



# News Messenger

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Saturday, June 10, 2023

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## Montgomery County Public Schools approves the 2023-24 operating budget

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

Montgomery County Public School Board approved the 2023-24 Operating Budget of just under \$135 million in a regular meeting Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

The result was 5-1, with board member Penny Franklin voting in opposition to the budget's approval.

The 2023-24 pay scale was also approved with a vote of 5-1. Franklin spoke during the discussion prior to the vote that she would again not be voting in approval.

"I don't believe that it reflects what we should be paying our staff and our teachers and administrators," Franklin said.

The teacher scale shows the current year's salaries and the next year of salaries as recommended by the county administration. A decrease of \$300,000 will go to the self-insurance portion of the budget, with an anticipated carryover

of funds amounting to approximately one million dollars, this will also include a 13% premium increase resulting in an additional \$300,000 added to the budget. The employee only insurance option will not increase but other combined family options would see an increase.

Penny Franklin "I don't think that it is fair to put increases on our employees because one of the big draws for Montgomery County is because of our health care plan that doesn't pull money out of our employees' pockets."

Insurance renews October 1, but the board hopes to approve a budget prior to this date so that employees do not see any changes in their insurance benefits.

"One of the things we are looking at and are actively pursuing in the process of doing right now, is carving out the prescription from our current provider," Bragen said. "We will give that savings back to the employees."

Dr. Annie Whittaker, Deputy Superintendent, introduced the new



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCPS

School Nutrition Supervisor, Michelle Knotts, before updating the board on the 2023-24 School Nutrition Program Budget. The board approved the budget with a unanimous vote of 6-0 for just over \$5.2 million.

In other actions during the meeting, the school board approved the adoption of new middle and high School health textbooks with a 5-1 vote. The new health textbook will include 2,200 new licenses each year to students with access

to virtual, bilingual texts. The cost of the new textbooks will be over \$300,000. Board member Susan Kass voted against approval.

"I wonder if what we are really getting is what is necessary with this kind of expenditure. I think it is ridiculous to spend. I wish we would look a little closer at something like this," Kass said.

Additional agenda items approved

See MCPS, page 4

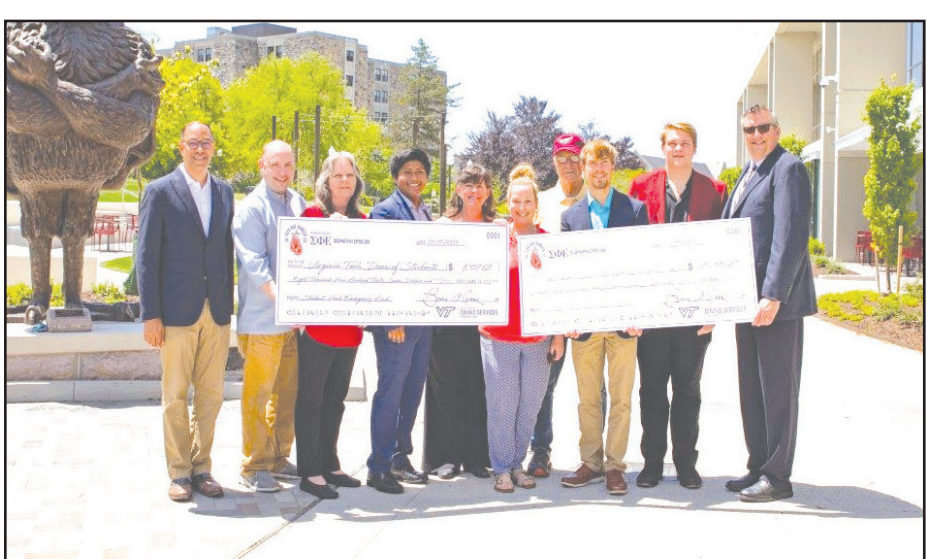


PHOTO BY DARREN VAN DYKE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Members of the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, the Virginia Tech Dean of Students, and Sigma Phi Epsilon celebrate the Flex Out Hunger contributions in front of Dietrick Dining Center.

## Flex Out Hunger raises more than \$30,000 to help the community

Virginia Tech Dining Services and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity have partnered for the Flex Out Hunger, aimed at raising funds for the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program and the Student Emergency Fund managed by the Dean of Students Office. The donations come from students with leftover

dining money in their accounts at the end of the academic year, allowing them an opportunity to contribute to a worthy cause. Sigma Phi Epsilon was the face of the event and set up tables on the Blacksburg campus to reach out to the students.

The event this year raised over \$25,000 for the Montgomery County

Emergency Assistance Program, which gets 75 percent of the total, and more than \$8,000 for the Student Emergency Fund, which gets the remaining 25 percent.

Sigma Phi Epsilon and volunteers with the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance

See Flex Out, page 3

## Style and Grace: Radford University grad student to compete in Miss Virginia pageant

RADFORD - Each year, several accomplished young women compete for the title of Miss Virginia, potentially on their way to the coveted Miss America title.

Very few, however, have performed an operatic aria to get there.

Enter Grace Pflieger, performer with Opera Roanoke, community activist, Radford University graduate student, and Miss Blue Ridge 2023. Pflieger began pursuing a Masters of Science in Music Therapy at Radford University during

the pandemic when performances shut down. Before that, she dreamed of being an opera singer, but wondered what she'd do if she could not perform.

"I did a lot of community outreach work in my undergrad program, and that's when I learned about Music Therapy," Pflieger explained.

With performances in a holding pattern, Pflieger saw that music therapy could transform the community service

See Pflieger, page 3



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford University graduate student Grace Pflieger, Miss Blue Ridge, will be competing in the Miss Virginia pageant.

## Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg celebrates a century of service

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg celebrated its 100th anniversary with an event at the University Club at Virginia Tech on May 20.

