



Montgomery Chamber hires Steve Baffuto as President, CEO

After a nationwide search, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has hired Steve Baffuto to serve as its fourth president and CEO.

Chamber board chairman Henry Bass announced the hiring, the decision made by the board's selection committee made up of past and current board members

and the chamber staff.

The Montgomery Chamber serves Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. The chamber supports approximately 600 local businesses through marketing, educational, and network-building opportunities.

Baffuto comes to the Chamber through Virginia ABC where he

served as special agent in Charge for the Roanoke and Lynchburg Region. He administered and managed resources to meet the agency's mission, goals, and objectives. He led teams of multi-generational officers and worked to build strong relationships with

See **Baffuto**, page 4



New Montgomery Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Steve Baffuto will assume his new position on Dec. 1.



Volunteers from the Rotary Clubs of Montgomery County, Blacksburg, Christiansburg-Blacksburg and Radford volunteer with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization and Virginia Tech Cadets to make 50 beds for children in need.

NRV Rotary clubs join to build beds for area children in need

The Rotary Clubs of Montgomery County, Blacksburg, Christiansburg-Blacksburg, and Radford volunteered Saturday with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) organization over the weekend to tackle the goal of building 50 beds.

In just four hours, they met that goal.

Seventy volunteers worked in assembly-line fashion to construct the 50 beds, which will be given to local children who do not have one. The Virginia Tech Corp of Cadets, Company F, and Cadets for a Cause also participated in the effort.

"It was a great day and we did accomplish our goal," said Rotary Club of Montgomery County Secretary Vickie Damico, who volunteered at the event. "It was especially meaningful to see multiple generations working side-by-side

on this worthwhile project."

The New River Valley chapter of the national Sleep in Heavenly Peace or-

ganization was founded by Paul Mele in August 2019 to continue the mission of

See **Build Beds**, page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

A volunteer's T-shirt displays the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization's motto.

Time switch can create driver fatigue and hazards on the road, says expert

As clocks "fell back" this weekend and Eastern Daylight Time ended, many Americans will be driving longer at night, which could translate to more driver fatigue and hazards on the road, says Virginia Tech Transportation Institute expert Matt Camden.

Camden says that any time change can exacerbate drowsiness and your body may need a few days to adjust accordingly. He offers the following advice for drivers to avoid fatigue.

1. Avoid driving during rush hour and from 2-4 a.m.

Crash risk increases during rush hours and from

2-4 a.m. Driving between 2-4 a.m. is particularly dangerous because a person's circadian rhythm is at its lowest during this timeframe. And when a driver is already sleep-deprived, the desire to sleep during the circadian low is even greater.

2. Get a full night's sleep. Drivers should try to sleep at least seven to eight hours in order to avoid drowsiness. However, one night's rest may not be enough for someone who has experienced several sleepless nights. In those cases, the driver will need several days of restful sleep to compensate for the sleep debt.

3. Pay attention to signs of drowsy driving.

Signs of drowsy driving include: slow eyelid closures, yawning, gentle swaying of the head, seat

See **Time Switch**, page 3

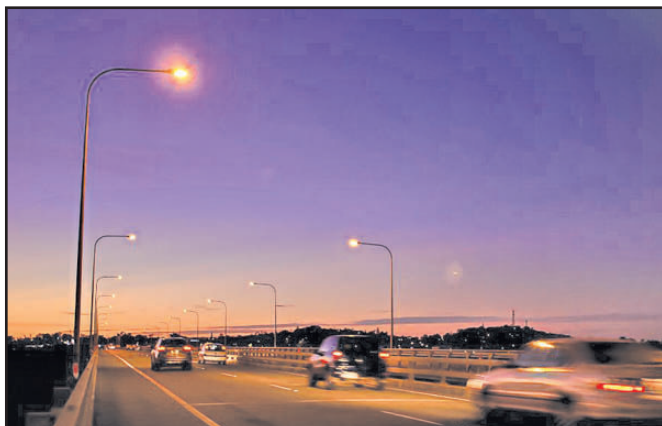


PHOTO CREDIT PIXABAY

With the "fall back" that ended Eastern Daylight Time and returned to Eastern Standard Time, driving safety expert Matt Camden warns that the dangers of driver fatigue and the corresponding hazards on the road increase.

VT senior Army ROTC cadet receives bronze cross for outstanding achievement

The Legion of Valor has honored Jack Welsome, a senior cadet in Virginia Tech's Army ROTC program, with the Bronze Cross for Outstanding Achievement.

Nationally, each year only one of every 4,000 Army ROTC cadets receives the honor. Recipients must be in the top quarter of their class and represent the leadership qualities of academic excellence, community involvement, and athletic participation.

Welsome recently ranked in sixth place out of more than 6,000 senior Army ROTC cadets in the nation. In addition, he ranks in the top six percent of students in Virginia Tech's College of Engineering and in the top 16 percent of students in his biomedical engineering program. He also participates in intramural soccer.

Welsome is a leader in the classroom and within the community. With the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, he has served as a company first sergeant, a member of the Color Guard, and as the Second Battalion athletic officer. He served as Bravo Company executive officer and cadre staff officer. He was also selected as one of 20 cadets from across



Senior VT cadet Jack Welsome has been honored by the Legion of Valor with the bronze cross for outstanding achievement.

