," said Lazenby. "I look forward to working alongside such a talented and dedicated

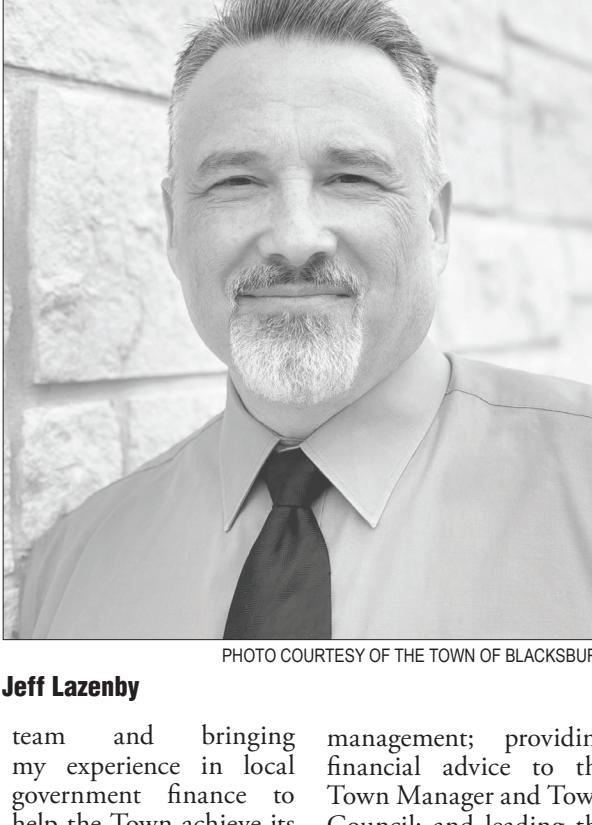


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

Jeff Lazenby

team and bringing my experience in local government finance to help the Town achieve its strategic goals.

As the Chief Financial Officer/Director of Financial Services, Lazenby will be responsible for establishing and maintaining sound fiscal policies for the Town of Blacksburg; producing and monitoring the town's Capital Improvement Plan and Annual Operating Budget; preparing the town's Comprehensive Annual Finance Statement; managing the annual audit; cash management, investments, and debt

management; providing financial advice to the Town Manager and Town Council; and leading the day-to-day operations of the Financial Services Department.

"We are excited to welcome Jeff to our team," said Town Manager Marc Vernal. "He brings with him a breadth of experience and demonstrated leadership ability in governmental finance that will allow the Town to continue the financial excellence it is known for. Jeff will be a great fit for the Town organization and the Blacksburg community."

Town of Blacksburg

Montgomery Museum hosts

Montgomery County middle and high school student art show

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Montgomery Museum of Art & History is hosting Montgomery County Public Schools for a Student Art Show.

This is the second year the Museum has hosted art from the majority of Montgomery County's public schools, with the student art shows being highly attended and much beloved by the community. This show offers a combined vision of student art across the county and has been specially curated by middle and high school art teachers.

The museum strives to serve all members of the community and by exhibiting student art the museum encourages youth to embrace their creativity and artistic skills.

"What I love about this show is the opportunity to celebrate our student artists in a setting that values the arts," says Christiansburg High School art educator Carrie Lyons. "We are able to share their

work with our community in a way that builds student confidence and encourages them to continue creating."

Art students from Auburn Middle School, Blacksburg Middle School, Christiansburg Middle, Shawsville Middle School, Auburn High School, Blacksburg High School, Christiansburg High School, Eastern Montgomery High School and Montgomery Central will be participating in the show which will run through Mar. 28.

The reception for the show will be held Thursday, Mar. 20, 5-7 p.m. Judging for the middle and high school student show will be made by a local retired art educator and local artist. Cash prizes and acknowledgement certificates will be awarded to winning students.

Montgomery Museum of Art & History

Trash Pickup

from page 1

Volunteer Trash Pick-Up

Saturday April 5 8AM - 1PM

PICK-UP SUPPLIES AT

WYATT'S COUNTRY STORE

PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLY RAKES

Wyatt's Country Store on Allegheny Spring Road will be the registration site for the 5th Annual Volunteer Trash Pickup Day.

clean, and residents of the community are asking for help.

Organizer Billy Rakes started the event five years ago with the goal of giving back to his community. Many residents living on the roads of Allegheny Spring and in the Shawsdale area come out to contribute, Rakes said.

"We hope to see you on April 5th as we clean up our roadsides," Rakes said. "If everyone does a little, we can accomplish a lot. Please share this."

Any questions can be directed to Billy Rakes by email at bhrakes2058@gmail.com.

Director

from page 3

a positive impact within the community, fostering meaningful connections, and contributing to the success and well-being of those around her.

"I'm truly excited to be a part of such a vibrant and welcoming community. My goal is to continue to elevate our organization forward and enhance the lives of those we serve. Together, we can build on the strong foundation of care, connection, and support that defines our community."

Bell resides in Jefferson National Forest, where she says the peacefulness of nature serves as a constant source of inspiration. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Bell has always had a deep appreciation for the serene landscapes that define the region. Outside her professional life, Bell has a passion for reading, journaling, and using storytelling to create meaningful messages. She enjoys exploring her creativity through various activities, including home décor design,

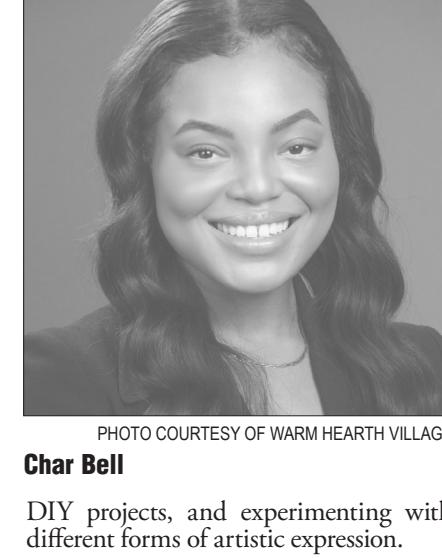


PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

Char Bell

DIY projects, and experimenting with different forms of artistic expression.

Warm Hearth Village

MCPS

from page 1

and resources for educational staff and parents, and providing ongoing training for learning teams are just some of the initiatives the Student Support team plans to implement and/or continue.

Bragen responded to Board Member Laura Purcell's inquiry about the plan's mention to address policies currently in place, and how the board can help. One policy that will be reviewed is Student Code of Conduct, which was put on pause while awaiting the finalizing of a hate speech policy.

Board Member Jamie Bond said that any changes with the Student Code of Conduct should be parallel with action to be sure there is an understanding of the code itself.

"When we have students cursing our teachers and staff, it is unacceptable, and we have got to get control," Bond said. "I'm a true believer and that is my kind of new outlook, because I understand there's difficulties in all lives, all walks past, but that is not acceptable, and we have got to stop it somehow."

Board Member Dana Partin echoed Bond's beliefs in holding students accountable for their actions.

"I'm old-fashioned on discipline, and some people like that and some people don't, but I'm all about holding people accountable no matter who they are or what's going on," Partin said.

A clear method of communication concerning the policy for student behavior and being proactive with behavior management assessments and plans are areas that Howard would like to see improved.

"When children are actively engaged in their classroom and activities that

they believe are meaningful to them and they're benefiting from, they typically don't misbehave," Bragen, Jr. said. "So, when do children misbehave? When they don't feel they're part of the community. When they don't feel their needs are being met. They don't feel that what's being done in the class is meaningful to them."

More information about the Student Support initiatives and services offered can be found on the www.mcps.org website.

Additionally on the agenda, the Montgomery County School Board did not approve a draft of the 2025-2026 school calendar that added Mar. 30 and 31 as instructional days, in a three-to-four vote. Board members discussed the importance of having 182 instructional days while still considering any hardships parents would experience that would result from having to pay for daycare due to additional days out of school.

