

# News Messenger

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## Montgomery-Radford-Floyd County NAACP branch hosts MLK community celebration



The new local branch officers being installed are (top row, left to right) Da'Quan Love, executive director of the state NAACP conference, who installed the officers; President Debbie Travis; Assistant Treasurer Allen Palmer; Treasurer Jill Stewart; (middle row, left to right) Executive Committee Members-at-Large Gunin Kiran, the Rev. Michael Sanborn and Shirley Akers; Secretary Terry Goodson; (bottom row, left to right) Executive Committee Member-at-Large the Rev. Marlin Reeves, First Vice President Dr. William Hendricks.

The Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP hosted the area's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration on January 17 as a virtual event.

One hundred and fifteen individuals or households had their computers tuned in to the celebration.

Following a welcome by Mistress of Ceremonies Karen Jones and an invocation by the Rev. Ryan Schaeffer of Asbury United Methodist Church, the celebration opened with James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Branch officers were elected recently for 2021-2022: Deborah H. Travis, president; Dr. William H. Hendricks, first vice president; Terry Goodson, secretary; Dr. Jill Stewart, treasurer; Allen W. Palmer, assistant treasurer; and four executive committee members-at-large: Shirley Akers,

Gunin Kiran, the Rev. Marlin Reeves and the Rev. Michael Sanborn.

Da'Quan Love, the Executive Director of the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP, was on hand to install the officers.

The annual Branch Community Service Awards in honor of Dr. King went to Judith B. Diggs of Christiansburg and Benzina L. Eaves of the Wake Forest community near Blacksburg.

The branch also recognized Allen W. Palmer with a special service award for his fifteen years as treasurer. Palmer also functions as the treasurer for his church and for numerous other community organizations.

Judy Diggs has been an active lifelong member of Asbury United Methodist Church and is a Silver Life Member of the NAACP. She has held

See NAACP, page 5



The Rev. Jefferson Jones was the evening's keynote speaker with a theme of "The Strength to Love," also the title of one of Dr. King's most famous sermons.



Wilco guitarist Nels Cline joins Grammy-nominated Aizuri Quartet for a HomeStage performance of Douglas J. Cuomo's "Seven Limbs."

## Wilco guitarist Nels Cline to join Aizuri Quartet for Arts Center's HomeStage performance

Wilco guitarist Nels Cline will join the Grammy-nominated Aizuri Quartet on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. for the Moss Arts Center's livestreamed world premiere of American composer Douglas J. Cuomo's "Seven Limbs."

Taking place in an East Coast studio, the performance is part of the center's HomeStage series and melds Cline's inventive guitar playing with the classically based, forward-thinking style of the Aizuri Quartet.

One of only a few performances of the work featuring Cline, the event includes a live post-performance conversation with the musicians and composer moderated by Charles Nichols, associ-

ate professor of composition and creative technologies in Virginia Tech's School of Performing Arts.

Ticket holders have access to the HomeStage series performance as it happens and for seven days following the event.

"Seven Limbs" has been described as a virtuosic tour de force filled with melodic beauty, rhythmic urgency, celebration, serenity and unbridled joy. Together, Cline and the Aizuri Quartet approach composer Cuomo's new musical landscape with an openness and meditative tranquility that parallels the Buddhist practice of the Seven Limbs.

See Cline, page 2

## Governor endorses Buchwald in state senate race

Heather Bell  
hb@ourvalley.org

Democrat candidate for state senate Laurie Buchwald got the nod from Governor Ralph Northam Monday.

Buchwald will face Travis Hackworth, a Republican from Tazewell County, in the March 23 special election to succeed the late Sen. Ben Chafin, who died Jan. 1 from COVID-19.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the inequalities in our communities," said Northam in his endorsement. "The inability to access broadband means too many students are being left behind in the classroom. Not being able to count on school lunches means more and more of our children are going hungry. And as the economy suffers and jobs are lost, too many families are worried about how they are going to keep the lights on. We need leadership to tackle these real, kitchen-table issues head-on and that's why I'm endorsing Laurie Buchwald for the State Senate."

Buchwald, who lives in Radford, is a nurse practitioner and a former



Laurie Buchwald

Radford City Council member who served on the council from 2002-2010 before opting not to run for a third term. A residential and commercial builder, Hackworth won the Republican nomination for the seat after a primary that included six candidates.

Northam said he thinks Buchwald's background in health care will be helpful in the General Assembly. "As a healthcare provider, Laurie understands the challenges we have before us but is uniquely equipped to help us solve them," he said. "I'm confident in her ability to deliver for the people of Southwest Virginia and am looking forward to working with her in Richmond."

## First case of COVID-19 variant identified in Virginia

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of General Services Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) earlier this week announced that the first case of the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7 has been identified in a sample from an adult resident of Northern Virginia with no reported recent travel history.

The B.1.1.7 variant, which first emerged in the United Kingdom in late 2020, is associated with increased person-to-person transmission of COVID-19.

DCLS confirmed the case using next-generation sequencing that pro-

vides a genetic blueprint of the virus that causes COVID-19. DCLS has informed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the case.

"Viruses change all the time, and we expect to see new strains as disease spreads," said Virginia's Health Commissioner, M. Norman Oliver. "We know this variant strain spreads more quickly between people than other strains currently circulating in our communities, but we still have more to learn about whether it causes more severe illness. As our state public health officials closely monitor the emergence of the B.1.1.7 variant in

our commonwealth, it is important that all Virginians continue following mitigation measures."

In the United States, nearly 200 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant had been detected in 23 states as of Jan. 22, 2021. While scientists are working to better understand the variant's impact on vaccine efficacy, early data suggest currently authorized vaccines are effective against the new strain. The Virginia Department of Health is working with communities across the commonwealth to slow the spread of all strains of COVID-19 through

See Variant, page 4

## Moss Arts Center exhibition reflects the Earth's beauty and its vulnerability

The Moss Arts Center's newest exhibition, "Unbearable Beauty," presents works of art that demonstrate the devastating ways human activity impacts the environment.

The exhibit is currently on view at the Moss Arts Center, located at 190 Alumni Mall in Blacksburg, from Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. through April 24. Masks are required and social distancing guidelines should be followed in all gallery spaces. The center's exhibitions and all related events are always free and open to the public.

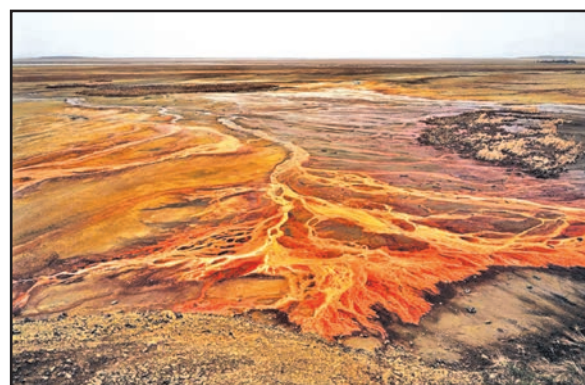
The exhibition in-

cludes photographic work by nationally and internationally recognized artists Edward Burtynsky, Chris Jordan and Daniel Beltrá; a film installation of one of the largest Arctic glacier calving incidents to date by James Balog; and Steven Norton's soundscape of animals that are now extinct.