Virginia Tech's 1,200-strong Corps of Cadets to participate in the corps' Global Scholars Program in Europe to study the D-Day invasion.

Welsome was selected twice for cadet troop leader training in Germany and at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. In December 2020, he completed the Air Assault

See **Bronze Cross**, page 3

Christiansburg Lions to hold 29th Christmas craft show Dec. 4



The Christiansburg Lions Club's annual Holiday Christmas Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center.

After missing a year because of the pandemic, the Christiansburg Lions Club will present its annual Holiday Christmas Craft Show on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center.

Some 145 vendors promise to make this one of the biggest and best shows ever for Christmas shopping. The Lions Club Snack Bar will be up and running to keep shoppers from getting hungry and to spare them the trouble of having to prepare lunch at home.

As usual, the craft show will offer such Christmas gift items as handmade jewelry, handmade wood crafts, homemade baked goods, and original pictures and paintings by local artists.

The Holiday Christmas Craft Show is the Lions Club's major

fundraising event of the year. All of the day's proceeds support local special projects such as the club's vision screening and vision efforts that help, among others, local school children. Proceeds also support International Lions Club projects such as a Leader Dog for the Blind, Diabetes Awareness and Prevention, and the club's programs around the world. The proceeds will be used to offer financial support for victims of crises around the world such as earthquakes and hurricanes.

The proceeds will also be used locally to support the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, the Christmas Store, scouts, Boys and Girls State for high-school students, scholarships for

See **Craft Show**, page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 10:

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Radford Public Library; meets the second Wednesday of each month. This meeting is a casual discussion of Jojo Moyes's "The Giver of Stars." Participants may bring a lunch or dinner or enjoy a snack from the library staff. Two meetings this month will take place at noon and at 6 p.m. In December, the book to be discussed will be "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah.

Computer Basics - Part 2

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 10:30 a.m. This is a continuation of an Introduction to Computer Basics. This course will cover Microsoft Office applications, navigating the internet, emailing, basic information about smartphones, and using a smartphone for computing.

Evening Book Talk with Jesmyn Ward

At the Christiansburg Library at 11 a.m. This is a discussion of Jesmyn Ward in preparation for her appearance at the Moss Art Center on Nov.10. Her whole body of work will be discussed. Library copies of her books are available at <https://go.mfpl.org/jesmynward>. Information and tickets for the Moss Center event can be found at <https://artscenter.vt.edu/performances/jesmyn-ward.html>.

Loops Group with New River Art and Fiber

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants may bring a project for a knit and chat every Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

A Vision of Education: Edgar A. Long Book Launch

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 6 p.m. This is a book launch hosted by the Christiansburg Institute of the second edition of "A Vision of Education: Selected Writings of Edgar A. Long." The second edition is made possible by a grant from the Virginia Humanities. The first edition, also funded by the Virginia Humanities, was originally published in 2001 by the Christiansburg Institute and was edited by Anna Fariello.

Thursday, Nov. 11:

Noise alert: Cadet Rifle Salute

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' Gregory Guard will fire a rifle salute at about 11 a.m. at the Pylons as part of the

university's Veterans Day remembrance ceremony.

Veterans Day closings Christiansburg

In observation of Veterans Day, the Christiansburg Town Hall and the Christiansburg Aquatic Center will be closed. The Christiansburg Recreation Center will be open, but administrative offices will be closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Thursdays will be collected on Wednesday, Nov. 10, with Wednesday's regular collection.

Veterans Day closings Blacksburg

All Town of Blacksburg administrative offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day. The Community and Aquatic centers will be open normal hours. Refuse and recycling pick-up will not be affected.

Montgomery County libraries closed for Veterans Day

All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Libraries will be closed for Veterans Day.

RPL closed for Veterans Day

The Radford Public Library will be closed for Veterans Day.

Sunday, Nov. 14:

Chess Club

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Kids and teens ages eight years and up are welcome to join the chess club and sharpen their skills. Supplies are provided and all skill levels are welcome.

Monday, Nov. 15:

Crafternoon at the Radford Public Library

Join the library staff for an afternoon of crafting from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The library will offer a variety of collections of books and databases to help participants find just the right craft. Some supplies will be available for take-home. Adult coloring supplies and coloring books will also be available. Make a new friend or just enjoy a little peace and quiet. Needle projects and other indoor crafts are encouraged. Adults only.

Pokémon Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 4:30

p.m. Pokémon fans can bring their DS or Pokémon cards and get ready to battle, trade, and make new friends. All ages.

Graphic Novel Book Club: "Lighter Than My Shadow"

At the Blacksburg Library at 6 p.m. To be discussed is the graphic novel "Lighter than My Shadow" by Katie Green.

Tuesday, Nov. 16:

Board Game Night

At the Radford Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Participants can bring their favorite board game or play one of the library's games. All ages are welcome to this family friendly board game night.

Wednesday, Nov. 17:

Hahn Horticulture Garden In-Person Learn at Lunch

"Ramps" with Pabitra Aryal from noon to 1 p.m. Pabitra Aryal is a Ph.D. candidate in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' School of Plant and Environmental Sciences who is researching the onion's cousin by growing ramps from seeds and bulbs to study the germination time of the plant. This is a free event, and no registration is needed. VT requires face masks in public spaces, so everyone will need to wear a mask at this event. Parking passes will be provided to attendees.