"I 100% wish we had more easy to access, affordable, wrap-around care," Board Vice-Chair Laura Purcell said. "That's a whole other problem, and that's not you know, that doesn't make our break, a spring break, that people really support."

Board Member Penny Franklin said that adding back Mar. 22 and 23 as days off and the extra teacher workdays at the beginning of the semester in January are important to keep in the calendar. However, she felt that there is too much time off in the spring that parents will have to seek out daycare for their children.

Chief

from page 1

Lifesaving Award, is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, a member of the FBI National Academy Associates; a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police; and serves as the Vice-President for the Blue Ridge Association of Chiefs of Police. He is originally from Tazewell, Va.

As a new Chief, Brewster led the department as it transitioned out of the COVID pandemic. Brewster had many accomplishments during this time, but the one he's most proud of is the implementation and development of the Crime Analyst Program. This program not only operates for the Blacksburg Police Department but regionally assists other agencies with tracking crime trends across Southwest Virginia. The program has become so successful that it has been recognized by the FBI National Academy and other organizations throughout the country.

"I moved to Blacksburg in 1994 to attend Radford University and fell in love with the area," said Brewster. "I came from a small town and Blacksburg had everything I was looking for. I have served the citizens of this town for over 30 years, and I have enjoyed

every second of it. There have been challenging times, but through it all, I have felt such support from the Town of Blacksburg and our community. To the town council, Town Manager Marc Vernal, and the citizens of Blacksburg, I want to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this community."

In retirement, Brewster says he looks forward to spending more time with his wife and son, and their relatives in Tazewell.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my career in Blacksburg, but time goes by quickly," said Brewster. "I've been away from my family for the past 30 years and I look forward to making up for lost time."

"I want to thank Chief Brewster for his more than 30 years of dedicated service to the Town of Blacksburg and its citizens," said Vernal. "His love for this community is evident in every interaction he has. It has been an honor to work alongside him as both a colleague and a friend. I wish Todd and his family all the best as they begin this new chapter in retirement."

The recruitment process for the next Blacksburg Chief of Police is underway.

Town of Blacksburg

Quilt Show & Vendor Sale

Friday, March 28

9am - 5pm

Saturday, March 29

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Char Bell

DIY projects, and experimenting with different forms of artistic expression.

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Char Bell

DIY projects, and experimenting with different forms of artistic expression.

Warm

“Just One Can” drive underway

JUST ONE CAN FOOD DRIVE

30,000 GOAL

MARCH 16 - MARCH 30

LOOK FOR OUR COLLECTION POINTS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BLACKSBURG INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

The Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is hoping to fill its shelves through a food drive, currently underway.

The Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is currently holding a food drive, seeing an unprecedented number of customers in need of its services.

The average number of families visiting the food pantry has increased 98% since 2022. We serve approximately 375 families a month representing over 1150 individuals. To fill our shelves, the pantry is holding a canned food drive March 16 - 30. We are asking the public to drop off cans of food at collections points throughout the town or in the bins at the Food Pantry located at 706

Harding Avenue. Our goal is 30,000 cans. With your help, we can reach our goal.

Serving residents of the greater Blacksburg area and McCoy, the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is a joint ministry of over 25 faith-based communities. We have been serving the greater Blacksburg area for over 37 years. We are also supported by individuals, organizations, and clubs in the surrounding community.

The Pantry offers basic food supplies, once a month, to low-income greater Blacksburg and McCoy residents or those in emergency situations,

including homeless individuals and families. While the majority of the Pantry's clients work or are retired, minimum wage jobs or social security payments do not always enable recipients to feed their families.

The Pantry is an all-volunteer organization and depends solely on contributions from the community to serve our customers. Food and monetary donations come from local churches, civic clubs, schools, businesses, Virginia Tech organizations, and various food drives (including the annual US Postal Drive). We also receive donations from local businesses. In season, fresh vegetables are donated by local residents, and the NRV Glean team.

Blackburg Interfaith Food Pantry

THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is developing its 2025-26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP provides an annual schedule of activities, lists planning tasks and studies, and identifies funding sources. A draft plan is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Montgomery and Pulaski County offices. It is also available on the MPO website:

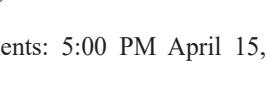
www.newrivervalleympo.org

Deadline for written comments: 5:00 PM April 15, 2025

Oral comments will also be taken at the MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM on May 1, 2025 at the Montgomery County Government Center.

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

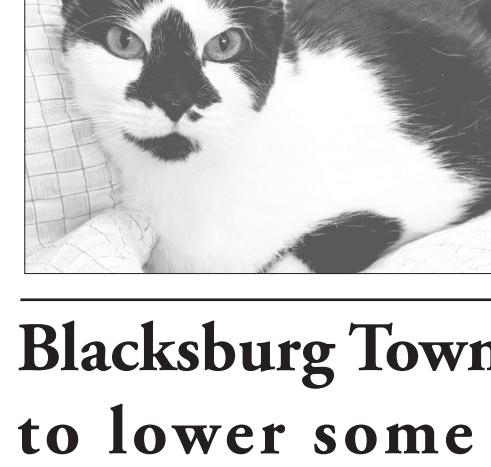
The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: brughid@montgomerycountyva.gov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



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.

Handsome Jack has never met a stranger! He's an energetic younger dog who loves meeting people and other dogs. He enjoys playtime and also walks well on a leash. Jack knows a few commands and will gladly give you his full attention when a treat is involved.



Sweet Max is a shy gal. Her future people will need to give her time to adapt to new surroundings. Once comfortable, she comes out of her shell. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her. She could be your purrfect match!

Blacksburg Town Council votes to lower some speed limits



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.LETSTALKBLACKSBURG.COM

Changes in speed limits are coming for some business and residential areas in Blacksburg.

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

B L A C K S B U R G - Blacksburg Town Council voted 7-0 in approval of a speed limit initiative on March 11, 2025, that will lower some town speed limits from 25 to 20 miles per hour.

A select few other areas will be reduced to 15 mph. Information posted on www.letstalkblackburg.org provides a timeline of possible implementation by late spring 2025.

In 2021, the Virginia Assembly passed HB1903, allowing local authorities the ability to enact changes to speed limits in business or residential districts (www.legiscan.com).

According to the bill, an increase or decrease in speed must be based on "an engineering and traffic investigation by such county, city, or town and provided such speed area or zone is clearly indicated by markers or signs."

The bill also states that the town is given authority to reduce the speed limit to under 25 mph, but not less than 15 mph.

Also, Blacksburg Town Council proclaimed March 11, 2025, as Paul Lancaster Day in honor of the namesake's contributions to the town.

Paul Lancaster, a native of New York, achieved a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Washington and Lee University. His experience in media and broadcast journalism, public affairs and communications has served him well in his contributions to the community of Blacksburg

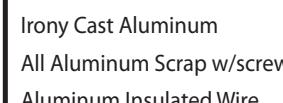
do hereby proclaim March 11th, 2025, as Paul Lancaster Day," Hager-Smith said.

Lancaster thanked the community for the honor and the ability to work with a variety of people over the years.

The Town of Blacksburg has also issued itself a conditional use permit that will allow for improved lighting at the recreation park located at 2100 Toms Creek Rd. Council members voted unanimously in support of the Resolution 3-F-25. The park has a shelter with picnic tables, a softball field, and a dog park. The change in lighting will provide for a safer environment for participants on the field with minimal impact or change to the neighborhood.

Additionally, council members voted 7-0 in support of Ordinance 2068, rezoning approximately 1.59 acres from R-5 Transitional Residential to Planned Residential zoning. The proposed housing development at 402 Clay St., SE, Blacksburg, will provide a connection to the future Midtown Trail and Clay Street sidewalk, according to Planning Department Staff Matthew Sampa's presentation to the Council. The proposed construction at the site is for a three-story, 42-unit housing development with a mix of one- and two-bedroom apartments.

"Paul's devotion to this community is demonstrated by his strong civic involvement in the Town of Blacksburg. Now, therefore I, Leslie Hager-Smith, Mayor of the Town of Blacksburg, Sampa said.