Curated by Margo Crutchfield, Moss Arts Center curator at large, the exhibition features extraordinary work from these artists:

Edward Burtynsky -- Ruth C. Horton Gallery

An accomplished contemporary photographer, Edward Burtynsky is known for his images of industrial projects and



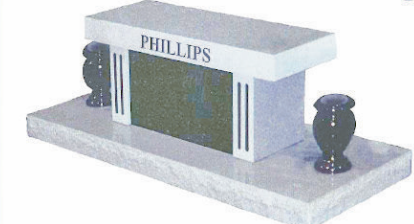
Contemporary photographer Edward Burtynsky's work "Nickel Tailings #30," Sudbury, Ontario, 1996, shows the environmental aftermath of metal mining and smelting. The chromogenic print is 48 x 72 inches. © Edward Burtynsky. Courtesy of Howard Greenberg Gallery and Bryce Wolkowitz Gallery, New York / Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto.

their effects on the environment. His photographic depictions of global industrial landscapes include colossal

mines, quarries, dams, factories and disposal facilities. Featured in this

See Moss Arts, page 3

Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sunday, Jan. 31:

**Blacksburg-Radford Fellowship Youth Group Event**  
The first-ever Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) youth fellowship event will be held from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church picnic shelter, rain or shine. The event is for youth ages 13-17 (8th grade through high school seniors). Fellowship pastors will serve as chaperones. All participants must wear a mask and practice social distancing. Vicar Alyssa Kaplan will lead the group in games. They will also have snacks, and the fire pit will help keep everyone warm.

## Monday, Feb. 1:

**Interactive Movie Kit**  
Choose from Inside Out or The Princess Bride at 10 a.m. at the Christiansburg Library and the Meadowbrook Public Library. Each kit contains popcorn and props for four individuals to participate. The movie is not included. Supplies are limited.

## Monday, Feb. 1, through Saturday, Feb. 6:

**Make a Valentine for local adult care facilities**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library. The library has supplies to make a card in a bag. Call to request the bag, and library staff will deliver it curbside. Place the Valentine in the bag

that it came in and return it in the book drop at Meadowbrook Public Library by February 6. This will give the library enough time to quarantine and deliver.

## Thursday, Feb. 4:

**Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) Commander's Community Meeting**  
This is a Facebook Live event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>.  
These meetings are an opportunity to learn about RFAAP modernization and environmental projects, environmental compliance and corrective actions. The meeting is open to the public. For questions relating to the meeting, contact Charlie Saks at 540 731 5785 or visit the RFAAP website at <https://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx> then "Ask the Commander" in the lower left margin of the home page.

**American Legion Meeting**  
American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. In case of heavy snow or ice, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

## Sunday, Feb. 7:

**Chalk artist at Christ Wesleyan Church**  
Christ Wesleyan Church invites everyone to a special

service featuring Chalk Artist Evangelist, the Rev. Dwight Haynes. This unique ministry will feature joyous music and a beautifully illustrated Bible message in full color on a large canvas, along with amazing back-light effects. The service will take place at 11 a.m. at the church, 525 Harkrader St. in Christiansburg. For more information call 540-998-8788 or read more online at [www.ChalkTalks.net](http://www.ChalkTalks.net).

## Tuesday, Feb. 9:

**Sons of Confederate Veterans Meeting**  
Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Camp Commander Will Reed will present a talk on the History of the Fourth Virginia Infantry Regiment. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. In the event of heavy snow or ice, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

## Wednesday, Feb. 10:

**A Beginner's Approach to Garden Photography at noon**  
This is a Zoom presentation by Robert E. Lyons, Professor Emeritus at the University of Delaware, former Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden and a faculty member of the Virginia Tech Horticulture Department. This talk is all about using your

eyes, your mind and your camera to capture moments in your personal landscapes. They may be your gardens, vignettes from your travels, seasonal records of your favorite plants and/or features of landscape designs.  
The presentation content is example-driven and provides understandable and uncomplicated information to create aesthetically pleasing images in a relatively short period of time. While equipment details and camera mechanics will be mentioned, they will not dominate the presentation. Instead, the impact and exploitation of prevailing light, elements of photographic composition, the power of mastering depth of field and developing a personal style will be emphasized.

This presentation is particularly relevant for and geared towards early stage photographers who use a variety of devices including DSLR's, mobile/cell phones or both. Register online at [https://virginiat-tech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4Ymy3HGvrxExkxf](https://virginiat-tech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Ymy3HGvrxExkxf).

## Saturday, Feb. 13:

**Dialogue on Race 2021 Winter Summit**  
This event is being held from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. online on Zoom or virtually as all Dialogue on Race events will be until further notice. The keynote speakers will be Dr. Abraham B. Hardee III, DO/PhD and Dr. Pete Guerra, MDA. Subjects include the year in masks, the COVID Pandemic, race and racism and vaccination

and vaccines: What to know and do. Register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Jbi908JMSgq1264cQKX8Eg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Jbi908JMSgq1264cQKX8Eg).

## Ongoing:

## Throughout January

**Keep Your Lights Up for Healthcare Heroes**  
Communities are calling upon every citizen and business to keep their holiday lights up through Sunday, Jan. 31, to recognize those working in healthcare.

## Throughout February

**StoryWalk**  
All through the month of February at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. Begin at the library at the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is The Big Red Barn.

## Through Friday, Mar. 5:

**Glencoe Mansion "2020 in Review" Art Show**  
The exhibit features the works of artists Cheryl Mackian, the Radford Photo Club and Teresa Regil, whose works all appeared in the gallery during 2020. The exhibit is now open and is free to the public.

# Once registered for COVID-19 vaccine, respond to the vaccine call center's return call

CHRISTIANSBURG -- The COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center serving the New River Valley Public Health Task Force reported recently that up

to 50 percent of all return calls the center made to individuals to schedule vaccine appointments were not answered or went directly to voice mail.

Outgoing calls from the call center come from 540-838-8222. If you receive a call from that number, it's the COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center probably calling to schedule your vaccine appointment. Please answer, even if it's labeled as potential spam.

Changes have been made so that every outgoing call is identified as "NRV Health District" and "540-838-8222." If you can adjust the settings on your phone to be sure to accept these calls, please do so.

Citizens Cooperative, the call center service provider, also is in the process of verifying the phone number so it will no longer be labeled as potential spam.

"Call center volunteers frequently must make multiple calls to reach someone. We have learned that many calls are not answered because they're tagged as potential spam, either by the user or by the service provider as a service to its customers," said NRV Business Continuity Team Public Health Director Ashley Briggs. "Under normal circumstances that makes perfect sense, but during a pandemic, in order to improve ev-

eryone's response time, we really need the calls to go through and for users to answer them as quickly as possible."  
"Citizens Cooperative has been a great partner to the New River Valley Public Health Task Force," said Kevin Byrd, executive director of the NRV Regional Commission, which houses the call center. "They helped us quickly establish the call center and have been very responsive in identifying

and fixing problems. And thanks, too, to the volunteers who staff the center's 10 lines seven days a week. We're all learning quickly about operating a high capacity, high volume call center."  
For more info about the vaccine, visit VDH's Vaccine Response website ([www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/)) and CDC's website ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/vaccines/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/vaccines/index.html)).