Throughout November:

Donate your old sneakers

The RADical Change Commission and GotSneakers have partnered up to promote healthy communities with creative recycling. This sneaker drive fundraiser helps keep sneakers out of landfills and reduces toxic chemicals from being released in the air and soil. All sneakers from the drive are recycled to people who want quality, reusable footwear at affordable prices or repurposed into new surfaces such as playgrounds and tracks. Those donating sneakers should first wash them and then drop them off at either of the following two locations: 1) Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Ave. (corner of Tyler and Clement), Radford, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The bin is located at the office door facing Moe's Southwest Grill, and 2) The Shelter, 1205 Downey St., Radford.

The bin is located on the front porch. Drop-off hours at this location are anytime day or night. Sneakers will be collected through Nov. 30. They can be any size or in any condition.

Help the Veterans with Your Donations

All the month of November at the Meadowbrook Public Library, a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. The following items may be donated during November: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3 in 1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL), and new baseball caps.

No brush collections in November

Christiansburg public works crews will not be collecting brush this month due to equipment failure. Brush collection will resume in December once repairs are completed.

Ongoing:

Second annual Radford holiday display contest

The Radford Chamber of Commerce's second annual holiday display contest is underway as Radford businesses and residents are urged to come up with their best window or home displays. The entry fee is \$25, and the entry deadline is Nov. 30 with decorations required to be up by Dec. 10. Public voting will then take place from Dec. 10 through Dec. 22.

Passports at the Radford Public Library

The Radford Public Library is a passport acceptance office. Call (540) 731-3621 to set up an appointment time. Those planning overseas travel should get their passports as early as possible because the current waiting period is up to 18 weeks.

"Paper Alchemy" exhibit

Currently on display in the gallery in the Covington Center at Radford University. This is an exhibition of jewelry and other objects made from Thurmanite®, a material invented by James Thurman, an artist who teaches at the University of North Texas. Thurmanite is a unique composite material made of layers of recycled paper bonded together with an environmentally friendly plant-based resin. "Paper Alchemy" is a dynamic demonstration of the artists' range of inventive problem-solving and creativity.

NRV Community Foundation holds regional meeting at Christiansburg's Smithfield Plantation

CHRISTIANSBURG -- The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV)'s Initiative, Thrive, held its recent NRV regional meeting at Smithfield Plantation.

NRV Thrive works to collectively increase access to affordable, nutritious food in the NRV through shared learning, informed advocacy, and responsive, strategic action. Since 2016, the network has drawn together several agencies and individuals to expand access to nutritious food. Many of the organizations who are involved in the work of Thrive attended the regional meeting, and many success stories of the network were shared.

The Giles Community Garden was started in 2014. It helps children understand where food comes from and

how to enjoy it. Its mission is to nourish, educate, and cultivate the community.

Charlie Herbert, a founding member of both the Giles Community Garden and Thrive spoke of his appreciation of the network. "The CFNRV has been instrumental in facilitating the Thrive/Food Access Network to support nutrition and health in the New River Valley," Herbert said. "Since 2016, they have drawn together dozens of agencies and over 200 people to expand access to nutritious food. Thrive proves that the power of working together can make an impact in our region. We are better together, and we are making a difference."

Not far from the Giles Community Garden is the 512 Food Pantry. 512 Food

Pantry opened in April 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pantry was able to use the Thrive network and many of the agencies within it to operate.

512 receives food from the Giles Community Garden, Hunters for the Hungry, and NRV Glean Team. Using the client-select model that the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry employs, 512 was able to increase its capacity.

Volunteers work together to transport fresh food from pantry to pantry when one has an abundance and another is running low. This cooperation helps ensure that more fresh food is available and less food is wasted. The work of the Thrive network caught one business owner's eye. During June, the CFNRV holds its annual

GiveLocalNRV giving campaign. The Maroon Door in Blacksburg brewed a special beer in honor of the giving day and gave back nearly \$900 to the campaign.

When Chris Linden, owner of Maroon Door was browsing the CFNRV's website, he came across information on the

Thrive network. In honor of his grandfather, he decided to dedicate the Orville's TB burgers on his menu to fighting hunger in the region and giving back to Thrive. The TB burger is a take on a burger that Linden's grandfather had in a restaurant in the same space years ago.

Linden said of his participation in Thrive, "We are happy to support the work of Thrive in the NRV. My grandfather was passionate about fighting hunger, and giving back is one small way to honor his memory and make an impact here in the New River Valley."



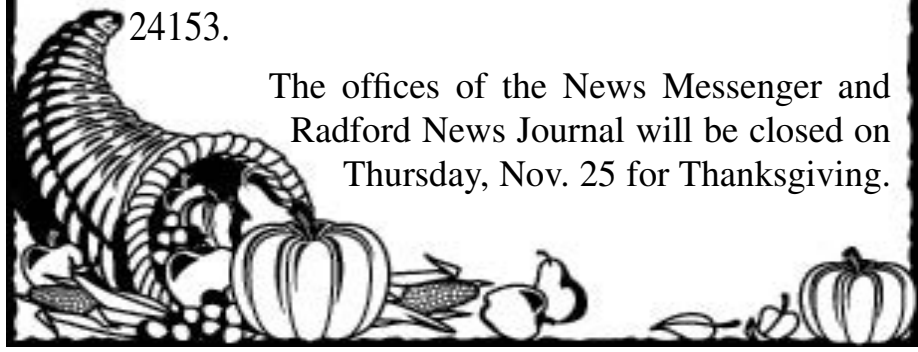
The NRV Community Foundation recently held the regional meeting of its Thrive Initiative at Smithfield Plantation. Some of the attendees are pictured above.