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Clean Cast Aluminum	\$0.23
Irony Cast Aluminum	\$0.07
All Aluminum Scrap w/screws (ie storm doors etc)	\$0.06
Aluminum Insulated Wire	\$0.09
Brass	\$0.60
Copper (#1)	\$2.40
Copper (#2)	\$2.32
Copper Insulated Wire	\$1.04
Lead	\$0.28
Steel	\$0.01
White Goods (appliances)	\$0.01

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- All businesses, legal entities, non-profits, & corporations must report.
- Reporting is an annual requirement, not a one-time task.
- Unclaimed property includes account balances, uncashed checks, deposits, refunds, etc.

May 1st - deadline for insurance companies to file.

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STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Promote your upcoming auctions statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audience. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

STATEWIDE ADS

FARMS/FISH

Live Fish for stocking ponds! Many varieties available. Delivery to your pond. Call Zetts Fish Farm & Hatchery for information & free catalogue. 304-995-9202, Cell 304-820-6986.

STATEWIDE ADS

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

STATEWIDE ADS

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE INSPECTION!
1-877-614-6667

20% OFF
Your Entire Purchase*
+ **10% OFF**
Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!
Promo: 285

* See Representation for full warranty details. Some restrictions imposed. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR-285018025, AZ-102407, CA-105759, CT-102729, DE-102404, LA-109944, MA-176447, MD-MHIC11225, MI-262300173, 262300318, 262300320, 262300331, MN-R731804, MT-226192, ND-47304, NE-50145-22, 50145-23, NJ-13W0953900, NM-408693, NY-86990, NY-19114, H-52229, OR-218294, PA-179643, 069383, RI-41354, TN-10981, UT-10783658-5501, VA-2705169445, WA-LEAFNNW822JZ, WV-WV056194.

Be prepared before the next power outage.



**It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.**

Receive a free 5-year warranty
with qualifying purchase*
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**Call 844-947-1479
to schedule your free quote!**

GENERAC

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

LIVESTOCK SALES

G&E Virginia Premium Assured Heifer/Cow Sale. March 29th, 2025, 12:00 noon. G&E Test Center Gretna, VA. Call George Winn at 434-489-4458.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Ingen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

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Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

CITIES OF REFUGE

Read Joshua 18:1 through 20:9

Once the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, it had to be divided amongst the tribes. Joshua asked for a survey to be done, and with that information he carefully assigned each tribe their portion.

Chapter 20 addresses an interesting issue that reflects God's passion for justice. The "eye for an eye" principle was in vogue in those days, and God wanted justice for those who killed someone accidentally.

"Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood." (Joshua 20:2-3).

What a great picture of Jesus and His compassion for us. Our sins can be accidental or unintentional, but sadly we sometimes disobey on purpose. Yet in either case, Jesus invites us to come to Him, confessing our sin. He promises to forgive us and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). He provides us the ultimate refuge from our mistakes.

Prayer for Today: Lord, when my thoughts, words, or actions are not pleasing to You, I will run to You because I know You are my "city of refuge."

Quicklook: Joshua 20:1-9

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

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@st-michael-lutheran-church.org

ECKANKAR
Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love

in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540-353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

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 Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA. All are welcome. Website: www.stpaulvaume.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!"



THE FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Estate Sale

Estate Sale
Antique furniture
And other antiques
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540.353.3759

Cemetery Plots For Sale

For sale
Cemetery plots
mountain view cemetery
Vinton
evergreen memorial
2 plots side by side
beautiful location near road
and tree
good deal /best offer
540.339.9397

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DECLARE INTERMENT RIGHTS ABANDONED

Evergreen Develop Co., Inc., owners of Evergreen Burial Park declares its intention to recover the abandoned cemetery lot known as Section O, Lot #14 owned by and in the name of John W. Payne and Annie Frances Payne. If there is no response from said lot owners or their heirs of assigns within 120 days from the publication of this notice, the interment rights shall be deemed abandoned and shall revert to Evergreen Burial Park, 1307 Summit Avenue, SW

Help Wanted**Asst Professor- Real Estate Blacksburg, VA.**

Conduct high-quality research published in leading real estate & other journals consistent with an excellent real estate research program. Teach courses at undergrad & grad level. PhD in Real Estate or related field + dissertation research demonstrating potential to develop a nationally/internationally recognized research program. Full job description & apply online <https://jobs.vt.edu> or mail T. Cook, VA Tech, 880 W Campus Dr, Pamplin Hall 2010, Blacksburg, VA 24061 EOE

CNC FABRICATORS

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

Now accepting Applications for**3 MACHINE OPERATORS FOR****LASER, TURRET PUNCH AND PRESS BRAKE**

CNC Fabricators, a 25-year Roanoke based fabrication and machining company, is looking to fill the above positions.

Key qualifications for these positions include the ability to read and understand blueprints, read tape measure, and understand basic math skills to accurately measure dimensions.

MACHINE OPERATOR

The position calls for a motivated individual to run a variety of equipment including laser cutter, turret punch, press brake, and other equipment as needed. Medium to high volume orders will require paying strict attention to detail. Requirements include understanding and performing machine setups, resolving machinery issues to clear bottlenecks, and performing equipment preventive maintenance.

We're looking for problem solvers with critical thinking and analytic skills and a good work ethic. Reliable transportation needed. All candidates may be required to operate a forklift and pallet jack.

Performing timely quality checks and having safety awareness are necessary to the job.

If you have the ability to fill this role, please email a resume to info@cncfabricators.com.

CNC FABRICATORS
621 Ashlawn Street SW
Roanoke, VA 24015
540-345-2031

Help Wanted

Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren seeks a pianist to play at the 11 o'clock Sunday service. Salary negotiable. Call Pastor David Tozar, 540-580-3257 or Gary Reed, 540-537-2412.

Marketplace

ourvalley.org

The FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Estate Sale

Help Wanted
Eldor Automotive
Powertrain USA,
LLC seeks
a Customer Quality
Engineer in
Daleville, VA,
responsibilities to include
coordinate communication
related to quality with the
customer and periodic visits
on-site; Notify customer
complaints issues within the
organization and coordinate
related meetings; Visit
on-site based on customer
complaints if required;
Coordinate Failure Analysis
activities with Laboratory
for the claimed FG pieces;
Prepare work instruction
for sorting/rework activities;
Provide training for to the
sorting/rework team;
Bachelor's degree in
Industrial Engineering,
Industrial Design, or related
(foreign equivalent
acceptable), plus 3 years
experience in Job
Offered or related position.
Certification to include:
(FMEA) Failure Mode and
Effects Analysis and
Quality standards ISO 9001.
Mail resumes to Renato
Navarro Junior, Eldor
Automotive Powertrain
USA, LLC, 888 International
Parkway, Daleville VA,
24083

Legals - City of Salem
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.