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- CLUES ACROSS**
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  - Confining bird structure
  - Taxi
  - Comedian Carvey
  - A young canine
  - "Spy Kids" actress Jessica
  - Galvanizing element
  - TV show "Modern \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Hooray!
  - Suggesting horror
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  - 1999 high school massacre
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  - Herb rue genus
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  - Actress Derek
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  - Overhead shot
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  - Chew tobacco
  - Sacred Muslim pilgrim shrine
  - Very small
  - Kilo yard (abbr.)
  - "\_\_\_\_ Ado About Nothing"
  - British school for boys
  - Wood shaping tool
  - Two considered as a unit
  - Tennis' Kournikova
  - TV cook Ray
  - Canadian Wildlife Fed.
  - Exclamation of triumph
  - A cut & polished mineral
  - One who removes
  - Stout stick, larger at one end
  - Town in Ghana
  - Lowest or bottom part
  - Soothing tool
  - Dentist's group
  - Atomic #48
  - Providence school (abbr.)
  - Allot a site to
  - Pole (Scottish)
  - Hop kilns
  - Mister
  - London palace
  - Finger millet
  - Bestow an honor on
  - Nine-banded armadillo
  - Northern Bolivian river
  - Atomic #28
  - 1st guru of Sikhism
  - Fullback
  - Violet gemstone
  - 26th state
  - A mass of stone
  - Like fireplace residue
  - N'Djamena is the capital
  - \_\_\_\_ City, Oklahoma 74641
  - Leave out
  - Singer & Congressman Sonny
  - Cologne
  - Basics
  - Dash
  - Lifting device on a sailing ship

## Cline from page 1

Cline plays electric guitar with effects and acoustic guitar in the work. His music is both notated and improvised, following specific directions and guidelines in the score. The Aizuri Quartet's music is entirely notated, utilizing a wide range of techniques, colors and effects.

Both strings and guitar are shapeshifters in that the roles of the soloist and accompanist are fluid. At times the guitar is in front with the string quartet playing a more supportive role. At other times the guitar conjures a multilayered and evolving drone-like sonic environment and the strings step to the fore.

Structurally, the piece is a ritual in seven movements, based on the Seven Limbs, a fundamental Tibetan Buddhist practice of purification. The limbs are prostration, offering, confession, rejoicing, requesting the turning of the wheel of dharma, beseeching the Buddha not to pass away and dedication.

Cuomo has written music for concert, operatic and theatrical stages, as well as for television and film. The composer's expressive musical language with its arresting juxtapositions of sound and style is a natural outgrowth of his wide-ranging background and training.

Cline is best known as the lead guitarist in the band Wilco. His recording and performing career, which spans jazz, rock, punk and

experimental, is well into its fourth decade with more than 200 recordings. Cline has received many accolades, including Rolling Stone's anointing him as one of 20 "new guitar gods" and one of the top 100 guitarists of all time.

The Aizuri Quartet's debut album, "Blueprinting," was nominated for a 2019 Grammy Award, and the ensemble was awarded the Grand Prize and the CAG Management Prize at the 2018 M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition and took top prizes at the 2017 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition in Japan and the 2015 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition in London.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public and free for Virginia Tech students. Tickets can be purchased online, at the Moss Arts Center's box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Also available is the Spring Fan(fare) Pass, which provides access to all Home-Stage events offered through May 31, 2021, guaranteeing a minimum of eight performances. While providing added support for the center, Spring Fan(fare) Pass holders also get exclusive information through regular Fan(fare) Insider emails and are the first to know about new events added to the schedule.

# New River Health District director: Vaccine rollout faces supply, demand and logistics hurdles

Since December, at least 12,000 people in the New River Valley have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

But that number is only the tip of the iceberg compared to the many who want it but have not yet received it, said Noelle Bissell, health director of the New River Health District, during a virtual meeting Wednesday with the news media. Bissell spoke to the media on the challenging and changing dynamics of how the district receives the coronavirus vaccine and distributes it each week.

"This is the largest public health campaign of our lifetimes, and it's not without tremendous logistical challenges," she said. "We definitely have greater vaccinating capacity than we have vaccine available. We are waiting for the day when those floodgates open and there is more vaccine because right now we have a tremendous challenge trying to deal with the uncertainty of how much vaccine we have from day to day or week to week."

In December, the health district first received the Moderna version of the vaccine, and now it is receiving both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Right now, the district is administering the vaccine to people in phase 1b, which includes those who are 65 and older and those who work in essential jobs, such as K-12 teachers, that interact directly with the public. The group also includes people younger than 65 with high-risk medical conditions.

Bissell estimated there are 80,000 to 90,000 people in the district who qualify for the phase 1b vaccine rollout.

But the district, though it administers vaccines every day, has no control over how much vaccine it will have on hand each week. Bissell said the district receives about 2,000 doses weekly from the Virginia Department of Health, though it requests 5,000 doses. The district, she said, schedules vaccination appointments based on this dosage amount and is working to ensure that people who are at the highest risk of contracting COVID-19

or becoming seriously ill from the virus are in line first.

Appointments are scheduled through March for people in phase 1b.

"We really appreciate that there is a lot of enthusiasm in the community to get vaccinated, but we have to encourage people to remember that just because they're eligible doesn't mean we can get everyone vaccinated now," Bissell said. "I'll assure you that as soon as we get the vaccine, we make every effort to get those doses into arms very quickly."

People who fall in phases 1a or 1b must pre-register for the vaccine at [www.nrvroad-towellness.com](http://www.nrvroad-towellness.com) or by calling the district's hotline at 540-838-8322. There are more than 25,000 people pre-registered, Bissell said.

The district also is scheduling appointments for second doses of the vaccine for those who received the first dose. The goal is to provide second doses within a four-to-six week window of the first dose as supplies allow. Second doses also are complicating the district's logistical challenges with vaccine availability and appointment scheduling, Bissell said.

It could be the spring until the district is able to offer vaccines to people who fall in the next phase, phase 1c, which includes employees of higher education institutions. A more detailed timeline is premature at this time, Bissell said Wednesday.

"I can't even begin to say that until we have a more steady supply of vaccine coming in," she said, adding that she is hopeful that vaccines for the greater public will be available by this summer.

Other vaccine versions are nearing approval stages, including one by Johnson & Johnson. Once these are approved, Bissell said, she hopes vaccine supplies will increase.

"Understand that this is a monumental effort," Bissell said Wednesday. "The logistics of this effort are incredible."

— *Written by Jenny Kincaid Boone*

# Rural mental health workshop reminds farmers 'It's OK to not be OK'

WASHINGTON—A group with elevated risk for mental health crises may be the least likely to ask for help. The farm families of Virginia and the rest of the country.

Depressed farm economies, weather disasters and the coronavirus pandemic have taken their toll on the state's and the nation's farm families. Farming-related stress can be exacerbated by the rural isolation and farmers' "boot-strap" attitude. Studies show there is increased risk for suicide, substance use disorder and depression among U.S. farmers and rural residents.

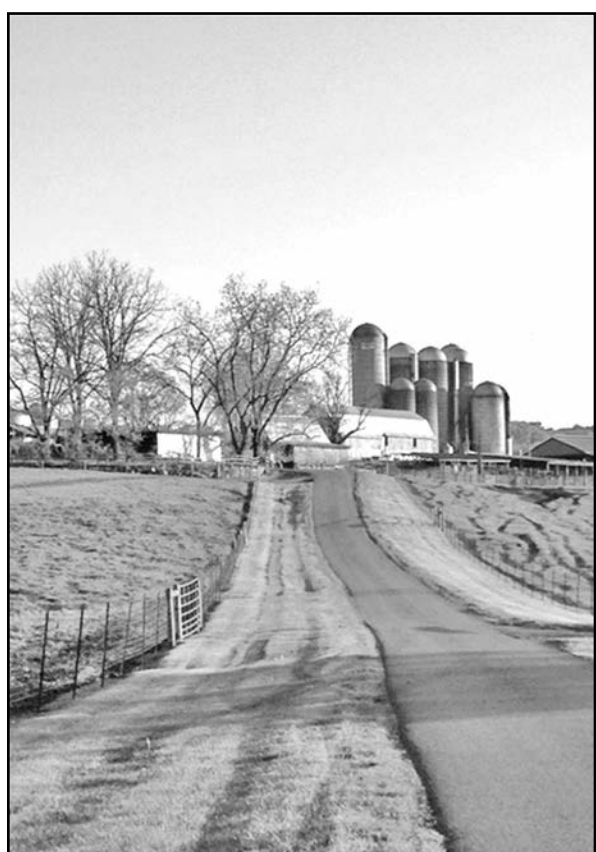
American Farm Bureau Federation is seeking to smash stigmas surrounding rural mental health by encouraging farm families to seek help and help each other. Agriculturalists from across the U.S. discussed these issues Jan. 12 at the 2021 AFBF Virtual Convention during a workshop titled "Farm State of Mind: Responding to the Challenges of Rural Mental Health." Panelists talked about awareness and access to rural health care service, and highlighted Farm Bureau's efforts to confront the crisis.