Christiansburg Mayor Mike Barber and Blacksburg Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith toasted the Club and shared proclamations from their respective towns recognizing the many service projects and programs that have improved lives locally and internationally. Christiansburg designated

May 21, 2023 as Christiansburg-Blacksburg Rotary Day.

Rotary District 7570 Governor Kathy Kanter brought congratulations from the District and Rotary International President Jennifer Jones. Dr. Walter Lacarbonara traveled from Italy to share the importance of his experience as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar hosted by Club member Dr. Buddy Russell at Virginia Tech in 1995-96. Members of the Rotary Clubs of



PHOTO BY KIM DICKERSON

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg is celebrating their 100th Anniversary in 2023.

Blacksburg, Giles County, and Montgomery County, all clubs sponsored by the

Christiansburg-Blacksburg Club, were present as well. Club President Dan

Berenato remarked to those Rotarians assembled, "Your perseverance,

loyalty, and devotion is our

See Rotary, page 3

## Grandpa's Coming Off the Shelf....

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, June 10:

### Rockin' Main Street

The Town of Christiansburg is hosting Rockin' Main Street, a fun-for-all event with live music from two local favorites. We'll start the evening with local country music artist Travis Reigh taking the stage at 5 p.m. Be prepared to rock when the Jared Stout Band takes the stage at 7 p.m. They put on an incredible show for us in 2022, so come ready to hear this amazing band from SWVA that's about to hit it big! Beer, wine, and food trucks will be available at the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit and watch the live music. Be sure to bring your IDs if you plan to purchase beer or wine.

### Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, under 3-free, carry-outs-\$12. This month, the Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

### Meadowbrook Library Ocean Bash

Splash into the Meadowbrook Library Summer Reading Ocean Bash, a wet and wild event to kick off another fantastic summer reading program. The celebration will take place 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the library, located at 267 Alleghany Spring Rd. in Shawsville. Attendees will discover an exciting array of activities, including the popular Bubble Brigade, which brings safe, fun, and mountains of foam to welcome the summer with laughter and joy. Cool refreshments will be available, and cruise the cool games and activities and win prizes! Event is completely free and everyone is invited to join in. Also, don't forget to sign up for the Summer Reading Program, where readers of all ages can dive into books, complete activities, and win prizes! For more information about the Summer Reading Ocean Bash, please visit the Library's website at www.mfpl.org or contact the library at (540) 268-1964.

### Expedition: Dino Squad

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. - noon. Dinosaurs at the library! It's time for Expedition: Dino Squad, our travelling dinosaur museum. We'll have exhibits on four different dinosaurs - the T. rex, Triceratops, Diplodocus, and the Velociraptor, which will include models, books, and yes...FOSSILS! The children's section will be transformed into a small museum, and we'll have a craft available for kids to do in the community room.

### Page to Screen Movies: Psycho

At the Radford Public Library; noon. Come see Alfred Hitchcock's classic film adaptation of Robert Bloch's novel Psycho. Gourmet popcorn from Li'Bit Corny LLC will be available while supplies last. Rated R; 109 minutes.

## Monday, June 12:

### 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. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

## Tuesday, June 13:

### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

Town 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 Street). 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.

### Tuesday Night Trivia

At the Radford Public Library; 6 - 7 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to come try their hand at Jeopardy style trivia against their friends.

## Thursday, June 15:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend this meeting. Mr. Chris McCloud, Third Brigade Commander, will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

### Virtual Author Talk with Jamie Beck

At the Radford Public Library; 2 - 3 p.m. You're invited to join us for an hour online with New York Times bestselling author and award-winning photographer Jamie Beck as she talks about her book "An American in Provence: Art, Life, and Photography." An American in Provence is a beautiful collection of exquisite portrait, scenic, and still-life photography. Looking to

slow down from her fast-paced life in New York City, Beck embarked on a one-year getaway to Provence. One year, turning into five, Beck moved to the French countryside, documenting her life as "An American in Provence." Equal parts art book, travel diary, memoir, and cookbook, An American in Provence transports you to the South of France. Register now! <https://library.org/radfordlibrary>.

## Tuesday, June 21:

### American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network Luncheon Meeting

At the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Dr., Christiansburg; 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.- cost \$16. Presentation of the American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network's 2023 Woman of the Year Awards. One member and one community member will be named as Woman of the Year. Katie Edson of Edson Family Practice and Edson Aesthetics is the Speaker Sponsor for this meeting. RSVP by June 19. Contact: Terri Welch at [paintnfunceramics@gmail.com](mailto:paintnfunceramics@gmail.com) or Paige Godwin at [godwinpaige@gmail.com](mailto:godwinpaige@gmail.com).

## On-going:

### Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 - 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

### Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 - 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

### Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 - 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

### Radford Farmers Market

Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

# American Legion Post 59 announces Boys and Girls State nominees

American Legion Post 59 is proud to announce this year's nominees to attend American Legion Boys State and Girls State.

All nominees are rising seniors selected by the faculty and staff of Montgomery County's four public high schools.

Boys State and Girls State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. This participatory program prepares students to join local, county, and state government operations, and participants learn franchised citizens' rights, privileges, and responsibilities. The training is objective and centers on the structure of the local, county, and Virginia state government. Activities during the week are operated by the students elected to various offices and include legislative

sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs.

This year, Boys State will be held at Radford University, and Girls State will be held at Longwood University, both June 18 - 24. Congratulations to them all.

The nominees are: Auburn High School - Heath Hamilton and Nathan Marshall; Blacksburg High School - Gideon Colliver and Theo Villaneuva; Christiansburg High School - Addison Campbell and Ariya Patel; and Eastern Montgomery High School - Ryan Epperly, Grayson Richardson, Tiffany Jackson and Naomi Ramos-Mendoza.