Legals - Roanoke County

Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 725-4700
Fax: (540) 772-0126
E-mail: mkidd@opnlaw.com
{00342309-1}
Woltz & Associates, Inc.
Contracted Auctioneering
Company
23 Franklin Road
Roanoke, VA 24011
Phone: (540) 342-3560
Fax: (540) 342-3741
Website: www.woltz.com

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Help Wanted

Eldor Automotive Powertrain USA, LLC seeks a Customer Quality Engineer in Daleville, VA,
responsibilities to include coordinate communication related to quality with the customer and periodic visits on-site; Notify customer complaints issues within the organization and coordinate related meetings; Visit on-site based on customer complaints if required; Coordinate Failure Analysis activities with Laboratory for the claimed FG pieces; Prepare work instruction for sorting/rework activities; Provide training for to the sorting/rework team; Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering, Industrial Design, or related (foreign equivalent acceptable), plus 3 years experience in Job Offered or related position. Certification to include: (FMEA) Failure Mode and Effects Analysis and Quality standards ISO 9001. Mail resumes to Renato Navarro Junior, Eldor Automotive Powertrain USA, LLC, 888 International Parkway, Daleville VA, 24083

Legals - County of Roanoke

Roanoke, VA 24018
Phone: (540) 725-4700
Fax: (540) 772-0126
E-mail: mkidd@opnlaw.com
{00342309-1}
Woltz & Associates, Inc.
Contracted Auctioneering
Company
23 Franklin Road
Roanoke, VA 24011
Phone: (540) 342-3560
Fax: (540) 342-3741
Website: www.woltz.com

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Legals - Roanoke County

Roanoke, VA 24018
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BUSINESS SERVICE DIRECTORY



Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA
 Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356
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www.southerntracellc.com



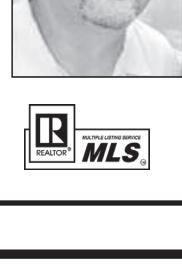
EADES & LOWER INSURANCE
 5007 Carriage Dr., Suite 100
 P.O. Box 21483
 Roanoke, VA 24018



SHERRI STINNETTE HOLT
 INSURANCE AGENT

Cell (540)819-9179 • Office (540)981-1124
 Fax (540) 981-1266
sherri@eadesandlower.com
www.eadesandlower.com

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**Rory "Tater" Benson,
 REALTOR®**

540.353.7173 cell
 540.989.4555 office
tbenson@mkbrealtors.com



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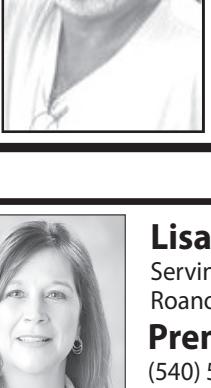
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 communities with all your real estate needs
 for residential, commercial, construction with
 MLA services, Assist with 1031 Real Estate
 Exchanges, Purchases, Refinances and More!!!!**

**Call Loretta, Debbie or Kristi
 for your next move!**

**540-966-1260
 1215 Roanoke Road, Daleville**

**Legals -
 Montgomery County**

**Notice is hereby
 given that the
 Planning
 Commission of the
 Town of
 Blacksburg**
 will conduct the following
 public hearings on Tuesday,
 April 1, 2025, during its
 meeting beginning at 6:30
 PM in the Roger E.
 Hedgepeth Council
 Chamber, 300 South Main
 St, Blacksburg, VA on the
 following item:

PLAT-24-16-Farmingdale
 Major Subdivision-
 Preliminary Plat submission
 at 210 Farmingdale Lane by
 Foresight Design Services
 (applicant) for Jim Lucas
 and Charles and Virginia
 Shaver (owners).
 Proposed 20-lot single
 family residential
 subdivision. Request
 includes the construction of
 a new public street off
 Farmingdale Lane with
 sidewalks on one side;
 construction of
 approximately 800 feet of
 asphalt trail within an
 existing trail easement and
 new public water service for
 the subdivision.

The applicant has
 requested a variance to
 Section 5-303 to not
 construct a street to the
 adjoining property; variance
 to Section 5-310(a) to
 permit a T-turnaround
 instead of a bulb cul-de-sac
 and variance to Section 5-
 500 to not construct trail to
 the adjoining property.
 The Future Land Use
 designation is Very Low
 Density
 Residential/Agricultural.

RZN-25-1/ORD #2075-
 Catalyst Blacksburg PRD
 rezoning request at 3503
 Holiday Lane by Balzer and
 Associates (applicant) for
 Greystone Companies
 (owner).
 Rezoning request for
 property at 3503 Holiday
 Lane from existing General
 (GC) to
 Planned Residential (PR) to
 construct four (4) multifamily

**Legals -
 Montgomery County**

buildings for up to 300 units
 and up to 380 bedrooms (45
 units/acre or 56
 bedrooms/acre.) Buildings
 will be a mix of studio, one-
 bedroom and two-bedroom
 units. There will be one
 entrance to the site from
 Yellow Sulphur Road.
 The applicant has
 requested an exception to
 Section 4216 (a)(3) of the
 Use and Design standards
 requiring the street
 elevation of the residential
 buildings have at least one
 (1) street-oriented entrance
 containing the principal
 windows of the front unit.
 The Future Land Use
 designation in the
 Comprehensive Plan for this
 property is Commercial.

Persons affected by or
 interested in the major
 subdivision preliminary plat
 submission and/or rezoning
 request may appear and
 present their views. After
 the hearing, the Planning
 Commission may take
 action. Copies of the
 applications, staff report and
 all related items may be
 found online at
www.blacksburg.gov/public
 hearings or reviewed in
 person at the Blacksburg
 Planning and Building
 Department, 400 South
 Main Street, Blacksburg,
 Virginia. You may also call
 the office at (540) 443-1300
 for more information.

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

**TOWN OF
 BLACKSBURG -
 NOTICE OF
 PUBLIC HEARINGS**

BLACKSBURG TOWN
 COUNCIL will hold public
 hearings on Tuesday, April
 8, 2025 beginning at 6:30
 p.m. in the Roger E.
 Hedgepeth in the Blacksburg
 Municipal

**Legals -
 Montgomery County**

Building, 300 South Main
 Street, Blacksburg,
 regarding the following
 items:
 Ordinance 2061(A): An
 Ordinance to Repeal
 Existing Town Code
 Sections 10-100 Through
 10-213 Pertaining to
 Erosion and Sediment
 Control Regulations as Part
 of Adopting a New
 Consolidated Erosion and
 Stormwater Management
 Ordinance.
 Ordinance 2061(B): An
 Ordinance to Repeal
 Existing Town Code
 Sections 18-600 through
 18-629 Pertaining to
 Stormwater Management
 Regulations as Part of
 Adopting a New
 Consolidated Erosion and
 Stormwater Management
 Ordinance.

Ordinance 2061(C): An
 Ordinance to Amend the
 Town Code by Incorporating
 the Provisions of the
 Virginia Department of
 Environmental Quality's
 Model Erosion and
 Stormwater Management
 Ordinance into Town Code
 Chapter Ten at New
 Sections 10-100 through
 10-130.

Ordinance 2061 (A), (B) and
 (C) is being adopted, as
 required by Code of Virginia
 § 62.1-44.15.27, to integrate
 the Town of Blacksburg's
 stormwater management
 and erosion and sediment
 control requirements into a
 consolidated erosion and
 stormwater management
 program. The Town has
 elected to (i) repeal its
 existing stormwater
 management and erosion
 and sediment control
 requirements through
 Ordinance 2061 (A) and (B)
 and (ii) adopt the new
 consolidated stormwater
 management and erosion
 control requirements
 through Ordinance 2061
 (C). The existing
 stormwater management
 and erosion and sediment
 control fees, previously
 approved by the Town
 Council, are carried forward

**Legals -
 Montgomery County**

in Ordinance 2061 (C).
 All persons affected by or
 interested in the proposed
 items above may appear
 and present their views.
 After each public hearing,
 Town Council will consider
 action on the item. Copies
 of materials related to the
 above items are on file and
 can be obtained in the
 Office of the Town Clerk,
 300 South Main Street,
 Blacksburg, weekdays
 between the hours of 8 a.m.
 and 5 p.m. For land use
 matters, copies of
 applications and all related
 items may also be found
 online at
www.blacksburg.gov/public
 hearings or reviewed in
 person at the Blacksburg
 Planning and Building
 Department, 400 South
 Main Street, Blacksburg,
 Virginia. Individuals with
 disabilities who require
 special assistance to attend
 and participate in this
 meeting should contact
 Lorraine Spaulding, Town
 Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or
 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

ORDERS OF
 PUBLICATION
 VIRGINIA: IN THE
 CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
 COUNTY OF
 MONTGOMERY
 MONTGOMERY,
 VIRGINIA, a Political
 Subdivision of the
 Commonwealth of
 Virginia,
 Complainant,
 BRENDA ANN HESLEP,
 ET AL.,
 Respondents.
 Case No. CL25-85

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to
 enforce the lien of the
 Complainant, County of
 Montgomery, Virginia, for
 delinquent real estate taxes
 against certain real property
 located in the County of
 Montgomery, Virginia,
 described as follows:
 Tax Map No. 064-A-120
 Account No. 008609
 All that parcel of land
 containing 0.36 acres, more
 or less, as shown on the
 plat entitled "James R. Frith
 0.36 Acre Parcel Located
 On Rte 114", dated October
 8, 1970, prepared by
 William M. Largen, C.L.S.,
 which map is of record in
 the Office of the Clerk of
 Circuit Court of
 Montgomery County,
 Virginia, in Plat Book 6,
 Page 26; and to which map
 reference is made for a
 more particular description
 of the property.