EARLY DEADLINES FOR THANKSGIVING PAPER

There will be early deadlines for the Nov. 24 issue because of Thanksgiving.

Please send your news items, photos and church news by **Thursday, November 18 at noon** to communitynews@ourvalley.org. Send ads by **Thursday, November 18 at noon** to advertise@ourvalley.org. You may also drop off news items and ads at our offices at 1633 W. Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

The offices of the News Messenger and Radford News Journal will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving.



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Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention will be held Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 with the theme "95 Years and Still Growing."

Farmers' perseverance is focus of Virginia Farm Bureau's annual convention

Virginia farmers understand adversity. They've endured four centuries' worth of unpredictable weather, market uncertainty, and other challenges, yet their determination to produce much of the world's food, fiber and fuel remains resolute.

Honoring farmers' unwavering commitment will be a highlight of the 2021 Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention as the organization celebrates its 95th anniversary.

"95 Years and Still Growing" is the theme of the event, which will be held Nov. 29 through Dec. 2 at the Williamsburg Lodge.

Speakers will include Dr. Jewel H. Bronaugh, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Sam Kieffer, American Farm Bureau Federation vice president of public affairs.

Bronaugh will deliver the keynote address during the meeting's

opening luncheon on Nov. 30. She was appointed to her current role by President Joe Biden in January, having previously served as the 16th commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Bronaugh, a Petersburg native, previously served as the executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency in Virginia and as dean of the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University.

Kieffer leads American Farm Bureau Federation's public policy, advocacy, and economics teams in advocating for farmers and ranchers to the U.S. government. He previously served as the chief administration officer for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and is a 12-year veteran of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Kieffer will share an update on national agricultural policies on Dec. 1.

Convention participants will

take part in four educational workshops on Nov. 30. Presentations will address landowner concerns about easements and rights of way; managing family dynamics on the farm; mental health concerns and resources in rural communities; and smart-phone photography.

County Farm Bureau leaders will gather Dec. 1 for the annual meeting of voting delegates, which helps shape the organization's state and federal policies for the coming year. Delegates also will take part in elections for five seats on the Virginia Farm Bureau's board of directors.

With 132,000 members in 88 county farm bureaus, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation is Virginia's largest farmers' advocacy group. Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, nonpartisan, voluntary organization committed to supporting Virginia's agriculture industry.

Warm Hearth Village welcomes new director of physical plant services



After working elsewhere since 2010, Todd Smith returns to Warm Hearth Village as its new director of physical plant services.

BLACKSBURG -- Warm Hearth Village (WHV) recently hired Todd Smith as the new director of physical plant services. He replaces Davie Whitlock who retired after 26 years with the village.

Smith will oversee maintenance and grounds efforts across the campus. He will lead a team of maintenance specialists with a commitment to excellence in both quality and service.

Smith worked at Warm Hearth Village from 2001 to 2010 and since has been employed at BAE Systems as their Facilities Team Leader. Along with leadership and management experience, Smith brings a great deal of expertise in pipefitting, HVAC,

fabricating, and general maintenance. In his new role, he said, "I hope to guide a team of skilled workers to maintain this beautiful campus for the many wonderful residents here at Warm Hearth Village."

Smith lives in the Prices Fork Road area of Blacksburg with his wife and two children. He loves spending time with family and friends and likes to be outdoors hunting and fishing. He also likes to do challenging woodworking projects when he has a little free time.

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.

Time Switch from page 1

figditing, difficulty staying in your lane, difficulty maintaining speed, and delayed reactions.

4. Be aware of other factors impacting drowsy driving.

Situations that increase drowsiness are driving alone, monotonous road conditions

such as long straightaways with limited changes in the environment, long drives, and extended periods of heavy traffic.

Matt Camden is a senior research associate in

the Behavioral Analysis and Applications Group of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute's Center for Truck & Bus Safety. He is an expert in occupational driv-

ing safety with 14 years of experience conducting applied driving research and translating that research to industry practice. Camden specializes in light-vehicle and

heavy-vehicle fleet safety with an emphasis on developing and evaluating behavioral safety pro-

grams and advanced vehicle technologies to improve driver performance.

Bronze Cross from page 1

Course at Fort Campbell, Kent.

This past summer Welsome attended the Army's Advanced Camp where he earned the Reconnaissance Commando (or RECONDO) Award and achieved the highest rating of "outstanding." His peers there ranked him first in his squad and second in his platoon. In 2020, he received another prestigious honor, the Ameri-

can Legion Award for Military Excellence.

In the U.S. Army, the motto is "Winning Matters," and Welsome hopes to continue winning by earning his commission as an aviation officer upon graduation from Virginia Tech in May 2022.

Written by Col. Jamie Cogbill, professor of military science at Virginia Tech

Craft Show from page 1

local high-school students, and the local rescue and fire departments, among others.

The men and women of Lions International seek to make a difference in the needs and cares of people around the world, close to home in the immediate Christiansburg area, the New River Valley, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The motto for the 1.4 million Lions in more than 200 countries that make up Lions International is "We Serve."