*Submitted by American Legion Post 59*



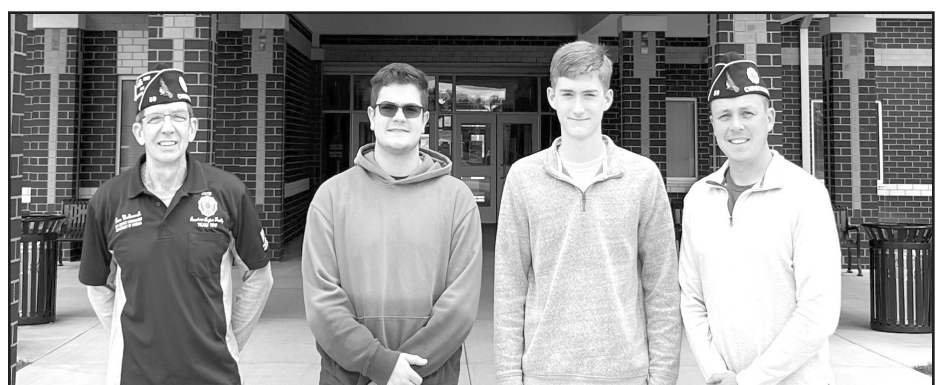
Pictured (left to right) Post 59 Member Cody Rush, Blacksburg High School representatives Gideon Colliver and Theo Villaneuva, and American Legion Post 59 Commander Gene Malinowski.



Pictured (left to right) Post member Cody Rush, Christiansburg High School representatives Addison Campbell and Ariya Patel and Post member Cody Rush.



Pictured (left to right) Post Commander Gene Malinowski Eastern Montgomery High School representatives Ryan Epperly, Grayson Richardson, Tiffany Jackson and Naomi Ramos-Mendoza, and Post Member Cody Rush.



Pictured (left to right) American Legion Post 59 Commander Gene Malinowski, Auburn High School representatives Heath Hamilton and Nathan Marshall and Post 59 Member Cody Rush, who represented CHS at Boy's State in 2006.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 59

# Rotary

from page 1

inheritance from the former 100 years of active club members and our gift to pay forward to the future," he said.

Members of the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg have contributed their vocational expertise to a number of important projects in Montgomery County throughout the years, including endorsing improvements to main roads, securing improved train service, and helping to improve the experiences of tourists in the area.

In 1965, the Club sponsored the first community-wide meeting to discuss the development of a new local hospital to replace Altamont Hospital in Christiansburg. The Club led fundraising for the hospital and were instrumental in convincing HCA to build what has become LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, which opened in 1971. The

Club has partnered with the hospital since 1997 with the bi-annual Blood Screening project which screens over 30 different markers at a reduced cost. Some of the over 21,000 people who have taken advantage of the service learned of potentially life-threatening conditions such as high cholesterol, diabetes, and anemia.

The Club has donated time, goods, and money to many local Montgomery County organizations and schools over the years. Some of the more visible recent projects include picnic shelters at Heritage Park and the Frog Pond; a gazebo on the Huckleberry Trail; the baseball field at Nellie's Cave Park; fencing at Warm Hearth's Community Garden; an enclosed trailer for NRV Habitat for Humanity;

See Club, page 4



PHOTO BY KIM DICKERSON

Rotary District 7570 Governor Kathy Kanter presents a certificate from Rotary International commemorating the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg's 100th Anniversary to Club President Dan Berenato.

# Pfleger

from page 1

and outreach work she was already committed to into a second professional path. "I came to Radford and fell in love with Music Therapy, so now the dream is to do both careers," she said.

Pfleger's admits her journey to compete for Miss Virginia is just as unexpected and intertwined with opera. It started about a decade ago when Pfleger entered a pageant competition as a pre-teen.

Needing a talent to demonstrate - and inspired by Hannah Montana, a Disney character played by Miley Cyrus - she decided to test her potential as a singer. This led to voice lessons and ultimately earned her the title of Miss Blue Ridge Outstanding Pre-teen.

And in turn, that cultivated an interest in opera. And as she hit her teenage years, she simply wanted to sing - and play basketball.

"I really didn't think I would be competing in pageants after that," she said. "Becoming an opera singer became my dream and I focused on that."

Then, last Fall, the Miss Blue Ridge pageant reached out to Pfleger. Her social media posts about both opera and her music therapy work caught their attention and

they thought she'd be a perfect candidate for the scholarship competition.

"I was in the middle of doing the opera at Radford so I didn't think much about it," Pfleger recalls, referring to her performance in Venus and Adonis, a baroque English composition from around 1698.

Then, over the winter break, with some time on her hands, she started thinking about the scholarship opportunities that come with Miss Virginia and the Miss America organization. Her Music Therapy degree wraps up next year, but she's interested in a Masters in Opera Performance as well. Scholarships would certainly help.

But there is another good reason to pursue it, Pfleger points out.

"It's a good chance to bring awareness to the causes I care about," she notes. Pfleger is particularly interested in combating ageism and intergenerational programming, aiming to reunify older generations and youth.

Pfleger's platform is called "Music Through Generations," which addresses these issues by bridging different generations through the power of music.

She'd been thinking about this for a while, but the project took a formal shape in an intergenerational music class led by Dr. Sekyung Jang. Pfleger formalized a proposal and sent it to the Women and Children's Center of the Roanoke Rescue Mission, which approved it quickly.

In March, Pfleger spent every Thursday evening making music with people ranging from age eight to 84. Some were reluctant to join in at first, but simple things like handing out egg-shakers or creating a drum circle pulled people in.

"Through every session, you saw people who were afraid to make noise," Pfleger explained, "but then you give them an instrument or music and then making noise was okay."

"Then it transferred naturally to your voice and your ideas."

Projects like this matter to the Miss Virginia competition more than ever before, reflecting a change in the Miss America organization from the days when contestants paraded about in swimsuits and evening wear.

In 2019, Miss America 2.0 was announced on the group's website.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Grace Pflegar is a performer with Opera Roanoke, community activist, Radford University graduate student, and Miss Blue Ridge 2023.