**Legals -
 Montgomery County**

or less, as shown on the
 plat entitled "James R. Frith
 0.36 Acre Parcel Located
 On Rte 114", dated October
 8, 1970, prepared by
 William M. Largen, C.L.S.,
 which map is of record in
 the Office of the Clerk of
 Circuit Court of
 Montgomery County,
 Virginia, in Plat Book 6,
 Page 26; and to which map
 reference is made for a
 more particular description
 of the property.

And being the same real
 property conveyed to
 Charles E. Heslep from
 Charles E. Heslep,
 divorced, and Shirley F.
 Brusseau and Elliot Foster
 Brusseau, Jr., husband and
 by deed, dated December
 18, 1987 and recorded
 December 21, 1987 in the
 Montgomery County Circuit
 Court Clerk's Office in Deed
 Book 595 at Page 722.

This description is made
 subject to all easements,
 conditions, agreements,
 restrictions, and
 reservations of record which
 affect the property herein
 described including but not
 limited to those recorded in
 Plat Book 6 at Page 26,
 Deed Book 306 at Page
 668, Deed Book 609 at
 Page 580.

**Legals -
 Montgomery County**

IT APPEARING that an
 Affidavit has been made
 and filed stating that due
 diligence has been used,
 without effect, to ascertain
 the identity and location of
 certain parties to be served,
 that the last known
 addresses for the
 Respondents herein are as
 follows: Charles E. Heslep,
 who is believed to be
 deceased and whose last
 known address is unknown;
 Brenda Ann Heslep, who
 is believed to be deceased
 and whose last known
 address is unknown; Wendy
 Gibson, whose last known
 address is unknown;
 Brandon Seagraves, whose
 last known address is 3225
 Peppers Ferry Rd, Radford,
 Virginia 24141; Tony Curtis
 Heslep, whose last known
 address is 5982 Old Route

**Legals -
 Town of Vinton**

II, Lot 19, Dublin, Virginia
 24084; Curtis Evans
 Heslep, who is believed to
 be deceased and whose
 last known address is
 unknown; and that any
 officers, heirs, devisees,
 and successors in title of
 the Respondent named
 herein are made parties
 Respondent to this action
 individually and/or by the
 general description of
 Parties Unknown, it is
 hereby
 ORDERED that the parties
 herein and all Parties
 Unknown and/or whose
 location cannot be
 ascertained appear on or
 before April 18, 2025 in the
 Clerk's Office of the Circuit
 Court of the County of
 Montgomery, Virginia, and
 do what may be necessary
 to protect their interests in
 this cause.
 Entered on the 10th day of
 March, 2025.

Honorable K. Mike Fleenor,
 Jr., Judge
 I Ask For This:
 John A. Rife, Esq.
 (VSB No. 45805)
 Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq.
 (VSB No. 30591)
 Mark K. Ames, Esq.
 (VSB No. 27409)
 Andrew M. Neville, Esq.
 (VSB No. 86372)
 Paul L. LaBarr, Esq.
 (VSB No. 91609)
 Gregory L. Haynes, Esq.
 (VSB No. 37158)
 Seth R. Konopasek, Esq.
 (VSB No. 97065)
 Garrett W. Patton, Esq.
 (VSB No. 98345)
 Taxing Authority
 Consulting Services, PC
 P.O. Box 31800
 Henrico, Virginia
 23294-1800
 Phone: (804) 545-2500
 Facsimile: (804) 545-2378
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Radford names SMU's Chu as head basketball coach

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford University reportedly has its new men's basketball coach in what is being called an "out of the box" hire.

The university seems ready to hire Southern Methodist University's chief of staff as its new men's basketball coach.

On Saturday as the ACC tournament started to wind down, Zach Chu was leaked to be headed to the Big South. Chu is a former walk-on for the Richmond basketball team and has served on the SMU staff just for one year.

The 32-year-old brings nine years NBA experience to a program that hopes to continue its mid-major success. Previously, he had served as the manager of game strategy for the NBA's Indiana Pacers.

Chu spent three seasons as an assistant coach in the NBA G League with the Texas Legends, who are the G League affiliate of the Dallas Mavericks. He began his NBA career as a player development intern with the Los Angeles Clippers.

SMU posted a record of 23-10 overall and 13-7

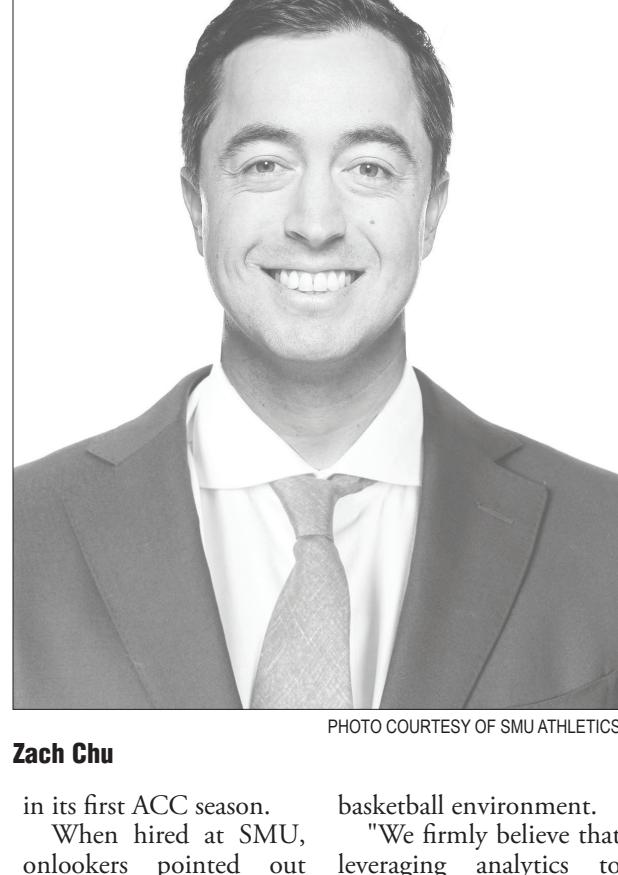


PHOTO COURTESY OF SMU ATHLETICS

Zach Chu

in its first ACC season.

When hired at SMU, onlookers pointed out the school was embracing data analytics. Now he will bring that new tool to the New River Valley and see if he can gain an edge in the Big South.

Coach Andy Enfield said at Chu's SMU hiring that they were focused on being proactive and innovative as we navigate the ever-changing college

basketball environment.

"We firmly believe that leveraging analytics to guide our choices, from portal management and player development to game strategy, is key," he said. "This new role with Zach sets us up for sustained success as we enter the ACC."

Radford University had yet to make a formal announcement at press time.

RU's Nichols heads to LaSalle

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Former Radford High School standout Darris Nichols came back home four years ago to take the reins of the Radford University program.

This past week, he was announced as the new head coach at LaSalle University.

La Salle University President Daniel J. Allen says Nichols brings a winning pedigree and passion for his student-athletes.

"We look forward to watching him recruit and develop the next generation of Explorers on the court, in the classroom and in the community," Allen said.

Vice President of Athletics and Recreation and Director of Athletics Ashwin Puri is thrilled to welcome Darris and Courtnie to the Explorers' family.