A Morning Consult poll conducted among 2,000 rural adults in December 2020 on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation found that 66% of farmers and farmworkers said COVID-19 has impacted their mental health. More than half said they are personally experiencing more mental health challenges than they were a year ago.

Farm blogger Meredith Bernard of This Farm Wife Inc. in North Carolina said farmers are high-stakes gamblers.

"We don't buy lottery tickets, but we buy cows and we plant crops," she said. "Every day feels like it's a gamble, and we don't know what we're going to wake up to. Is this the year that makes or breaks the farm for good?"

That uncertainty, plus the pressure to sustain a farm legacy for the next generation, causes unrelenting stress. "The



weight of all that—it's up to you to keep something going—that can be huge," Bernard said. Workshop panelist Randy Roecker said he knows that pressure well. The Wisconsin dairyman owns the farm his grandfather started in the '30s. He has struggled with farm stress and depression himself and discussed warning signs: withdrawn demeanor, unkempt appearance, weight loss, irritability and exhaustion.

"This is a subject we have to talk about," Roecker said, discussing efforts in his community to combat the crisis. "It's OK to not be OK."

Panelists said resources are in reach, especially telehealth options that will become more accessible with legislation to expand rural broadband infrastructure.

Marshal Sewell, a field sales representative for Bayer Crop Science, talked about the Rural Resilience Training Program developed in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Federation. The program teaches skills to understand the sources of stress, to learn the warning signs of stress and suicide, to identify effective communication strategies, to reduce stigma and to connect farmers with

appropriate resources. The program is free for Farm Bureau members, and information is available at [farmstateofmind.org](http://farmstateofmind.org).

Northumberland-Lancaster Farm Bureau member Landre Toulson is the mental health and stress manager for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He's working with the Virginia Farmer Stress Task Force, which is committed to raising awareness and coordinating resources to address farmer stress and mental health challenges.

"Farmers and their families experience unique struggles as they meet the challenging demands of farming, including Virginia's topography and weather, our economic climate and the shift in rural to urban populations," Toulson said. "These demands may cause dangerous levels of stress. Mental health professionals are challenged with helping struggling farmers while increasing mental health awareness in their communities. Hopefully farmers will realize their mental health problems are not as unique as they may seem."

He said a local communication services board or a primary care doctor are excellent resources.

# Historic Montgomery



Models showcase Harman fur capes and coats on the Virginia Tech Campus in 1959. Harman Fur Farms operated fox and mink farms in Montgomery County and elsewhere. A retail store was located on Roanoke Street in Christiansburg from 1928-1979. (This image from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

# Moss Arts

from page 1

exhibition are examples of his photographs that focus on the extraction of metals from mining sites in Arizona, New Mexico and Ontario, Canada.

Chris Jordan -- Ruth C. Horton Gallery

Chris Jordan is a photographic artist whose work in this exhibition explores mass consumption from a sociological and environmental perspective. In his photographs Jordan translates social and environmental statistics into visible terms, visiting landfills and recycling centers to photograph vast piles of discarded products such as cell phones, chargers and circuit boards. Jordan's works walk the line between abstraction and representation, examining the actions of humans and their impact on society and the environment.

Steve Norton -- Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery

Steve Norton is a sound artist, musician and researcher who is currently focused on the gathering of field-recorded sound to use in electroacoustic compositions and improvisational performance. Presented in this exhibition is his four-channel sound installation, "Requiem" (2018), which was created with the recordings of 10 recently extinct bird species and two species of frogs. "Requiem" is a eulogy to these animals and a sobering reference to the global threats to wildlife and impending extinction of numerous species.

Daniel Beltrá -- Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery

Daniel Beltrá's work over the past two decades has taken him to all seven continents, photographing everything from

oil spills, glacier melts and droughts to the effects of greenhouse gases. Up to four feet high by six feet wide, Beltrá's panoramic aerial photographs capture the shocking scale of environmental degradation. Photographs in the exhibition depict the deforestation of the Amazon forest and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the largest marine oil spill in history.

James Balog -- Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery

James Balog brings the enormity and significance of climate change and the world's melting glaciers into visual focus in his acclaimed film "Chasing Ice" (2012). Presented in the exhibition is footage from the film portraying the historic breakup of the Ilulissat Glacier in Western Greenland — a breathtaking calving event that lasted for 75 minutes — due to rising temperatures. This footage has gone on record as the largest glacier calving event ever captured on film and brings into focus the reality of climate change with an immediate and visceral impact.

"Towards a Better Future" -- Frances T. Eck Exhibition Corridor

This related component of the exhibition, "Towards a Better Future," highlights several initiatives currently underway at Virginia Tech to address some of the world's most critical environmental challenges. On view through April 10, "Towards a Better Future" is curated and organized by Meggin Hicklin, Moss Arts Center exhibitions program manager, along with graduate assistants Anthony Pearson and Alexandra Palin.

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# OPINION

## Virginia enacts first-in-the-nation permanent COVID-19 workplace safety and health standards

RICHMOND—Virginia’s permanent COVID-19 workplace safety and health rules took effect Wednesday, Jan. 27, after Governor Ralph Northam approved the standard adopted by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry’s Safety and Health Codes Board last week.

The standards mandate appropriate personal protective equipment, sanitation, social distancing, infectious disease preparedness and response plans, record keeping, training and hazard communications in workplaces across the commonwealth.

“While the end of this pandemic is finally in sight, the virus is still spreading, including several highly contagious variants, and now is not the time to let up on preventative measures,” said the governor. “I am grateful to the

many businesses and organizations that have been with us throughout this process and that continue to take the necessary steps to operate safely. These standards will reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and protect the health and safety of Virginia workers, consumers and communities as we move our commonwealth forward together.”

In the absence of a federal standard, Virginia took action last year to create the nation’s first emergency temporary workplace safety and health requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The permanent standards align closely with the emergency temporary rules adopted in July and are intended to slow the transmission of COVID-19 and protect Virginia workers.

The temporary standards were

effective for six months and the board worked to make permanent through the process defined in state law. These workplace safety requirements will remain effective throughout the pandemic. The board will reconvene within 14 days of the expiration of Governor Northam’s COVID-19 emergency declaration to determine whether there is a continued need for the standard.

“No Virginia workers should have to weigh their family’s economic security against their physical safety,” said Chief Workforce Development Advisor Megan Healy. “These permanent standards provide workers with essential recourse if faced with this untenable decision while giving businesses a clear understanding of the steps they must take to maintain a safe working environ-

ment.”

In addition to requiring all public-facing employees to wear masks, the standards ensure ready access to hand sanitizer and the regular cleaning of common work spaces. Employers must train employees on COVID-19 safety and must develop infectious disease and preparedness response plans. The new permanent regulations include guidelines for returning to work and communicating about employees who test positive. The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry will enforce the permanent standard.