According to their page, "the 51 women representing their home states and the District of Columbia will no longer be judged on outward physical appearance."

Instead, fitness, self-confidence, and positive social impact have moved to the forefront as the

organization has dropped the word "pageant."

The Miss Virginia contest will take place in Roanoke at the Berglund Center between June 29 and July 1, when the ascending winner is crowned.

For those wanting to follow Grace Pfleger's

journey, she encourages people to connect to her on Instagram @missblueridge.va and on Facebook by following her page, Grace Renée Pfleger, Miss Blue Ridge 2023.

Sean Kotz  
Radford University

# Flex Out

from page 1

Program holding a check of Flex out Hunger contributions in front of Dietrick Dining Center. Photo By Darren Van Dyke.

The Flex Out Hunger program started in 2001 and since then has raised over \$400,000 for the community. The Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program has been involved since the program's inception, while contributions to the Student Emergency Fund began in 2016.

"One-third of the Virginia Tech population suffers from food insecurity at least once," said Sigma Phi Epsilon President Anthony Hinojosa. "This yearly event involves the students and offers them a chance to help give back to the community."

The money gathered from the students will be used to aid those around the entire Montgomery County community. The Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program supplies clothing,

food, housing products, and financial help to those in need in the community.

"There is so much need for these donations. Many people do not realize how many in the community suffer from food insecurity," said Phill Pappas, the assistance program's president.

The contributions from the students and all those involved continues to impact the larger community in a positive way.

"I am astounded each year by our students' spirit of Ut Prosim by giving

their unused dining monies to two important organizations in our Hokie community. Sigma Phi Epsilon must be recognized for their energy and ability to engage the student population to give each year," said Brian Grove, senior associate director of Dining Services.

Submitted by Virginia Tech

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-4314 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 26, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comment regarding the following written request to withdraw 46.990 acres owned by DW, LLC, from AFD District 7: Request by DW, LLC to withdraw approximately 46.990 acres from Agricultural & Forestal

Legals - Montgomery County

District #7 in order to apply for a Special Use Permit to convert the property to an RV Park for short-term transient vehicles. The property is identified as a portion of Tax Map No. 080-5-1, Parcel ID 033688, located on Brammer Lane, off of Houchins Road, in the Shawsville Magisterial District.

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

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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Burch Properties LLC, Property Owner, and Kevin Lagos, Lessee, to allow a Public Billiard Parlor and Poolroom on the property located at 1635 North Franklin Street, Tax Parcel 466-(A)-20C, Parcel ID 013214;

Legals - Montgomery County

zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by Summit Community Bank, Inc., Property Owner, to rezone the property located at 100 Akers Farm Road, Tax Parcel 466-(22)-1; Parcel ID 100283, from Limited Business District B-1 to General Business District B-3. The property is

Legals - Montgomery County

designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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# Club from page 3

the sensory space at Wonder Universe; a bronze plaque commemorating Montgomery County's bicentennial in the courthouse; basketball scoreboards and bleachers in the County high schools; and playground equipment at the Blacksburg High School Learning Laboratory.

Internationally, the Club has participated in adult and youth exchange programs; acted as counselors for Rotary Ambassadorial and Skelton Scholars studying at Virginia Tech; contributed weekly to Rotary's PolioPlus program to eradicate polio throughout the world; provided low-cost prostheses to Honduras via Blacksburg-based Hope to Walk; and worked on other school, library, well, and vaccination projects in Haiti, the Philippines, and other countries.

In her remarks at the celebration, District Governor Kathy Kanter said, "Nurturing leaders is a hallmark of Rotary, and your Club has excelled in this area."

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg is the home club of 1983-84 Rotary International President Dr. William "Bill" Skelton who influenced the growth and development of Rotary at all levels by increasing membership, strengthening clubs, promoting vocational service ideals, focusing on community projects and activities, and actively participating in international programs. Skelton showed his dedication to both Rotary's "Service Above Self" and Virginia Tech's "Ut Prosim"

mottoes in all that he did. His support and commitment to Virginia Tech is reflected in the Skelton Conference Center at the Inn at Virginia Tech where many Rotary functions are held today. The Club honored Skelton at the event with plaques given to his children Jean and John Skelton.

Rotary began in 1905 when attorney Paul Harris invited three other men to create a fellowship of businessmen to exchange ideas and create lifelong fellowships. Rotary quickly expanded; first within the US and then internationally. By April 23, 1923 when the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg was chartered, there were 1,410 Rotary Clubs in the world. Today, there are more than 46,000 clubs throughout the world: Rotary International is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg was the first Rotary Club in Montgomery County. The Club is known for its bi-annual blood screening (returning on July 15th), local leadership recognition, youth development programs, and community service projects as well as sponsorship of the Virginia Tech Rotaract Club and participation in Rotary International programs such as PolioPlus. For more information, or to join the Club, find @ChristiansburgBlacksburgRotary on Facebook.



PHOTO BY KIM DICKERSON

**Jean Skelton and John Skelton accept a plaque in honor of their father, 1983-84 Rotary International President Dr. William "Bill" Skelton, at the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg's 100th Anniversary celebration.**

*Submitted by the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg*

# MCPS from page 1

unanimously by the school board members were four federal program grants, The Boys and Girls Club grant proposal, a dishwasher for Harding Avenue, and the expansion of a welding program at the MCPS Governor School STEM Academy.

Citizens addressed concerns about the relocation of Mr. Brandon Keith to a different strand in Montgomery County Schools. Keith is currently the principal at Shawsville Middle School.

Gracie Walker, a Shawsville Middle School student, said "Mr. Keith has made a big impact in Shawsville Middle School this past year."

Student Jackson Matherly of Shawsville Middle School told board members that this would be the fourth year that their principal had been replaced.