"As we went through the process it was clear that Darris was the right leader for our program, and the right coach to build on the rich legacy of La Salle men's basketball," Puri said. "Darris' coaching philosophy is grounded in building team chemistry and supporting the development of student-athletes with an expectation of excellence on and off the court. It is no surprise his coaching philosophy matches his former playing style, one anchored in toughness and tenacity. It's a brand of basketball that will be an exciting new chapter for the Explorer community and Philadelphia." Nichols' coaching experience includes stints as an assistant coach at Florida, Louisiana Tech, Wofford, and Northern Kentucky. A member of ESPN.com's prestigious 40 Under 40 list in the summer of 2020 as one of the most influential people in the game of college men's basketball, Nichols helped coach

the Florida Gators to a 123-75 record that included four straight 20-win seasons. Nichols and the Gators also tallied four straight NCAA Tournament bids.

Nichols posted a record of 68-63 (.519) overall, which included two 20-win campaigns. Over his four seasons, Nichols completely reintegrated Radford back into championship contenders in the Big South. His squad also made one post season appearance with a run to the College Basketball Invitational semifinals in 2022-23.

Radford University Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg thanked Nichols for his time at the school.

"We appreciate Darris and his efforts over the past four years and wish him and his family nothing but the best of luck in his new opportunity," Lineburg said. "Darris is an outstanding coach, and we anticipate he will have continued success leading the program at La Salle."

Nichols, who averaged 15 wins a season, finished his Radford career with the fourth-most wins in school history.

At LaSalle, Nichols takes over for the retiring Fran Dunphy, who leaves as the all-time winningest coach in Philadelphia Big 5 history. Dunphy will assume the role of special assistant to the president at La Salle and has agreed to a lifetime contract with the University for that role.

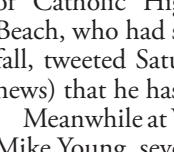
Dunphy, a member of the Philadelphia Big 5, La Salle Athletics, Penn Athletics, and Philadelphia Sports Writers Halls of Fame, has amassed 623 victories over his 30 years as head coach at Penn (1989-06), Temple (2006-19), and three seasons at La Salle (2022-2025). He is the only coach to oversee multiple Big 5 men's programs, and his teams have competed in 17 NCAA Tournaments.

From the sidelines: Changes coming to VT, RU basketball

You might grab a box of popcorn and sit back for changes coming to the men's basketball programs at Radford University and Virginia Tech.

Radford is now getting a new coach and that means the Highlanders' roster could see some major changes. When a coach leaves and a new one is hired, typically there is an average of five players jumping ship. There should be no exception in the current atmosphere.

Let's look at the numbers at RU. Seven players are slated to return, and Nichols had only announced one high school signee.



Marty Gordon
FROM THE
SIDELINES

Senior point guard Ashton Walker of Catholic High School in Virginia Beach, who had signed with Radford last fall, tweeted Saturday (prior to the Chu news) that he has flipped to La Salle.

Meanwhile at Virginia Tech and Coach Mike Young, seven players would return. But of course, both programs could face

players jumping into the transfer portal. Nichols had gathered six major transfers that dotted this year's roster.

Virginia Tech's Mike Young has been scratching his head to figure out what is going on in Hokie land. He had some talent this year but seemed to be lacking some key components.

An expanded NIL budget could attract exactly what Young needs and wants. That means jumping into the deep end of the portal, plus hoping there might be some late high school commits.

Radford also needs an increase in the NIL budget. High Point has pushed itself

to the top of the Big South, and now its conference brother must take a big leap.

Tech needs to find a point guard and a big man in the portal. This could come in the form of three or four newbies being added to the roster.

Both schools will be watched closely on their next step. For fans, that means winning more games and providing a team on the court, which will add some excitement.

Finished that popcorn yet? Mike Young is probably still keeping a box close as he heads into the offseason.

Bruins host Saturday Soccer Jamboree



Blacksburg's Iris Fritsch makes a pass for the Bruins' offense. The Blacksburg High School girls' soccer hosted seven teams including Glenvar for a Saturday Soccer Jamboree, made up of 30-minute scrimmages in a round-robin format. The Bruins and Highlanders faced off in the first match of the day and battled to a 0-0 draw.



Blacksburg's Hadley Haugh sends a pass down the field against Glenvar.



Blacksburg forward Erin Bishop takes a shot against Glenvar's defense during a Saturday morning preseason soccer jamboree hosted by the Bruins. Glenvar, Blacksburg, and six other teams participated in a set of 30-minute matches.



Blacksburg senior Ginny Crawford advances the ball against Glenvar during a preseason scrimmage.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Sports notes: Wrestling seedings announced

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

For the eighth time in program history and for the third-straight season, Virginia Tech wrestling is sending nine student-athletes to the NCAA Championships. The Hokies recorded a program record three top-four seeds and four top-six seeds led by No. 1 Caleb Henson (149-pounds), No. 3 Eddie Ventresca (125-pounds), No. 4 Rafael Hipolito, Jr. (157-pounds), and No. 6 Connor McGonagle (133-pounds).

The Hokies' second-ever national champion, Henson joins Mekhi Lewis (174-pounds, 2024) and Scott Justus (184-pounds, 2002) as the only three Hokies in program history to claim the top-seed entering the season's final event. The two-time All-American, two-time ACC champion, and defending national champion travels to Philadelphia with an unblemished 18-0 record and a 23-match win streak looking to repeat his national title performance at 149-pounds.

The resurgent season of Eddie Ventresca continues to Philadelphia. After an injury cut his season short last year, the 2023 All-American has attacked the 2024-2025 season with a vengeance – sporting an 18-3 record and adding ACC champion to his resume. A Cinderella run in 2023 that saw Ventresca enter as the No. 27 seed battle to a seventh-place finish, the Roxbury, NJ native takes to his second NCAA Championships as the

three seed at 125-pounds.

By way of Manaus, Brazil, the freshman phenom Rafael Hipolito, Jr. has taken the weight division by storm – 17-3 record, three wins over two All-Americans, and an ACC title – en route to the four seed entering next week's national tournament. The Brazilian jiu-jitsu prodigy and four-time world champion who started wrestling five years ago is no stranger to the big stage and will look to make his mark on the national stage in his debut season for the Hokies.

Spring game includes Appy alum

Eighteen Appalachian League alumni were selected for Major League Baseball's second annual "Spring Breakout" prospect games from March 13-16.

Spring Breakout returns for a second year with the games serving as a showcase of baseball's future stars. Each Major League Club will field a team of prospects from their farm system to play a team of top prospects from another organization in a nine-inning exhibition game.

The 18 Appy League representatives is up from nine in 2024. Nine of the 10 Appy League teams will have a former player in this year's showcase, with Tri-State (established in 2024) being the lone exception. Of the 18 prospects named to this year's showcase, 12 of them are in their respective team's Top 30 prospects list as named by MLB Pipeline, with three in the Top 10.

The group includes outfielder Rodney

Green Jr. who played in Pulaski in 2022 and is now a part of the Oakland Athletics farm system.

15 All-American Hokies

Virginia Tech sent 14 Hokies to the 2025 NCAA Indoor Championships over the course of March 14-15. All 14 individuals were All-Americans in their events with seven earning first team honors and eight collecting second team.

First team All-Americans: Julia Fixsen, pole vault, 4.40m Sara Killinen, weight throw, 22.31m Maddox Hamm, pole vault, 5.61m Viktor Idhammar (2:54.68), men's DMR, 9:21.69 Tomas Kersulis (47.82), men's DMR, 9:21.69 Christian Jackson (1:45.75), men's DMR, 9:21.69 Nick Plant (3:53.45), men's DMR, 9:21.69

Second team All-Americans: Star Price, 800m, 2:07.40 Judson Lincoln IV, 400m, 47.01 Nate Paris, heptathlon, 5,617 pts George Couttie, 3,000m, 7:57.77 Kahleje Tillmon (47.01), 4x400m, 3:07.95 Sam Herenton (47.69), 4x400m, 3:07.95 Tomas Kersulis (46.27), 4x400m, 3:07.95 Ali Diaby (47.00), 4x400m, 3:07.95

Hokie Way auction

The Hokie Way Auction is back for its second edition, taking place from April 1-14, allowing Hokie fans from around the world to bid on exclusive items

and experiences. Proceeds will support The Hokie Way's mission of creating opportunities for Virginia Tech student-athletes to leverage their name, image, and likeness on behalf of charitable organizations.