Along with those Lions, the Christiansburg Lions Club accepts the responsibility to be in service and concern for the needs of others.

Ahead of the show, the local club sends out special thanks to the vendors who make the craft show possible and the shoppers and supporters who come to the show, buy, and take home as gifts the crafts available for sale.

At the show, the club will have signs and publicity to recognize the businesses and groups in Christiansburg who support the Holiday Christmas Craft Show financially.

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OPINION

Buddy King: Remembering and sharing a history with Christiansburg football

It's early on Saturday morning, the first Saturday of November, 2021, and I am smiling broadly as I pound away on my keyboard. I am happy, content, my cat is on my lap, coffee is brewing in the kitchen, a fire is going in the fireplace. I am usually happy and relaxed on Saturday mornings, the stress and turmoil of the previous work week far behind, the Monday morning blahs of the coming week far enough ahead not to threaten my bliss.

But this day I am particularly pleased, taking a moment to reflect on a small part of my life that brings back painful and poignant memories but current pleasure and pride. I have just

read that the Christiansburg High Blue Demons beat the Pulaski County High Cougars 41-28 in football last night, finishing the regular season 9-1, one of the most successful seasons in school history. I played on one team that was 1-9.

I follow the scores of the Blue Demons on the Internet in the fall (and the odd 2020 partial season played in the spring of 2021) and via text from my friend Greg, not living in the area to be able to listen on radio or attend in person. I have enjoyed tracking the scores this season: CHS 49 Blacksburg 0, CHS 63 Radford 0, soundly trouncing the Roanoke schools, Patrick Henry and Cave Spring,

and some school called Hidden Valley (so well hidden I have no idea where it is), the only blemish being a loss to Salem, a team which I understand almost never loses to anybody.

I have no current connection to the team or the school, but I have written frequently about my family history with CHS, my dad having been principal there for many years, my aunt having taught government and English there for 40 years, many aunts and uncles and cousins having graduated from there. So I feel I am entitled to relish the moment.

For goodness sake, the team now plays on "Evans King Field," named for my dad in

2000, the year after his death. I tell my friends in West Virginia that it was so named because of my sterling career as an outside linebacker for the Blue Demons in 1969 and 1970. I hope this paper has no circulation in north central West Virginia.

My history goes way back. My dad sat me on the bench between the team doctors when I was as young as 3 years old, during the time when he literally would turn the Friday Night lights on and turn the Friday Night lights off. I rarely if ever missed a game until I went away to college, playing five years for the Blue Demons myself.

Reflecting on last night's victory and the successful season,

I thought it would be great fun to write a column on CHS football, some statistics, some trivia, some minutiae. My source for the stats is a wonderful website I came across a few years ago - fourseasonsfootball.com - a season-by-season compilation of scores, names of coaches and occasional notes, for current and historical schools in the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, Kentucky, and Ohio. It is truly a fascinating resource for a sports nerd like me with no life.

First, some stats. Christiansburg High's all-time record in football is 428-516-35, a win-

See King, page 6

WalletHub ranks Virginia Beach as one of best places to go to for Thanksgiving

In its survey released Monday, the personal finance website WalletHub ranked Virginia Beach as the sixth-best place in the country to go to for Thanksgiving.

As the website pointed out, Thanksgiving is one of America's most beloved holidays, giving families a chance to share a meal together and reflect on all the things for which they are grateful. The first Thanksgiving dates back to Plymouth, Mass., in 1621,

and each U.S. president declared a yearly celebration of the holiday until Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Thanksgiving into law permanently in 1941.

But even though Thanksgiving is centered on family and gratefulness, it's still become a highly commercialized holiday. That's apparent from the fact that the next day is Black Friday, one of the biggest shopping days of the year, and a few days later is Cyber Monday, which

brings scores of online deals. Last year, consumers spent around \$312 per person during the five-day period between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday. Luckily, though, it doesn't cost too much to make a Thanksgiving feast for your family - less than \$50 on average for 10 people.

To help Americans find the best places to go for Thanksgiving without breaking the bank, WalletHub compared the 100 largest U.S. cities based on

20 key metrics across five dimensions.

Those five dimensions were 1) Thanksgiving Celebrations and Traditions with the metrics, pumpkin patches per capita, Google search interest for Thanksgiving celebrations, and holiday shops per capita; 2) Affordability with the metrics cost of Thanksgiving dinner, the prevalence of affordable restaurants with ratings of 4.5+ stars, and the lowest price for a three-star hotel room for

a Thanksgiving holiday; 3) Safety and Accessibility with the metrics the percentage of residents who are fully vaccinated, the crime rate, the perception of safety, pedestrian fatalities, DUI-related fatalities in motor vehicle crashes around Thanksgiving, the share of delayed flights near the Thanksgiving holiday, and traffic congestion 4) Giving thanks with the metrics volunteer opportunities per capita, the volunteer hours per capita,

the charity organizations per capita, and the share of income donated to charity, and 5) the Thanksgiving weather forecast with the metrics Thanksgiving Temperature vs. average temperature and the forecasted Thanksgiving precipitation.

The five cities that ranked ahead of Virginia Beach as the best places to go for Thanksgiving were 1) Atlanta 2) Orlando 3) Scottsdale, Ariz. 4) Miami and 5) Raleigh.