"I've been at Shawsville Middle School for 22 years," Joshua Hollyfield, a teacher at Shawsville Middle School said. "Frankly, it scares me a little bit that someone who finds success in a building would be moved to somewhere else to fill a hole."

Also, during the MCPS board meeting, Superintendent Bernard Bragen, Jr. reflected on his first six months in office. The superintendent discussed the successes of Montgomery County Public Schools in their infrastructure, staff, and achievement in both academics and extracurricular activities.

"At the end of the day, we are all committed to Montgomery County Public Schools," Bragen said. "Our student achievement, almost on every metric, we are above the state average. And that's just not in SAT scores, or SOLs, and other important metrics, but that's also in CTE scores and performance for

children that are getting training in vocational and career fields as opposed to going on to two-year or four-year higher education. Something to be proud of."

Bragen also addressed the provision of additional counseling services. Initially, the superintendent did not think local counseling agencies would be able to provide the support the schools would need. However, after further consideration they are now going to put out an RFP (request for proposals) for local providers.

"We do believe we can use the ESSERs monies for that and we also believe there is a need that is present in our communities to provide those additional services," Bragen said.

Other board members spoke in agreement with Bragen.

"I do think that at the end of the day we do all realize what a great school system that we have," Kass said.

A presentation on the new Christiansburg High School project was shown by Josh Bower, Director of Architecture at Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates. A video allowed those in attendance at the meeting to "walk through" a virtual representation of the building design during the Tuesday night recorded meeting on YouTube.

The phasing is still in development; however, Bower presented that Phase One will include the demolition of the counseling, nursing, and administrative areas of the high school. Employees working in these areas will be relocated to temporary spaces over the summer and remain there for the next 16 months as the construction continues. Once the addition is completed, they would then be able to move into the new area.

The school system has advertised to receive bids from contractors beginning on June 5 with bids opening on July 11, according to the project schedule shown to the board members and viewers.

The start of construction is proposed for August 1 and will aim to have construction already begun on the first day of the 2023-24 school year. All students, car or bus riders, will enter each day through the same entrance at the front of the building. Parking spaces will also be increased for staff, and visitor parking will remain in the front of the building.

"We received a lot of compliments on the level of security that we have designed for this," Bower said.

The project is projected to be fully completed by December 2025.

"We do not want to go into calendar year 2026," Bower said.

An update was also provided for other MCPS projects. Among the updates, a revised estimate has been made for the repairs needed to the Eastern Montgomery Elementary School fire sprinkler system and was shared by Dr. Whittaker. The school is still under a fire watch with dedicated staff to conduct walks around the school any time staff and students are in the building. A design study has also been completed for the Eastern Montgomery High School track, but funding has not been allocated at this time.

"We did get about \$90,000, close to \$91,000, in additional funding from the Board of Supervisors from the tax," Whittaker said.

Strategic Plan updates were shared with the MCPS board members by Dr. Whittaker and can be found in the agenda on the mcps.org website.

# News Messenger

Established 1869

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

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- American composer
  - Very fast aircraft
  - Workplaces
  - A mount on a surface
  - Small freshwater fish
  - Double-reed instrument
  - Canadian flyers
  - Famed astronomer
  - Smooth, shiny fabric
  - Profited
  - Conspiracy
  - Infections
  - Chum
  - Secondary school (abbr.)
  - Resistance unit
  - Sound unit
  - Ancient city of Egypt
  - Crease
  - Polished
  - For goodness' sake!
  - College basketball tournament
- CLUES DOWN**
- Fruit of the service tree
  - At some prior time
  - Mongolian city \_\_\_ Bator
  - Strongboxes
  - Russian river
  - Gurus
  - Horse mackerel
  - Pearl Jam's debut album
  - Confines
  - First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year
  - Famed Idaho politician
  - Prevents from seeing
  - Indicate time
  - Male parents
  - Tab on a key ring
  - The Great Dog constellation: \_\_\_ Major
  - Frying necessity
  - Former CIA
  - The leader
  - Produces
  - London soccer club
  - Closes
  - Region in the western Pacific Ocean
  - Not present
  - Small drink of whiskey
  - Begat
  - Helps little firms
  - Pointed end of a pen
  - Fencing swords
  - Inches per minute (abbr.)
  - Hymn
  - Philippine island
  - Flemish names of Ypres
  - A way to inform
  - Small lake
  - Linear unit
  - Central Japanese city
  - Partially burn
  - Sports award
  - Part of your foot
  - Atomic #21

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# OBITUARIES

## Cross, Delta Ree

Delta Ree (Lilly, Eller, Harris) Narrows and Boeing in Princeton, Cross, of Radford, went to be with the Lord on Monday, June 5, 2023.

She was born in Beckley, W. Va. on October 1, 1942, to the late Riley and Rachel Cross.

She is preceded in death by her parents; an infant child, Lisa Renee; five brothers, Cleophus, Leoda, Odeless, Cornelius, and Riley "Cowboy"; sister, Elvira Furnari; and husbands, Thomas Lilly and James E. Harris.

She is survived by her three children, Dean Lilly, Carolyn L. Hill (Charlie Thompson), and Laurissa Eller Payne (Bobby Payne); five grandchildren, Bryan Hill, Crystal Lilly, Chey Eller, Preston Eller and Chaz Payne; sisters, Faye Cooper and Retha Cooper; nephews, nieces and many other relatives and friends. She retired from Celanese in



Narrows and Boeing in Princeton, W. Va. She attended the West End Church of God.

Delta loved flower gardening, having tea parties with her grandchildren, going "yard saling," exhibiting her canary skills, Elvis, and God. She was a loving person and the best Mother anyone could ask for. She will be forever missed.

Per Delta's request, services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Pulaski SPCA or to Pulaski Head Start.

*"The Lord liveth, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation."* 2 Samuel 22:47

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

# Beta Sigma Phi Sorority supports Christiansburg Rescue and Fire departments

A significant part of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority is service to others.