The online auction will run from noon on Tuesday, April 1 until noon on Monday, April 14.

This year's exclusive items and experiences up for bid include but are not limited to: unique experiences with each athletic program, autographed football helmets, private dinners with coaches, golf outings at top-tier courses, concert tickets for A-list acts, courtside tables at basketball games, signed memorabilia from Liz Kitley and more.

Former CHS coach

Brandon Buchner who served as assistant coach at Christiansburg High School is headed to his third collegiate stop. Buchner is the new special teams analyst at Arkansas State after stops at the University of Tennessee Martin and Florida International.

Before UT Martin, Buchner served as an assistant coach at Christiansburg High School from 2017-20.

The hire comes as a major overhaul of the ASU staff. This past fall, head football coach Butch Jones, one of just three FBS coaches in the history of college football to lead four different programs to multiple bowl game appearances, signed a new agreement that extends his contract to Dec. 31, 2029.

Blacksburg boys in action



Keanan Kopp scores for Blacksburg in a Tuesday night preseason soccer scrimmage against Martinsville.



Blacksburg senior midfielder Jack Hanowski starts another Bruin possession against Martinsville.



Blacksburg's Gavin Diggs collects a pass against Martinsville.



Blacksburg's Esteban Carvajal slots home a goal against Martinsville as the Bruins scrimmaged the Bulldogs on Tuesday night.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Outdoor report: Fishing for walleye, trout this spring

Looking to add walleye to your target list this spring? DWR fisheries biologists provide insight into the walleye populations and fishing opportunities in each region of the state.

The 2024 production of walleye fingerlings allowed for the stocking of 669,170 walleye and saugeye fingerlings into 13 priority waters. Some walleye waters did not receive their full acquisition of fish due to production issues within the hatchery system. In 2023, DWR had a banner year in which 1,781,500 walleye and saugeye fingerlings were stocked into 19 selected waters. Growth rates of stocked walleye vary by resource with more productive systems seeing fish reach 18" in about two years.

Depending on where you live and how far you are willing to travel, the various stocked walleye waters will allow anglers to explore new resources they may have overlooked in the past and learn some new fishing techniques along the way. The walleye-stocked waters vary greatly, so anglers can decide which systems are the most intriguing. Large rivers such as the New and Shenandoah rivers can provide a memorable day on the water with an abundance of walleye and a decent chance of catching larger-sized walleye. Smaller-sized rivers like the Staunton River should not be overlooked and can provide solid action.

For those anglers more comfortable being on still water, Virginia offers several large reservoirs with quality walleye and saugeye fisheries. Numerous ponds are harvested and walleye

fingerlings are stocked in waters across the Commonwealth. The 2024 production allowed for the stocking of 669,170 walleye and saugeye fingerlings into 13 priority waters. Some walleye waters did not receive their full acquisition of fish due to production issues within the hatchery system. In 2023, DWR had a banner year in which 1,781,500 walleye and saugeye fingerlings were stocked into 19 selected waters. Growth rates of stocked walleye vary by resource with more productive systems seeing fish reach 18" in about two years.

Walleye fishing opportunities in Southwest Virginia are centered around the DWR stocking efforts of the Upper New River, Flannagan Reservoir, South Holston Lake, and Hungry Mother Lake. The Upper New River provides anglers the best opportunity in Virginia to catch trophy walleye.

Stocking effort over the last 10 years have led to an increase in catch rates for both anglers and biologists. Past stocking efforts have focused on areas from Allisonia to Buck Dam. Anglers continue to report good catch rates of smaller fish 12 to 20 inches and fish greater than 28 inches in these areas. The 2024 length distribution revealed a high proportion of walleye in the 13- to 22-inch range. This indicated multiple years of good recruitment.

Anglers visiting South Holston Lake in 2025 should experience excellent walleye fishing as the population continues to rebound. Sampling during 2024, including both electrofishing and gill netting, remained like 2023 with a desirable size structure, with most adult walleye collected larger than 18 inches. The walleye growth rate is outstanding, so anglers should find plenty of fish larger than the minimum size of 18 inches.

Hungry Mother Lake is a 108-acre impoundment that provides anglers with a great opportunity to catch walleye in a small lake setting. The walleye population is stable or slightly increasing. There are good numbers of fish up to 20 inches and just enough larger ones to cause anglers to lose some sleep this summer. Walleye up to 28 inches in length have been landed in recent years.

There are many trout stocking changes in Southwest Virginia resulting from Hurricane Helene.

All stocked trout waters in southwest Virginia have now been reopened following the damage from Hurricane Helene. However, the lower stocked trout section of Whitetop Laurel will only be stocked in the vicinity of Taylor's Valley. The portion of Whitetop Laurel (lower) along Route 58 will not be stocked for the remainder of the 2024-2025 trout season. Please note that as a result of the damage to Route 58 near Damascus, the upper stocked section of Whitetop Laurel Creek, Beartree Lake, and Straight Branch are only accessible by traveling from the east (from Konnarock) on Route 58.

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Hokies left out of Big Dance

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Virginia Tech men's basketball team figured not to receive an at-large bid to the NCAA basketball tournament, but the Lady Hokies had to wait to late Sunday to hear their denial.

According to the selection committee, Tech was the last team out when they made the 68 picks.

So, instead of the big dance, the Hokies will head to the Women's Basketball Invitational Tournament (WBIT), commonly known to fans at the National Invitational Tournament.

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team will play in the WBIT and will be a No. 1 seed, the tournament announced Sunday evening.

The Hokies got to hear their name called Sunday night during NCAA.com's reveal of the 32-team bracket. Tech, which is 18-12, will match up with North Carolina A&T on Thursday, Mar. 20 in the opening round. Times and TV designations will be announced soon.

In head coach Megan Duffy's first season in Blacksburg, the Hokies finished 9-9 in ACC play and earned the No. 8 seed at the conference tournament. Her squad handed previously unbeaten Georgia Tech its first loss of the season in a dramatic double overtime game in January and went 6-4 in true road games.

As outlined in the Hokie Club Investment Guide, Hokie Scholarship Fund donors (as of March 1, 2024) and 2024-25 Women's Basketball season ticket holders will have exclusive access to a ticket pre-sale on Monday, Mar. 17. The top three donor levels (Hokie Stone, Hokie Scholar and Hokie Ambassador) will receive access to tickets beginning at 10 a.m. At noon, a window will open for all other Hokie Scholarship Fund donors and women's basketball season ticket holders. All seating at Carilion Clinic Court at Cassell Coliseum will be reserved and available to select your seat at checkout.

Beginning at 2 p.m. on Monday, Mar. 17, a limited number of tickets were made available to the general public with a ticket order limit of six tickets.

Housing

from page 1

Commercial and R-5 Transitional Residential District to Planned Residential District Zoning, Resolution 3-E-25 will grant a Conditional Use Permit to Use an Alley for Non-Single-Unit Residential Dwellings between the 900 block of Kabrich Street and the 900 block of Progress Street NW (CUP-24-3).

"The Comprehensive Plan future land use designation envisions up to 20 bedrooms per acre for multi-family uses," O'Shea said. "Even when evaluating only the proposed townhome style multi-family density on the medium density residential area, the proposed density of 77 bedrooms per acre exceeds that which was envisioned in the future land use designation for this area."

As part of the applicant's proposal, a contribution of \$1,138,500 will be made to the Town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. These funds are to be designated for low-middle income homes.