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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 gas prices unchanged, still 18.9 cents/gallon higher than last month

Virginia gas prices were unchanged in the past week, averaging \$3.30/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Gas prices in Virginia are 18.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.25/g higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.95/g Monday while the most expensive was \$3.89/g, a difference of 94.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline rose 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.41/g as of Monday. The national average is up 15.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and

stands \$1.31/g higher than a year ago.

"Last week saw oil prices briefly fall back under \$80 for the first time in weeks," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "While it wasn't enough to provide much relief last week, we should see small declines this week in a majority of the country, thanks to the corresponding drop in wholesale gasoline prices. At OPEC's monthly meeting last week, the cartel held firm to the small increases they agreed to in July, raising November production by 400,000 barrels per day.

"With President Biden still mulling over options to help push gas prices down, we could continue to see some

volatility in oil prices," De Haan said. "I don't immediately see a large decline or surge coming in the run up to Thanksgiving, but U.S. gasoline demand does remain strong. Levels are currently rivaling September demand, so we know high prices aren't significantly curbing consumption."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

WalletHub: Virginia leads nation in fastest recovery from unemployment claims

Virginia is having a successful recovery from new unemployment claims with last week's claims lower than in the same week

in 2019, according to WalletHub's updated rankings for the states whose unemployment claims are recovering the quickest.

In fact, the commonwealth finished the week at the top spot in the country as the state recovering the most from unemployment claims in the last week.

As the personal finance website WalletHub points out, the U.S. is making significant progress in the fight against COVID-19 with the distribution of the vaccine. This has been reflected in the job market as new unemployment claims decreased week-over-week in the last week

of October.

Still, 7.7 million Americans remain unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in total.

269,000 new unemployment claims were filed nationwide last week, which is a lot fewer than the 6.1 million during the peak of the pandemic (a 96% reduction).

Among the key stats that helped land Virginia with the fastest unemployment recovery rate in the country were that weekly unemployment claims in Virginia decreased by 49.70% compared to the same week in 2019. This was the second biggest de-

crease in the U.S. Further, weekly unemployment claims in Virginia decreased by 62.86% compared to the start of 2020. This was the seventh biggest decrease in the U.S. And finally, weekly unemployment claims in Virginia decreased by 88.56% compared to the same week last year. This was the third biggest decrease in the U.S.

Other states ranked in the top 10 recovery rate by the website were 2) Arkansas 3) North Dakota 4) Delaware 5) Georgia 6) South Carolina 7) Kansas 8) South Dakota 9) West Virginia 10) Pennsylvania.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Army legal branch
- Dekagram
- Underwater ship
- 6th Jewish month
- lang syne, good old days
- European money
- Remover of an apple's center
- The content of cognition
- Bleats
- "1836 siege" of U.S.
- Inquiries
- Bottled gas
- Dutch painter Gerrit
- An invasion or hostile attack
- Misbeliever
- South American Indiana
- Bone cavities
- Hound sounds
- Turtle carapace
- Wash or flow against
- Cross a threshold
- Pitch symbol
- About lizards
- Treat with contempt
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Place to sleep
- Harsh criticism or disapproval
- Wipe out recorded information
- Pesetas
- Pitcher Hershiser
- Pronouncements
- Dodge truck model
- A coniferous tree
- Ludicrously false statement
- Lyric poem
- Determine the sum
- Fixed in one's purpose
- CLUES DOWN
- Mexican wattle & daub hut
- Green playwright
- Building for autos
- Rum and lime or lemon juice
- Two spiral-horned African antelopes
- Jubilant delight
- Cyclic
- Fiddler crabs
- Vehicle carrying many passengers
- Dream sleep
- Afghan Persian language
- Gnawing small mammal
- B1 deficiency disease
- Not out
- Chancellor Von Bismarck
- RCO group of atoms
- Cony
- Makes a gas less dense
- Instances of disease
- A story
- Surmouted
- Cloisonned
- Counterfoil
- Kept cattle together
- Computer screen material
- Ancient calculator
- Cuddle
- District nurse
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Distributed game cards
- Murres genus
- Tear apart violently
- Umbrella support
- Athlete who plays for pay
- Small amount

Baffuto

from page 1

other law enforcement agencies.

In his position, he provided specialized services and training to new field agents. He was responsible for positive relationships with restaurants and businesses from Pulaski to Lynchburg. Baffuto holds a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree from universities in Virginia.

Chamber board member Bill King served as chairman of the search committee. "Our committee of eight wanted to make certain we made the best choice of leaders for our chamber," King said. "Steve has the right balance of leadership and understanding of

strategy to continue the positive trajectory for our chamber. He shared some impressive ideas during interviews to build membership and enhance programming."

Mark Woolwine, the chamber's board chairman for 2022, said, "The chamber board has set the 2022 Program of Work, and this will allow Steve to meet chamber members and get to know business leaders for his first six months.

"Current staff members Jenna Phillips and Leo Priddy have a combined tenure of seven years to assist Steve in his transition to the chamber management world," Woolwine said. "Steve has already been

given multiple books on chamber management. The current president and CEO will stay on briefly to assist with onboarding Steve to ensure his success.

"We are looking forward to Steve taking the leadership and senior administrative role for our chamber on Dec. 1," Woolwine said.

"I am pleased to have been chosen to lead this organization," Baffuto said. "I have been impressed with our local chamber and its progress since 2009. I am looking forward to working with the board, the staff, and the members to increase value across the board to the business community."