The local chapter of this non-profit group, which is the largest women's organization in the world, is Alpha Mu Master Chapter. The membership of this chapter conducts fundraising opportunities in order to monetarily support a number of local organizations such as MCEAP, Community Health Center, Women's Resource Center, Relay for Life, The Agape Center and Pregnancy Resource Center.

For 55 years, Alpha Mu Master has annually supported both the Christiansburg Rescue Squad and the Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department as their largest service donations. We all enjoy supporting our local community with these philanthropic goals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI SORORITY

**Deputy Fire Marshall Curtis Whitt accepts a monetary donation to the Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department from Carolyn K. Sowers, Chapter Treasurer of Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. A Chapter donation was also made to Christiansburg Rescue Squad at the same time.**

See Sorority, page 6

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

### BAPTIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### ECKANKAR

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

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org**

Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

### LUTHERAN

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

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which

has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmlc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

### MULTI-CULTURAL

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

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for every-

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

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-7555. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

### UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodist-church.com.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc **Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

### WESLEYAN

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

# Board of Visitors sets university budget, compensation plans for 2023-24 fiscal year

BLACKSBURG — The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors approved a \$2.06 billion university budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year that runs July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, at its June 6 quarterly meeting in Blacksburg.

The 2023-24 operating budget will be the largest in the university's history and the first time it will exceed \$2 billion. The Education and General portion of the budget, which includes the University Division and Virginia Cooperative Extension, totals \$1.11 billion, a 5.8 percent increase from a year before.

In total, approximately 19 percent of the overall university budget is funded by state support.

Next year's university budget will include a five percent merit and distinction compensation program for teaching/research faculty and administrative/professional faculty, a five percent university staff merit compensation program, a 5 percent classified staff compensation program, and a five percent stipend increase for graduate assistantships.

Because graduate assistants provide a valuable service to the university and contribute significantly to the advancement of the university's strategic vision, the 2023-24 graduate assistant compensation plan approved by the board will raise the minimum stipend to \$2,420 per month, or to what is the 12th step on the current pay scale, and is consistent with the top recommendation of the Graduate Student Assistantship Support Task Force made earlier this year. Graduate assistants will continue to receive tuition remission, and the university will pay 88 percent of the annual premium cost of the basic health insurance plan.

Successful recruitment and retention of high-quality graduate students requires the university to offer competitive compensation packages. The primary objective is to elevate individuals currently receiving the lowest level of compensation.

The new budget also will include significant increases in student financial aid, consistent with the university's and the board's commitment to the Virginia Tech Advantage initiative. At Monday's information session, the Virginia Tech Advantage Steering Committee co-chairs Matt Holt and Menah Pratt led a discussion focused on financial strategies and aspects of the student experience that support access for both Pell-eligible and non Pell-eligible students.

Board members approved a resolution to authorize the demolition of Randolph Hall and part of Hancock Hall. Because

its age and size no longer support the teaching and research needs of the College of Engineering, Randolph will be razed to make room for the construction of Mitchell Hall. Hancock is currently connected to Randolph, and a portion of the building will be exposed because of the demolition of Randolph. Hancock will transition to a standalone building with a new building envelope on its east side.

A \$19.5 million planning authorization to complete designs through preliminary drawings for Phase I of the Student Life Village also was approved by the board. In November, the board approved the Student Life Village Master Plan that identifies a potential path to increase residential capacity on the Blacksburg campus in three distinct phases over several years as needed. Phase I is projected to increase on-campus residential capacity from 10,500 to 11,120 students within the next five years.

The board also approved a resolution to allow the university to acquire 5.33 acres of land to support future research needs of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Sciences.

In other action, the board approved resolutions to appoint William Devenport, the Kevin Crofton professor in Engineering in the College of Engineering, director of the Virginia Tech Stability Wind Tunnel, and director of the Center for Renewable Energy and Aero/hydrodynamic Technology, and Leo Piilonen, professor of physics in the College of Science, as Alumni Distinguished Professors. The Alumni Distinguished Professorship is a preeminent faculty appointment recognizing those who demonstrate extraordinary accomplishments across all three of Virginia Tech's core mission areas of teaching, research or creative activity, and engagement. Those honored hold the Alumni Distinguished Professor title for a 10-year period.

The board also named Stefan Duma, the Harry C. Wyatt Professor of Engineering in the College of Engineering and executive director of the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Sciences, and Linsey Marr, the Charles P. Lunsford Professor in the College of Engineering, as University Distinguished Professors. The University Distinguished Professorship is Virginia Tech's pre-eminent faculty rank and recognizes those whose research and scholarship have attracted international acclaim. Those honored hold the University Distinguished Professor title



Members of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors tour the new Data and Decision Sciences Building on the Blacksburg campus as part of their June meeting.

until resignation or retirement from the university.

Faculty promotion, tenure, and continued appointments for 2023 were approved by the board. The complete list is published on the Virginia Tech News website.

In addition, the board approved the appointment of six faculty members to endowed chairs or fellowships, and five faculty members were honored with emerita or emeritus status.

Rector Tish Long, President Tim Sands, and other board members acknowledged the many contributions of current board members Charles T. Hill, Sharon Brickhouse Martin, and Melissa Byrne Nelson, all of whom will conclude four-year terms on June 30. Hill is completing two consecutive terms and has served as chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee during his tenure with the board.

Shelley Butler Barlow, who has served a series of one-year terms on the board by virtue of her role as president of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, also was acknowledged for her many contributions.

Undergraduate student representative Jamal Ross and graduate and professional student representative Anna Buhle, who will conclude their one-year terms on June 30, were also recognized for their service to the board. William Storey, a rising senior majoring in environmental science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will succeed Ross as the undergraduate student representative. Emily Tirrell, a graduate student working toward her Ph.D. in translational biology, medicine, and health, will succeed Buhle as the graduate and professional student

representative.