Applicant Chris Johnson followed with his own presentation, highlighting that the proposed property is a short five-minute walk to Virginia Tech and the downtown area. Johnson also pointed out that the parcel has historically been prone to flooding issues and that stormwater development to be completed with the housing project shows great improvement for these drainage problems.

The site is proposing retail space as well,

with "2500-square-foot of an award-winning coffee shop that will hug the corner. It has an outdoor seating area; it will be open day one with the apartments," Johnson said. "We also have bookended the main street frontage of our site with the 2300-square-foot space for an additional local commercial and 21 retail dedicated parking stalls that have easy access directly to Main Street from behind these positions."

Among the benefits Johnson said the development would bring in addition to "almost 60 units of market-rate housing," the property would also generate over \$600,000 in taxes and fees, provide a new bus stop in front of the complex."

Many citizens attended the meeting to address the proposed housing complex, speaking against the council's approval.

Karen Earheart of Blacksburg, said "I think the location where this is being considered is, it's not a good location for that many apartments, for that many people, for the townhomes, for that high a density in that one tiny bit of area."

Transportation and parking are also key issues with this proposed building site and development, with a ratio of 0.5 parking spaces per housing resident. Jean Cobb of Blacksburg said, "One of the rezoning narratives on the Town website states that this is likely, it's likely that the students of the 202-unit building will walk and bike to campus and it's a huge unfounded assumption. We know from past experience it's highly unlikely in fact that the majority will do that."

Councilman Liam Watson, a resident at 804 Progress St., which is near the location of the proposed property, acknowledges the traffic and parking issues already happening in this part of Blacksburg. He also accepts that the proposed apartments are not considered affordable housing for many people.

"I'm very keenly aware of the problems we have in this town with affordability," Watson said. "The units in this building are not by any stretch of the imagination affordable. They are out of my price range."

However, Watson went on to say that the Virginia Tech community are constituents with the town as well and the need for housing is a primary concern for everyone. Susan Mattingly echoed this need for student housing.

"The more students who come in, if there is not adequate housing, plenty of them can afford \$1,500 a room, their parents will buy the house next door and put their kids in there," Mattingly said. "There are no easy solutions to the problems we are facing. Density is inevitable if we are going to solve our housing crisis."

Blacksburg Town Council will hold their next regular meeting Mar. 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Top waters for trophy smallmouth bass in 2024

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is tasked with managing freshwater fisheries across the state of Virginia using the best available science.

Our biologists utilize a variety of fisheries methodology to collect information on the health of our fisheries. Data derived from scientific fisheries methodology is known as fishery-independent data and is key to managing our fisheries for the best interest of the public. Examples of fishery-independent surveys include electrofishing, gill netting, and trap netting surveys that our biologists implement to manage these public resources. Additionally, angler derived data or fishery-dependent data is data that is collected from recreational and or commercial sources. Fishery-dependent data can also play a role in the management of our fisheries.

The Online Virginia Angler Recognition Program (OVARP) is one unique source of fishery-dependent data that our agency collects annually. The OVARP is a voluntary program where anglers can be recognized for the catch of trophy-sized freshwater fish. Different minimum lengths and weights are required to reach trophy "citation" size for the 30 different species in the program. Of particular interest to Virginia anglers are the numbers of citation smallmouth bass that are caught annually from public waterbodies throughout the state.

Smallmouth bass must be a minimum of 20 inches to be a length citation and 5 pounds to be a weight citation. You can receive a citation for either length, weight, or both. Regardless, we are talking about truly large smallmouth bass here! Below is the list of the top five waterbodies by total numbers of smallmouth bass citations from 2024. It should be noted that this is a voluntary program based on the honor system. Not every citation-sized fish caught in Virginia is entered into the program so this is simply a reflection of the data collected from the past year within the OVARP.

The top five waterbodies rated by total numbers of smallmouth bass citations caught in 2024. This ranking is simply a reflection of the data collected over the past year within the OVARP.

The New River has long been renowned as a trophy smallmouth bass fishery. The New produced 49 citation smallmouth bass catches through the OVARP, giving it the #2 ranking in the top waters lists.

Fishing the New is special as it's an ancient river system that happens to be the oldest on the North American continent.

"Despite a few years of poor year classes in the late 2010s, good numbers of quality fish still remain for anglers to target. And recent above-average spawning classes, especially on the upper New, bode well for anglers as these fish grow to adult size," said Jeff Williams, DWR regional fisheries manager.

"Catch rates are up across all size

ranges throughout the New River," added Kristin Chestnut-Faull, DWR fisheries biologist. "The upper New River produces the highest catch rates above Fries Dam, and the largest fish are in the sections below Buck Dam. On the lower New River, if you're after numbers and looking to enjoy a good day of fishing, all sections bode well. If you're after those memorable catches, target reaches from Radford down through Pembroke," said Chestnut-Faull. Floating the New River is the best way to cover ground when fishing for smallmouth bass. Late winter and early Spring give the angler opportunities at catching trophy smallmouth bass!

Smith Mountain Lake might be best known for its trophy striped bass fishery, but anglers searching for trophy smallmouth bass should not overlook this top destination. Smith Mountain Lake ranked #3 for citation smallmouth, with 20 citations being caught in 2024. This scenic impoundment is large, at 20,600 acres, and located in Bedford and Franklin counties.

Smith Mountain Lake provides deeper water habitat in addition to rock shoals, submerged brush piles, fallen trees, coves, and numerous big points. In the spring, anglers can target boat docks and piers—just remember to be courteous to local landowners.

"Anglers targeting smallmouth bass at Smith Mountain Lake tend to have the best success in late fall and early spring," said Dan Wilson, DWR fisheries biologist. "I would target the months of November and December and then again in March and April for smallmouth."

The Shenandoah River ranked #4 for citation smallmouth with 14 citations being caught in 2024. Just northeast of Front Royal, Virginia, the South Fork and North Fork come together to form the mainstem Shenandoah River. Anglers can target smallmouth bass in both the North Fork and South Fork in addition to the mainstem from its formation all the way down to its confluence with the Potomac River near Harper's Ferry.

"The mainstem and the South Fork have the highest density of trophy fish," said Jason Hallacher, DWR fisheries biologist. "The South Fork's smallmouth population has been a consistent numbers fishery for the last 10 years. However, over the past few years the population has trended toward larger fish and the potential for citations is there. The mainstem is also on the upswing after three straight years of average spawning. Smallmouth numbers are increasing and your best chance for catching a trophy smallmouth can be found from Warren Dam to the Route 7 landing. The North Fork has the lowest numbers of bass overall, but within the middle reaches around Woodstock and Edinburg, anglers can expect to find quality fish," said Hallacher.

Alex McCrickard/Department of Wildlife Resources



Donation

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pursuing including: 1. The distribution of free gun locks (we have already distributed 1100 free gun locks).

2. We have reached more than 10,000 citizens in Montgomery County and are working on gun safety for kids outreach to citizens in Radford City,

Giles, Floyd and Pulaski Counties in the New River Valley.

3. We are planning to pursue financial support to expand mental health and suicide prevention services across the New River Valley. These services would include working with existing

services to expand hotlines, counseling, peer training and interventions to reduce gun violence and suicide prevention."

Please visit their

website, www.wnawareproject.com, for more information.

The local chapter of 100+ WWC NRV meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of January, April, July and October. 100+ WWC NRV's next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15, 2025

at 6:15 p.m. at Warm Hearth. Committed members donate \$100 each quarter and each meeting lasts one hour.

At each 100+ WWC NRV quarterly meeting, three local not-for-profits are drawn from a bucket. Each organization must have a 100+ WWC NRV sponsor willing to present on its behalf. After the three presentations, the membership votes on which organization to support at that meeting.

100+ WWC NRV's membership area includes the counties of Montgomery, Giles, Pulaski, Floyd and the City of Radford.

All interested women are invited to join the 100+ WWC NRV to support local not-for-profits that make the New River Valley a better place to live. For more information, visit www.100womenwhocare.org or email nrv100wwc@gmail.com.

100+ WWC NRV

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