After receiving a complaint, the department will work with the employer to be compliant with no further investigation. If serious concerns arise in the fact-finding interviews or the department receives multiple complaints, a formal investigation will be launched.

The department has received over 13,000 complaints about workplace safety due to COVID-19 with 100 needing full investigations due to serious concerns and 27 employers being cited.

“These scientifically based standards will help keep Virginia’s workers and their families safe during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Ray Davenport. “We look forward to working together with the business and labor communities to achieve compliance and safe workplaces across the commonwealth.”

At least six other states have adopted comprehensive COVID-19 workplace safety standards in the months since Virginia’s first-in-the-nation emergency temporary standard went into effect.

## WalletHub: Virginia is fourth best state to retire in

To determine the best states in which to retire, the personal finance website WalletHub compared the 50 states across 45 key indicators of retirement-friendliness and determined that Virginia was the fourth best state in the country to retire in.

The company’s analysis compared the 50 states across three key dimensions: affordability, health-related factors and overall quality of life. Virginia emerged

11th in affordability, 23rd in health care and seventh in quality of life for an overall combined ranking of fourth. Only Florida, Colorado and Delaware finished ahead of the commonwealth as better places in which to retire.

The metrics used to determine the rankings in the affordability dimension (in which Virginia finished 11th) were 1) adjusted cost of living 2) general tax-friendliness 3) retired taxpayer-friendliness

4) tax-friendliness on estate or inheritance tax 5) annual cost of in-home services 6) annual cost of adult day health care and 7) the share of the population aged 75 or older who could not afford a doctor.

The metrics used to determine the rankings in the health care dimension (in which Virginia finished 23rd) were 1) COVID-19 positive testing rate in the past week 2) COVID-19 death rate in the past week 3) family medicine physicians per capita 4) dentists per capita 5) nurses per cap-

ita 6) home health aides per capita 7) the share of geriatricians required to meet the estimated need 8) top-rated geriatrics hospitals 9) health-care facilities per capita 10) the quality of public hospitals 11) the well-being index for the population aged 65 and older 12) share of the population aged 65 and older with good or better health 13) share of the population aged 65 or older with poor mental health 14) share of the population aged 65 or older with a disability 15) share of the population aged 65 or older who are physi-

cally active 16) share of the population aged 65 or older who are obese 17) share of the population aged 65 or older with inadequate sleep 18) life expectancy and 19) the death rate for the population aged 65 and older.

The metrics used to determine the rankings in the quality of life dimension (in which Virginia finished seventh) were 1) share of the population aged 65 and older 2) risk of social isolation 3) elderly-friendly labor market 4) share of the population aged 65 and older in poverty 5) elderly food in-

security rate 6) expenditures captured by the Administration on Aging per population aged 60 and older 7) access to public transportation 8) mildness of the weather 9) access to scenic byways 10) shoreline mileage 11) golf courses per capita 12) access to adult volunteer activities 13) elderly volunteer rate 14) share of residents who do favors for their neighbors 15) violent crime rate 16) property crime rate 17) quality of elderly abuse protections 18) air quality and 19) drinking water quality.

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

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

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## Virginia has second-most COVID-19 restrictions

With the U.S. starting to open up more but a full reopening possible only once widespread vaccination is achieved, the personal-finance website WalletHub Tuesday released updated rankings for the states with the fewest coronavirus restrictions.

The survey revealed that as of Jan. 25, only California among the 50 states was more restrictive than Virginia.

To identify which states have the fewest coronavirus restrictions, Walle-

tHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 14 key metrics. Those metrics are 1) requirement to wear a face mask in public 2) travel restrictions 3) large gatherings restrictions 4) statewide school restart 5) reopening of restaurants and bars 6) state guidance on customer health checks at restaurants 7) reopening of non-essential businesses 8) legislation on business immunity from COVID-19 9) working from home re-

quirements 10) workplace temperature screening 11) strictness of “shelter in place” order 12) presence of multistate agreements to reopen 13) guidance on elective medical procedures and 14) guidance for assisted living facilities.

WalletHub’s survey revealed that the ten states with the fewest restrictions still in place are 1) Oklahoma 2) South Dakota 3) Iowa 4) Arkansas 5) Florida 6) Utah 7) Missouri 8) Wisconsin 9) Alaska 10) South Carolina.

## Variant

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widespread adherence to preventive measures, supporting testing and vaccination efforts and conducting investigations of cases and outbreaks.

As a virus spreads from one person to another, it makes copies of itself and sometimes makes small genetic changes called mutations. Because of these mutations, new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. According to the CDC, multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and around the world. The B.1.1.7 variant contains an unusually large number of mutations.

DCLS began sequencing positive

COVID-19 samples in March 2020, becoming one of the first public health labs in the nation to use this technology to examine the genetic makeup of the virus and track how it is changing and being transmitted in the commonwealth. To date, DCLS has sequenced more than 10 percent of positive samples tested by the state lab and is working with other labs in Virginia to solicit additional positive samples to sequence so public health officials can get a representation of variants circulating throughout Virginia.

“Sequencing is one of many tools we have available at the state’s public health laboratory to enable medical

and public health officials to quickly identify and respond to threats such as emerging COVID-19 variants,” said DCLS Director Dr. Denise Toney. “We share this information not only within the commonwealth, but with our federal and international partners to gain a better understanding of emerging genetic changes to SARS-CoV-2.”

More information about COVID-19 variants is available on the VDH COVID-19 Testing website and the CDC New COVID-19 Variants website. More information on DCLS and its use of next-generation sequencing can be found at [dgs.virginia.gov/dcls](https://dgs.virginia.gov/dcls).

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# NAACP

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**Christiansburg's Judy Diggs was one of two recipients of the branch's prestigious Community Service awards in honor of Dr. King.**

leadership positions in both organizations.

Her passion is children. She has worked for the Montgomery County Public School system for over 36 years as a special education teacher and a speech specialist, as Director of Student Services for several years, and is currently the Director of Equity and Diversity, working to provide a more inclusive environment in the school system and to provide equity in the educational achievement process.

Benzena Eaves is a devoted member of the New Pentecostal United Holy



**Benzena Eaves of the Wake Forest Community was presented with one of the branch's two Community Service Awards.**

Church in Wake Forest, where she has organized fund-raising for renovations and community assistance. Eaves and her late husband started Eaves Affordable Homes, where for many years, houses were purchased, renovated and sold providing not only affordable housing for residents but also equity income to assist in the community.

Eaves has a 44-year career with Volvo in Dublin, working as a quality inspector and as a customer relations liaison. As a leader in the United Auto Workers Union, she has advocated

for equal pay for women and helped assist women in building their credit, which would enable them to purchase homes and acquire loans.

Eaves has long been a member of this branch of the NAACP and has served on the Housing Committee and as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee.

The branch's youth council nurtures the next generation of leaders and advocates through cultural education and service projects. Youth Council President Tyler Graves, a sophomore at Blacksburg High School, brought greetings from the youth and recited June Jordan's poem, "In Memoriam: Martin Luther King, Jr."

Mrs. Roxie Palmer, chair of the branch membership committee, made a special appeal for attendees to join the NAACP. Regular membership is \$30 per year.

The branch's Samuel H. Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund provides up to five scholarships of \$1,000 apiece to local youth involved in the NAACP who

extend their education beyond high school at a college or technical school. The 2020 Scholarship winners were Allison Foster, Christiansburg High School, attending Radford University; Gabrielle Pascoe, Atlee High School, attending Christopher Newport University; Alia Saunders, Radford High School, attending New River Community College; and Amara Wingo, Patrick Henry High School, attending Radford University.