OBITUARIES

Krallman, John Travis

On Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, the world found out it had lost a hero. John Travis Krallman of Blacksburg was found deceased in his condo in Silver Springs, Md.

John to the world, and Travis to his family, was born on a snowy Saturday, Jan. 9, 1982, in Pittsburgh. He was predeceased by his grandparents, Alvah and Thelma Hylton of Blacksburg and John W. and Edith Krallman of Irwin, Penn.

He leaves behind his parents, John D. and Dianne Krallman of Blacksburg, brother Kevin Krallman and his wife, Anna Kramer, of Monroe, Ore.; aunts and uncles Ken and Denise Krallman of Hamilton, Ohio, Dean Krallman of Herminie, Penn., Sid and Sherry Krallman of Norvelt, Penn., and Dan and Elaine Hylton of Ozark, Ala.; cousins and second cousins Samantha Krallman Johnson and her husband, Will Johnson, and their children, Arielle, Gabrielle and Preston of Greensburg, Penn., Sara Krallman Goldman and her husband, Marc Goldman, and their children Ana and Grace of Harrisburg, Penn., Shana Krallman and her son, Liam Gustafson, of Benicia, Calif., Kelli Krallman and her son, James Michael Howard, of West Chester, Ohio, Keith Krallman and wife, Sara Bailey, of Portland, Ore., Paul Hylton and Jessica Hylton and their children, Jade, Lilly, and Kaylee of Ozark, Ala., David Hylton of Ozark, Ala. and Andrew Hylton and wife, Kaitlyn Hylton, of Richmond, Va.

Travis was a gifted and focused student. He graduated from Blacksburg High School in 2000, where he loved forensics. He was a National Merit scholar and chose to attend Virginia Tech, double majoring in chemical engineering and chemistry. Travis found out his first semester in the co-op program that he really didn't want to be a chemical engineer so he refocused on his passion, the environment. He was active in student climate action organiza-



tions at Virginia Tech. After graduation, he worked as an environmental engineer for three years with UBS, learning about clean air and the Clean Air Act. Even before graduating from Virginia Tech, John Travis planned on going on to law school to become an environmental lawyer. After UBS, he attended Lewis and Clark School of Law in Portland, Ore., where he was champi-

on his second year and runner-up his third year in the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition. He interned for one year at the EPA Boston office. When that ended, he returned to Portland as Counsel for Neighbors for Clean Air, helping to lead the fight for clean air in Oregon. He loved his job and the people he worked with and would have stayed, but his dream job called. He was hired as an attorney in the Air and Radiation Law Office, Office of General Counsel, EPA in Washington, where he worked until his death.

John was not only a gifted attorney, combining his technical background with an encyclopedic knowledge of the Clean Air act, but was a great mentor, team player and friend to all who knew him. He was a beloved "uncle" to his second cousins, a friend and mentor to his brother and a model son. He will be sorely missed.

Family visitation was held Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021, at McCoy Funeral Home from 5 to 7 p.m. A memorial service was held at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Blacksburg at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 4. For those who could not attend in person, live-stream was available from the church's website, <https://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/>.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that memorial gifts be made to Neighbors for Clean Air in John Travis's name at <https://neighborsforcleanair.org/donate/> or you can plant a tree in his honor. As one friend put it to us, Mother Earth has lost a great advocate.

Swartz, Jr., Jerome Lee

Jerome Lee Swartz, Jr., 55, passed away at his home in Pulaski on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021. Survivors include his father, Jerome, Sr.; his mother and stepfather, Joyce and Clifford, Sr.; sisters and brothers-in-law, Katrina and Arch, Tammy and Jim of Florida, DeAnna and Kevin, and Michele; brother and sister-in-law, Clifford, Jr., and Shelley; his son, Michael of Florida; daughters Jennifer and Madeline; grandchildren



Darren and Jeremy; and many other relatives and friends.

A graveside memorial service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin. Officiating will be Pastor Michael Pierce of the Heritage Church.

The Swartz family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Akers, Marjorie Calhoun

Marjorie Calhoun Akers, 82, passed away Oct. 29, 2021, at her home in Christiansburg.

She was born in Blacksburg, the daughter of John Leslie Calhoun and Gracie Leigh Slusser Calhoun. Preceding her in death were her parents, John and Gracie; brothers Bob and Alvin; and sisters Elizabeth and Josephine.

Survivors include her husband, Dick Akers, of Christiansburg; sons Rick and Les Akers of Christiansburg; three grand-

children, six great-grandchildren, four nephews, four nieces, and many other relatives and friends

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. on Dec. 4 at First Church of God, Dublin 6330 Courtney Lane, Dublin. A celebration of her life will begin at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Mike Hudson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Victory Junction Gang.

Heller, Dr. Robert A.

Dr. Robert A. Heller, professor emeritus at Virginia Tech, passed away peacefully on Nov. 3, 2021, in Burlington, N.C., with his wife and sons at his side. He was 93 years old and by his own words, "did everything he wanted to do in life."

Robert was born in Budapest, Hungary, on Feb. 12, 1928. He had a happy childhood until World War II when he was forced to go into hiding. He was a holocaust survivor who was placed in a Swedish safe house where he bravely protected over 100 younger Jewish children.