Board members also acknowledged the contributions of faculty representative Robert Weiss, director of the Center for Coastal Studies, director of Disaster Resilience and Risk Management, and professor of geosciences in the College of Science; administrative and professional faculty representative Hollie Drewry, digital content strategist for Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies; and staff representative Serena Young, administrative assistant to the University Ombuds, all of whom will also conclude their one-year terms on June 30.

Effective July 1, Joe Merola, professor of chemistry in the College of Science, will become the faculty representative; Janice Austin, assistant dean and director of admissions and academic progress in the Graduate School, will become the administrative and professional faculty representative; and LaTawnya Burleson, executive assistant to the vice president for information technology, will become the staff representative.

The board announced its rector and vice rector for the 2023-24 academic year. Effective July 1, Ed Baine, president of Dominion Energy Virginia, will serve as rector, and Sharon Brickhouse Martin, founder and president of Brickhouse-Martin Healthcare Engineering, will serve as vice rector, contingent upon her reappointment to the board. Baine was elected unanimously and will be the first Black rector at Virginia Tech.

The next scheduled meeting of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will be held Aug. 27-29.

Submitted by Virginia Tech

## Local expert says Twitter's plummet in value highlights social network governance challenge

Investors, advertisers, and everyday users with any kind of interest in social media platform Twitter have received sobering news, with the revelation that the company is now worth about \$15 billion.

That's a 66% reduction in value since tech mogul Elon Musk paid \$44 billion last year to assume ownership.

"The decline illustrates not just the consequences of Musk's stewardship, but the myriad challenges that exist for anyone managing a social media platform," said Virginia Tech media expert Megan Duncan.

"Buying a social media platform might be easy, but governing it is hard."

"There are a lot of stakeholders in a social media platform — each with their own interests and expectations.

Advertisers, users, and investors of social media today have high expectations and established norms. Anyone in charge would be pulled in lots of directions," said Duncan.

"However, it's not just anyone in charge of Twitter. It's Elon Musk," Duncan said. "He bought it while publicly saying he was prioritizing two concepts: technology and free speech. He has hit rough spots on both fronts. The technology innovations he's introduced have been eclipsed by the problems, from poor adoption rates on Twitter Blue to the delays to Gov. Ron DeSantis's Twitter Spaces campaign announcement. He's also run into issues implementing his free speech ideology because that clashes with the

interests of advertisers and users. Brands do not want to be advertising near videos of animal abuse, for example."

In Duncan's social media course at Virginia Tech, part of the class discussion includes talking about governing a social media platform. "Students in groups start the class by writing their version of a terms of service for an imaginary platform," she said. "I introduce students to complication after complication — the need to keep child exploitation material from spreading, complying with U.S. and world government laws, demands by authoritarian governments to remove disparaging material, concerns about keeping data safe and private, determining whether and which videos depicting violence will

be shown, the extreme task of moderation in 100 different languages."

"The days of moving fast, breaking things, and still seeing ever-

increasing valuations might be over for social media," Duncan said.

Megan Duncan is an assistant professor in the School of Communication at

Virginia Tech.

Mike Allen for Virginia Tech

## Sorority from page 5



Current Chapter members (front row, left to right): Lillian Van Lear, Phyllis Durham, Libby Pettigrew, Doris Caldwell and (back row, left to right): Robin Grove, Nancy Jo Waters, Sharon Legg, Carolyn Sowers, Sharon Ferrell, Kim Chiapetto, Sue Warden, and Kristen Talley.

Recently, Carolyn K. Sowers, Chapter Treasurer, presented checks to Deputy Fire Marshall Curtis Whitt for the Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department and the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, on behalf of the Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

Submitted by the Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi

**DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS VS SALEM RED SOX**

**JUNE 13TH 11:05AM**  
CAMP DAY - GATES OPEN AT 10:00AM

**JUNE 14TH 5:35PM & ~7:30PM**  
DOUBLEHEADER - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

**JUNE 15TH 7:05PM**  
GAME 3 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

**JUNE 16TH 7:05PM**  
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

**JUNE 17TH 6:05PM**  
COUNTRY NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

**JUNE 18TH 3:05PM**  
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Reid's basketball journey leads to BHS post

**Marty Gordon**  
NRV@sports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Joe Reid has always put his basketball shoes on one lace at a time and had always dreamed of playing professionally.

Three years ago, he got that chance with the Roanoke Rising Stars, a semi-pro basketball team. But sometimes the road takes twists and turns people never expect as that door came to a close. His journey has now led him to Blacksburg High School where on Wednesday he was named the new head coach for the girls' basketball program. He had been an assistant at the school for the past two seasons.

Prior to moving to Virginia as a youngster, Reid played three years for the same AAU program Julius Erving had played for, gaining the opportunity to meet him and traveling nationwide to tournaments.

With that same team in 2003, he won the World Biddy Basketball Championship.

He then moved to Virginia and attended William Fleming High School, where they won the 2007 VHSL AA state championship his junior year. He spent his senior year at Christiansburg High School.

"After high school, I played Junior college basketball for New River Community College and am currently listed top five in all time points scored," he said. "The last two seasons I played professionally for an American Basketball Association team, The Roanoke Rising

Stars, before moving on to being a full time private player development coach."

"I always thought transitioning from professionally playing full time to something else would be incredibly difficult," he added. "However, man was I wrong. Seeing the impact in the lives of those who have done player development training with me has surpassed any achievements I've accomplished in my own playing career by far."

Coaching was never really on his to-do list, but it quickly became reality when he was named an assistant at BHS. Now, he is very grateful for the new chapter in his journey.

"I've always joked and said I would never coach, but I'm beyond excited and incredibly grateful for this opportunity."

"The (Blacksburg) program has an outstanding amount of potential with incredible female athletes and a large support system. I'm very excited and thankful for the opportunity to continue building on the foundation that has been set. This year and for many years to come, Blacksburg High School girls' basketball will look to compete hard and make a transcending impact on our community and those around us."