Dr. Jill Stewart, Treasurer, encouraged those wishing to contribute to this worthy cause to send a check for "M-R-F NAACP" Memorial Scholarship Fund to: M-R-F NAACP, P. O. Box 6044, Christiansburg, VA 24068.

Jonathan Holmes composed and performed a keyboard piece, "The Time is Always Right to Do Right," in honor of Dr. King. Holmes ended his performance by reminding those gathered to "keep fighting to do right."

Shirley Akers, Executive Committee Member-at-

Large, introduced the keynote speaker, the Rev. Jefferson Jones. Three years ago, Rev. Jones started Surge: A Worship Experience for College Students and Young Professionals. More recently he has begun an on-line ministry: Race and the Young Adult group.

Rev. Jones took as the title for his talk, "The Strength to Love," which is also the title of one of Dr. King's most famous sermons. He began by recalling the year-long litany of events that threatened to sap our strength: the deaths of many young Blacks at the hands of law enforcement; the COVID-19 pandemic with its disproportionate impact on minority communities; the deaths of significant figures in the Black community, such as athlete Kobe Bryant, mathematician Katherine Johnson, Rep. John Lewis, and actor Chadwick Boseman; and unprecedented political polarization, culminating in the terrorist attack on the Capitol Building and the congress on January 6. Jones used boxing terminology to call this past year a "hard

punch to the liver." In light of all this, Jones wondered how we have the strength to love.

According to Jones, the strength to love requires five things: self-care, a soft heart, the willingness to go into unfamiliar territory and have hard conversations, courageous action and the ability to love our enemies. Jones called on those gathered to be disciplined non-conformists committed to justice, peace and brotherhood.

Branch President Deborah H. Travis thanked the speaker for his vision and encouragement and closed with a final quotation from Dr. King: "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." She urged those gathered to follow Dr. King's example and continue the work of advocating for justice for all.

The general body meetings of the local NAACP branch are held on the fourth Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome. Email [info@mrf-naacp.org](mailto:info@mrf-naacp.org) for a link to the branch's virtual meetings.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in 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: [www.fbcradford.org](http://www.fbcradford.org), 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on JOY radio, 93.1 FM and 890 AM.

**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](http://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, Campus Minister, Deonté Watkins.

**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: Paul J. Stover Jr. 540-797-5015. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: [www.christiansburgcob.org](http://www.christiansburgcob.org). A loving family, fueled

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## I Do Not Understand

Read Leviticus 11:1 through 13:59

God's Law seems obscure. Reading kosher requirements or cleanliness rules is difficult. Following them must have been even more so.

"I am the Lord who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy" (Leviticus 11:45).

In the middle of God's requirements stands this abrupt justification. What God demanded may not appear reasonable. Purification requirements seem tedious. Differences in provisions are not explained. We seek answers and might find solace in some explanations, but questions remain. Why

must relationship with God demand obedience to things not understood?

God knew about health concerns when humans still had no clue. Much of the Law was for the benefit of the body, emotions, and society even when the foundations of infectious disease were not known. But it is not understanding that assures compliance. God deserves obedience. God provided deliverance as an example that God's holy nature looked to their benefit. It still does!

Challenge for Today: Demonstrate fidelity to God even if you do not understand why.

Quicklook: Leviticus 11:44-47

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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!

## LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at [www.lmlc.org](http://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](mailto:luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com), or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

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

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS Merrimac Pentecostal Holi-**

**ness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. [pastorhall29@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Radford Worship Center**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Hal Adams brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services, join us as Love, Grow, Serve, find us on facebook and Instagram

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Me-

morial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 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.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com).

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - [www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc](http://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, C'burg. Facebook LIVE service Sundays at 9:00 AM., Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: [christwesleyan-church.org](http://christwesleyan-church.org)

# OBITUARIES

## Huffman, Martha Anne Oliver

Martha Anne Oliver Huffman, 78, passed away on January 22, 2021, at Pulaski Health and Rehab.

She was born at home in Blacksburg on August 8, 1942, to the late Sidney Lee Oliver and Dorothy Virginia (Slusser) Oliver.

Martha worked at New River Valley Community Services for many years and was an avid mental health advocate. She loved taking her children for summer vacations at the beach. She also enjoyed frequenting flea markets and going on bingo trips.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Freddie Lee Oliver and Thomas Sidney Oliver, and a granddaughter, Cordelia Elizabeth Huffman. She is survived by her two sons and daughter-in-



law, Cory Stewart Huffman of Christiansburg, and Jon Michael and Jennifer Sickles Huffman of Cookeville, Tenn.; a granddaughter, Kaylee Jayne Huffman of Cookeville; a brother and sister-in-law, Terry and Carol Oliver of Salem; a sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Willis All of Blacksburg; two sisters-in-law, Donna Harris Oliver and Debora Oliver, both of Blacksburg; and several nieces and nephews.

Due to the current pandemic, there will be no memorial or funeral services for Martha. In a post-pandemic world, Martha will take one last trip to the beach where her ashes will be laid to rest.

The family is in the care of McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Denton, Dr. Martha Jane

Dr. Martha Jane Denton, 78, of Weaverville, N.C., died Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021.

Dr. Denton was born Aug. 19, 1942 in Crossville, Tenn., to the late Les and Pocahontas Shaver Oakes. She received a PhD in psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Martha had a long career traveling and teaching at many universities in Nashville, Tenn.; Birmingham, Ala.; Charleston, Georgetown and Greenville, S.C.; Columbus, Ohio; Hattiesburg, Miss; Greenville, N.C.; Radford, Va., and Weaverville.

She loved playing tennis, hiking, camping, reading and watching old Western movies.

In addition to her parents, she was



preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Roy Thomas Denton, who died in 1999; and nine siblings.

Surviving are her son, Patrick Denton and wife Kimberly Ann of Mars Hill; and nephew Daniel Hunt of Tennessee.

Private family services were held with West Funeral Home assisting the family. In lieu of flowers, those desiring to make a

memorial contribution are encouraged to consider the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, Md. 20852 or the Child Advocacy Center of Virginia, P.O. Box 4651, Roanoke, Va. 24015.

For those who desire, condolences may be offered to the family under Dr. Denton's obituary at [www.WestFamily-FuneralServices.com](http://www.WestFamily-FuneralServices.com).

## Johnson, Virginia (Priss) Woolwine

Virginia (Priss) Woolwine Johnson, 94, of Blacksburg, died Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery.

She was born in Montgomery County on July 13, 1926, to the late Trigg and Alma Woolwine. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Lewis Johnson, and her son, Richard Michael Johnson; five brothers, Walter Woolwine, Cecil Woolwine, James Woolwine, William Woolwine and Garnett Woolwine; and two sisters, June Bland and Edna Cain.



She is survived by her grandson, Cameron Johnson and fiancé Kim; two great-grandchildren, Vincent and Jaxen; a grandson, Charlie Estes and Heather; several grandchildren by choice; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. T. Michael Bond officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Heineman, Keith Rowland

Keith Rowland Heineman, 65, of Radford, passed away Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, from his battle with cancer. Keith was born on August 8, 1955, in Victorville, Calif.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Heineman; his father, William "Wild Bill" Heineman; and his father and mother-in-law, Marvin and Iva Long.

Those left to mourn his memory are his mother, Betty Heineman of Fairlawn; sisters Terry Pugh of Radford and Melanie (Randy) Boyd of Dublin; nephews Jared Pugh and Justin (Brandy) Boyd; and great-nephews Henry and Lachlan Boyd.