Reid takes over a Blacksburg program that was 12-11 last season and 42-60 over the past five. He hopes to change the culture and is looking to create a fun, high energy, positive environment that is safe and focuses on the student first, athlete second while empowering and challenging its athletes to reach their full potential, embracing mistakes



PHOTO COURTESY OF BHS

Blacksburg assistant basketball coach Joe Reid has named the head coach of the high school's girls' program.

and unlocking a mindset of growth. "My primary goal is to teach our student athletes accountability, responsibility and effective communicative habits that are lifelong lasting lessons. I will personally strive to build the character of our girls to become modeled citizens contributing to the communities around

us and the advancement of our society. I want to build a program that is full of tradition with a well-known history of making a major impact community wide," he said.

Reid will host a basketball camp this coming week at the Blacksburg Recreation Department.

## Radford's Yamazaki heads to Japanese National Team Camp



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Ibu Yamazaki averaged 2.2 points and 1.2 rebounds this past year as a freshman for the Radford University basketball team.

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Radford University's international player Ibu Yamazaki seems to be headed to Japan's National Men's Team camp. Sources at RU say the rising sophomore will aim to be selected for the 12-member squad, which will play in the Asian Games in September and eventually the 2023 FIBA World Cup, the camp will be held June 13-21 at the National Training Center in Tokyo.

Led by Head Coach Tom Hovasse, the camp, scheduled for later this month will include a total of 26 players ranging from 19 to 28 years old, with Yamazaki being the youngest of the entire group.

The Matsudo, Chiba, Japan native and Meisei High School product averaged 2.2 points and 1.2 rebounds across 33 games in his freshman season as a Highlander.

Standing at 6-7 the 18-year old wing hails from

Matsudo, Chiba, Japan and attended Meisei High School, the very same school that produced Gonzaga standout and current Washington Wizard Rui Hachimura.

A sharpshooter from beyond the arc, Yamazaki represented his home nation in seven games during the FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup last summer and averaged 14.6 points, 4.0 rebounds, and 1.1 assists per game. He dropped 32 points on South Korea, scored 23 points versus Serbia, and went for double-digits against Canada and Senegal as well.

SB Nation noted Yamazaki as a standout in the tournament, mentioning him in the same breath as top NBA draft prospects Jaden Ivey (Purdue/USA), Dyson Daniels (G League Ignite/Australia), and Nikola Jovic (Mega Mozzart/Serbia). In the article, they say of Yamazaki that, "No matter the venue or location, his jumper is silky smooth as it's clear that time has been put in towards every step of the process."

## Six Hokies earn preseason All-ACC

Athlon Sports released its preseason All-ACC teams, and the Hokies landed six players on the preseason squads.

Wide receiver Ali Jennings was named to the first team offense while Tucker Holloway placed on the first team as a punt returner. Cornerback Mansoor Delane was selected to the second team, followed by three fourth-team selections, including offensive lineman Kaden Moore, cornerback Dorian Strong and punter Peter Moore.

Jennings tallied 54 receptions for 959 yards and nine touchdowns at Old Dominion during the 2022 season on his way to earning all-Sun Belt first team honors. He registered five 100-yard receiving games and had a stretch of seven straight games with a touchdown. He is listed as the second-highest returning ACC wide receiver, according to Pro Football Focus (PFF).

Holloway played in five games as a freshman, fielding nine punts totaling 191 return yards (21.2-yard average). He set the Virginia Tech program record for

single game punt return yardage on Nov. 5, 2022, against Georgia Tech (188 yards, 7 returns), scoring his first career touchdown on a 90-yard return, and earning ACC Specialist of the Week honors.

Delane played in eight games, making four starts at cornerback. He led Tech in pass breakups (eight), registering 38 tackles (17 solo), one interception and two forced fumbles. Delane earned freshman All-American accolades from College Football News and 247 Sports. He is one of the top returning cornerbacks nationally, according to PFF.

Moore made 11 starts at right guard and was part of the Hokies' offensive line that allowed one or

fewer sacks against Old Dominion (Sept. 2), Wofford (Sept. 17) and West Virginia (Sept. 22).

Strong started four games at cornerback, recording 10 tackles (seven solo), three pass breakups and one fumble recovery before missing the final seven games with an injury.

Moore attempted 73 punts totaling 3,042 yards (41.7-yard average) and placed 24 punts inside the 20, delivering 17 beyond 50 yards. His season long was 67 yards.

Virginia Tech Athletics

## Bruins named Region 4D all-stars in soccer

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Blacksburg High School dominated the Region 4D all-star soccer list announced Thursday. On the boys' side, Edric Zheng, Kai Feng and Wyatt Eschenmann were named to the first-team, while Sean Delorenzo, Nevin O'Dowd, Addison Bass and DJ Garza were second teamers.

On the girls' side of the list, three Bruins were named to the first team. They included: Mila Santsaver-Jones, Erin Bishop and Paige Miller. Three of their teammates were named to the second team, Ava Massjourni, Kailyn Brawley and Paige Miller.

Honorable mentions for the Bruin girls' included

Charlotte Ellis, Ginny Crawford and Emily Bishop.

The region also released its baseball team with two Bruins making the first and second teams. Brice Abbott was a first team designated hitter and Spencer Campbell at first base.

Blacksburg was represented on the softball all-star listing with Mia Farley being named as an outfielder. Pitcher Lorelei Spradlin and utility player Evelyn Rhodes

were placed on the second team.

All region lacrosse players included Blacksburg's Lake Gohlke, Eric Metrey and Andrew Guyn being named to the second team.

Hayli Williams was Blacksburg lone first team Region 4D lacrosse player, but four teammates were named to the second team including Malayna Cherbaka, Azalee Chase, Camryn McElory and Madi Mann.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
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National Institutes of Health

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