Keith accepted Christ as his savior



while attending Ray City Baptist Church in Georgia. He completed the Mailbox Club lessons, and when it asked how he knew he was saved he wrote, "I believe it in my head and I feel it in my heart."

He worked at Burlington Mills for 30 years. He loved his Dallas Cowboys, playing the board game Sorry and watching wrestling.

A small graveside service will be held today, Jan. 30, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Sunrise Burial Park in Radford with the Rev. Greg Harrell officiating. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

The Heineman family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Owens, Jr., Dorsie Lee

Dorsie Lee Owens, Jr., 75, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Jan. 17, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edra Lahome Collins Owens; his parents, Dorsie Lee, Sr. and Mary Ellen Hughett Owens; and a baby boy.

Survivors include his good friends, George and Lou Ann Bramham; special "daughters" Tena Brown and Monica Bur-

ton; sister-in-law Ruth Collins; sister Louise Owens Sifers; and four grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, at Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

The Owens family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

[www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Richardson, Evelyn G.

Evelyn G. Richardson, 102, passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021.

Born January 20, 1919, in Christiansburg, the daughter of Leonard and Essie Epperly, Evelyn experienced a life filled with wonderful memories, a loving family and a historic perspective, seeing so much in her 102 years with us.

Evelyn shared the blessings of her life through crafting, cooking, gardening, traveling and visits with her family. In addition to being a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she was a dedicated employee at J. Freezer, Hercules Powder Company, and in later years was the Executive Housekeeper for George Preas at the Sheraton Red Lion Inn in Blacksburg. During her 20-plus years at the Red Lion Inn, Evelyn was honored as a nationally recognized Executive Housekeeper of the year, receiving two awards courtesy of Sheraton in New York City.

The life and life experiences of this special and loving lady are as great and memorable as the incredible number of years she shared with us on earth and the countless number of friends she made during those years.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Harry E. Richardson, Sr.; a son, Harry E. "Richie" Richardson, Jr.; her brothers Troy Epperly and his wife Nellie, Allen Epperly and his wife Lillian, Leon



Epperly and his wife Nora; and her only sister, Marie Scaggs and her husband Emory.

Evelyn, known as "Granch" and "Indie" to her family, is survived by her daughter-in-law, Anna Marie Richardson; grandson Chris Richardson and his wife Elizabeth; her much loved great-grandchildren, Robbie and Mary Elizabeth Richardson; a stepson, Ray Richardson and his wife, Charlotte; and a niece and nephews.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. today, Jan. 30, 2021, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, 2880 North Franklin St., Christiansburg, following COVID-19 guidelines with the Rev. Todd Millsaps presiding.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to the staff, nurses and administration of Warm Hearth, Kroontje Center in Blacksburg for the kind and loving care provided to Evelyn and our family for the past six years of her life and especially during the recent health crisis.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Warm Hearth Foundation, 2603 Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060. <https://retire.org/>.

McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg, Virginia is caring for the Richardson family.

**CROSSWORD ANSWER**

A	P	A	R	C	A	G	E	C	A				
D	A	N	A	W	H	E	L	P	A	L	B		
Z	I	N	C	F	A	M	I	L	D	U	O		
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E	B	S	I	N	D								
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*We Offer Graveside Services with Social Distancing, at no additional cost.*

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- At the completion of the service, the family will receive visitors via drive-through visitation as the attendees leave the service.
- Families have been very appreciative of these services.
- Arrangements can be made on very short notice.

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**Part Time Newspaper Production Help**

The Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email [lhurst@ourvalley.org](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

**Help Wanted - General**

**Experienced grocery shopper, Prep cook, cook, meal planner, and dietitian.**

66 year old bachelor living in efficiency apartment, one block from Radford University. Will employee at \$20 per hour for two days per week for Skilled, efficient, trustworthy person. Must have car. Call 540-577-8564 Any time Leave message

**Legals - City of Radford**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on February 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 15.2-2006 et seq., 15.2-2100, and 15.2-1800, the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding an

**Legals - City of Radford**

application the City has received from Scott Hill to vacate and sale a portion of an unimproved public right-of-way area identified as Sixth Street located at the intersection of Robertson Street. The request contains a total area of approximately .192 acre.

Copies of the application, together with the plat of the property proposed to be vacated and sold, are available for review in the City Manager's Office located at 10 Robertson Street.

**SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**

*To place your ad, call 389-9355*

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Bruce Arians is Tech's Super Bowl connection



**From the Sidelines**  
Marty Gordon

Bruce Arians, the head coach of the Super-Bowl bound Tampa Bay Buccaneers, definitely remembers his early football roots here in Blacksburg. Last week, he sported a Virginia Tech shirt during post-game interviews and is proud of his Hokie heritage.

The 68-year-old has been the coach of the Bucs for the past two years, but 2020-21 has proven to be special as he will be leading the team against the Kansas City Chiefs in this year's Super Bowl on February 7.

Previously, he had coached the Arizona Cardinals from 2013-2017 after serving as the interim coach for the Indianapolis Colts and as the head man at Temple from 1983-1988.

He was named the NFL Coach of the Year with the Colts and then again with the Cardinals in 2014. Look for that to happen again this year.

His connections to Virginia Tech run deep as he played quarterback for the Hokies in the mid-70s. As a senior in 1974, he completed 53 of 118 passes for 952 yards with two touchdowns in a wishbone-style offense. He left Blacksburg with the most rushing touchdowns in a season by a quarterback with 11, a mark that waited until 2016 and Jerod Evans to be broken.

While at Tech, Arians became the first white player in the school's history to share a dorm room with a black player, James Barber, the father

of Ronde and Tiki Barber, who set several NFL marks.

The Hokies gave Arians his first coaching job as a graduate assistant in 1975. He later served as an assistant at Mississippi State and as running backs coach at the University of Alabama under some guy by the name of Bear Bryant.

He then took a leap to the professional ranks as a running backs coach with the Kansas City Chiefs, the team his Bucs will face in the Super Bowl. Additional stints included time with the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Cleveland Browns and the New Orleans Saints.

You gotta love the trademark phrase he has used through it all: "No risk it no biscuit. You can't live scared."

That philosophy has made him a coach lots of people would love to play for, including his current quarterback, Tom Brady, who left New England to join the Bucs this season. Arians, who has been called a quarterback whisperer, has also coached some guy by the name of Peyton Manning.

Almost all of his players have said Arians treats them in a different way than others.

"My quarterbacks have to be a member of my family, and that has nothing to do with football," said Arians. "Trust is everything. We have to connect on a deep level in order to really be able to build something together. Trust brings a higher level of communication and a higher level of commitment and accountability. We have to care for one another. It's all about family, family, family."

Arians has started a charity called "The Arians Family Foundation," which supports and develops programs to prevent and remedy the

abuse and neglect of children. The Arians Family Foundation supports the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program.

We have to also recognize that Arians is a survivor of prostate cancer and his wife, Christine, is also a Hokie. The two met while they were students at Tech.

Tech alums Cody Grimm and Nick Rapone are also on the Buccaneers' coaching staff.

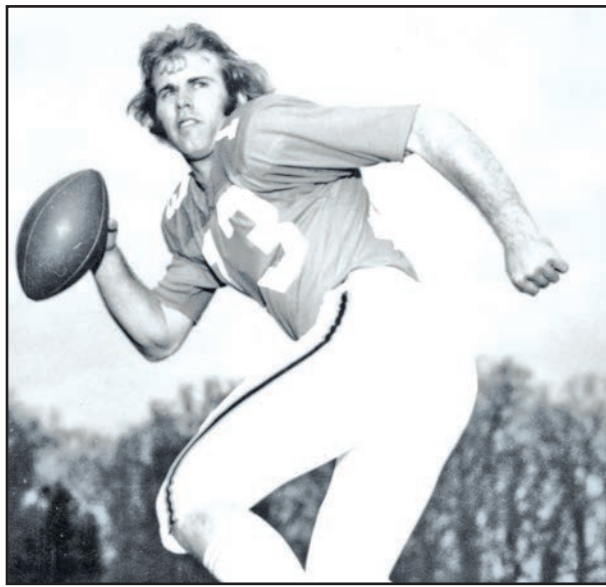
Rapone played collegiately at Tech from 1974-78 before embarking on a coaching career. He previously coached with Arians at Temple and with the Arizona Cardinals. The New Castle, Penn., native spent over 30 years in the collegiate ranks before joining the Cardinals in 2012. He enjoyed stints at Delaware, Pitt, East Tennessee State and Connecticut, in addition to his time at Temple.

Grimm joined the Buccaneers' coaching staff after serving in various capacities on the Tech coaching staff for four seasons. He lettered four years (2006-09) as a linebacker for the Hokies after originally joining the team as a walk-on. As a senior, he led the nation with seven forced fumbles and amassed 106 tackles, 12.5 of them for loss and four sacks, earning first-team All-ACC and third-team AP All-America honors. He was selected by the Buccaneers in the seventh round of the 2010 NFL Draft as a safety. He appeared in 23 games (12 starts) for the Bucs, totaling 62 tackles, three passes defended and two interceptions with one touchdown.

We wish our fellow Hokies good luck on February 7. It should be a close game, and when the dust clears, the Hokie connection could be a Super Bowl champion.



Bruce Arians and his wife, Christine, are Virginia Tech graduates. Arians has coached the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to this year's Super Bowl.



Bruce Arians was a one-time quarterback at Virginia Tech. He held the record for most rushing touchdowns by a QB until 2016, when it was broken by Jerod Evans.

## VT's 2021 football schedule includes seven contests at Lane Stadium

BLACKSBURG – The Atlantic Coast Conference released its 2021 football schedule Thursday, and Virginia Tech will play seven games at Lane Stadium this season.

The season will begin with a conference clash with North Carolina on either Thursday, Sept. 2 or Friday, Sept. 3. In addition to ACC home games with Pitt (Oct. 16), Syracuse (Oct. 23) and Duke (Nov. 13), the Hokies will also host Notre Dame (Oct. 9) and Middle Tennessee State (Sept. 11) in Blacksburg.

The season opener marks the first time since 1946 that Virginia Tech has begun the season against the Tar Heels. The two teams also opened the 1898 and 1945 seasons. In a series that dates back to 1895, the Hokies own a 24-13-6 all-time advantage against the Tar Heels. Tech has won its last two home meetings against North Carolina, including the longest game in ACC history, a six-overtime, 43-41 victory in 2019.

Tech and Notre Dame will square off for the fourth time and only the second time at Lane Stadium when the Fighting Irish visit on Oct. 9. Six of Tech's first seven games are at home while four of the squad's final five games are on the road.

The Hokies will resume their Black Diamond Trophy series with West Virginia on Sept. 18, marking the first time head coach Justin Fuente has led the team into West Virginia. Tech has won its last three meetings with the Mountaineers and will play in Morgantown for the first time since 2005.

Syracuse will visit Lane Stadium for the first time in 18 seasons and for the initial time as an ACC opponent. The Orange haven't played in Blacksburg since the Hokies posted a 51-7 victory in a Big East contest in 2003. The game will mark only the second meeting between the teams as ACC foes.

The schedule will also include a non-conference

contest vs. Richmond (Sept. 25). The game will mark the 52nd meeting between the Hokies and the Spiders, renewing a series that was played annually from 1945-63 and again from 1974-86. The two teams last met in Blacksburg in 1985.

Tech's ACC road schedule features contests at Georgia Tech (Oct. 30), at Boston College (Nov. 6) and at Miami (Nov. 20). The Hokies will close out the regular season with the Commonwealth Clash game at Virginia on Nov. 27. Tech has won 20 of the past 22 games with the Cavaliers, including nine of the last 11 contests in Charlottesville.

For just 1% down, Tech fans can secure season tickets in Lane Stadium for the Hokies' 2021 home slate. Flexible payment plans are also available, including the option to defer future payments to May of 2021.

The deadline to renew season tickets is March 1, 2021. More information can be found at HokieSports.com/Renewal. The Hokie Scholarship Fund priority giving deadline is March 31, 2021.

VIRGINIA TECH 2021 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
September 2 or 3	NORTH CAROLINA
September 11	MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
September 18	at West Virginia
September 25	RICHMOND
October 2	OPEN
October 9	NOTRE DAME
October 16	PITT
October 23	SYRACUSE
October 30	at Georgia Tech
November 5	at Boston College
November 13	DUKE
November 20	at Miami
November 27	at Virginia
December 4	ACC Championship Game
	Charlotte, NC

## Big South volleyball: RU picked fifth in preseason poll

Radford University has been picked by the Big South Conference's head coaches to finish fifth in the league's annual preseason volleyball poll. The poll results were announced Wednesday.

The 2021 Big South spring volleyball season begins Wednesday, Feb. 3, and will be a 16-match double round-robin slate spanning nine weeks from Feb. 3 through April 2 with contests scheduled for consecutive days against the same opponent at the same location. This year's regular-season champion will earn the Big South's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

For the fifth consecutive year, High Point University was chosen the preseason favorite. Campbell

junior outside hitter Sarah Colla headlines the preseason all-conference team as the Preseason Player of the Year.

Under the direction of third-year head coach Ryan Meek, High Point received six first-place votes and 77 points to finish first in the 2021 spring season, just ahead of defending Big South Champion Winthrop, which was second with 74 points and received the three remaining first-place votes.

Campbell earned 65 points to finish third in the preseason poll. Presbyterian College was fourth in the voting with 48 points, ahead of the fifth-place Radford Highlanders with 45 points.

UNC Asheville captured the

sixth spot with 32 points, ahead of seventh-place Charleston Southern (30 points). USC Upstate was picked to finish eighth with 23 points, followed by Gardner-Webb in ninth place (11). Hampton is not participating in volleyball in the upcoming spring season as the Lady Pirates' fall sports remain suspended due to the ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

2021 Big South preseason spring volleyball poll:

1. High Point
2. Winthrop
3. Campbell
4. Presbyterian College
5. Radford
6. UNC Asheville
7. Charleston Southern
8. USC Upstate
9. Gardner-Webb

-- Big South athletics

## Auburn girls defeat Blacksburg 51-47



Allison Martin puts up a jumper as Auburn picked up a mid-week 51-47 win over Blacksburg. Martin pumped in 24 points for the Eagles.



Blacksburg's Morgan Cheynet battles for the rebound and putback against Auburn. Cheynet finished with six points in the Bruins' loss. Gabby Brooks led Blacksburg's scoring with 12 points.

## Christiansburg boys down Eastern Montgomery



Christiansburg's MJ Hunter (left) guards Justin Tyree as he edges closer to the paint. Christiansburg rolled to a 74-31 win over Eastern Montgomery Wednesday.



Christiansburg's Tyrique Taylor blocks a 3-point attempt by Eastern Montgomery's Lance Elkins in the Blue Demons' Wednesday win.



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