After the war, he and his family emigrated to New York City where he started a new life and attained a PhD in civil engineering at Columbia University. He was married in 1954 to Agnes Sekely, the love of his life, and became a father a few years later.

As a structural engineer, Dr. Heller maintained interests in the elastic behavior of structures, fatigue, reliability, and the safety of structures and probabilistic mechanics. He co-authored "Structure in Architecture," used in numerous university courses and translated into 10 languages and four editions. He co-authored "Salvadori's Structure in Architecture" in 2016, contributed over 100 articles to scholarly journals, and worked with the National Science Foundation to develop educational films that are now in the Library of Congress.

In 1967, Dr. Heller became a full professor at Virginia Tech where he taught for 30 years and became the J. Frank Maher professor emeritus. He was a mentor to, and loved by, his students and respected by his colleagues. In 1982, he received an Outstanding Educator award.

Dr. Heller was a consultant for the U.S. Army and Air Force, the government of Sweden, and Brown Boveri in Germany. He was a Fulbright scholar at Technische Universitat in Austria and visiting professor at Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Dr. Heller is endorsed by Marquis Who's Who as a leader in the fields of engineering and higher education.



Robert loved to water ski and snow ski. He traveled with his loving wife Agnes to many countries from Russia to China and all over the U.S. He was a devoted and loving husband, often giving Agnes credit for his success and writing her love poems. Agnes and he shared a love for opera and classical music and supported many philanthropic endeavors.

Robert was a wonderful, beloved father, who shared with his sons skiing, camping, travel, education, love of family, and family heritage. He was a mentor, a role model, and an inspiration to many. Robert was a very modest, humble and selfless man who enjoyed life and minimized life's difficulties.

He was a friend to many and was always conscious of other's needs. He had a great attitude, good humor, and good will who touched and inspired many. Robert was not just a gentleman, but a gentle man, who took care of, and was loved by his family, friends, colleagues, and students.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jenö; his mother, Sari; and his sister, Aniko. He is survived by his wife, Agnes; his sons Tom and Jim (Carol); his granddaughter Sara, a nephew, Steve Maroti (Michele), and various nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Nov. 12, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. at 1860 Brookwood Ave, in Burlington, N.C. (mailing address is 1880 Brookwood). A graveside service will be held Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. at Temple Emanuel Cemetery, 2900 Orange Ave NE, Roanoke, Va. 24012.

Non-residents of Brookwood are screened at the Rockwood Ave. gate and are required to wear masks. Online tributes and condolences may be posted at mccoyfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Robert Heller Scholarship Fund, the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics at Virginia Tech or to Temple Emanuel, Roanoke VA. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Hinkley, Bonnie June Goff

Bonnie June Goff Hinkley, 87, passed away Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, at her home in Dublin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henderson and Lena Goff; husband Raynard Cloyd Hinkley; son George Calvin Hinkley; four sisters; five brothers; and a great-great-grandson.

Survivors include her daughters, Rita Nester, Ruth Boyd, and Angie Helm; a son, Wayne Hinkley; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; a brother; a sister; and many other rela-



tives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until noon on Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021, at the Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church. Funeral services will begin at noon with the Rev. Lester Kennedy, Jr., officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or to the Fairlawn Brethren Church.

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

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Valley to Valley Trail Study
Roanoke, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties;
Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Pulaski
and the City of Radford

Citizen Comment Opportunity

November 10 - 24, 2021

<http://www.virginiadot.gov/valleytovalleytrail>

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is studying a new multi-use path called the Valley to Valley Trail that would connect the Roanoke Valley to the New River Valley. This new trail would create a single cohesive trail network by connecting the Roanoke River Greenway in Roanoke, the Huckleberry Trail in Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the Radford Riverway Trail and the New River Trail State Park. The study will help to determine a recommended alignment with sections that could be developed in individual phases.

VDOT has posted a recorded presentation about the study along with an online survey on the project website at <http://www.virginiadot.gov/valleytovalleytrail>. Comments will be received through **November 24, 2021**. Citizens can provide comments through the online survey or by mailing them to Michael Gray, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem VA 24153. For additional information, contact Michael Gray at 540-494-8288, 1-800-367-7623, TTY/TDD 711.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Anyone requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this comment opportunity may contact Michael Gray at the phone numbers listed above.

Build Beds from page 1

"No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town." "Since our first build in 2020, we have delivered 251 beds to 119 families in Montgomery and Pulaski counties and the City of Radford through the tremendous support from community volunteers and organizations, Lowe's of Christiansburg, and Burch Properties," said Mele.

Bill Duis, the event organizer for the Rotary Club of Montgomery County, said volunteering in these community efforts helps the club fulfill its mission.

projects like SHP allows us to make a significant impact in our community and fulfill Rotary's commitment to 'Service above Self,' he said.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a volunteer organization that provides free hand-made twin beds to children in need. SHP provides the tools, equipment, and supervision to execute bed-build events and joins with local organizations to fund, build, deliver, and assemble the beds.

-- Heather Bell



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The dozens of volunteers gather at the end of their four-hour bed building assembly line.

King from page 4

ning percentage of .454. The school's first game ever was on October 23, 1914, a 9-0 loss at Blacksburg. The first win ever was November 25, 1914, an 18-0 home win over Pulaski. Interestingly, these were the only two games that season, or at least the only two reported.

On October 26, 1922, CHS beat "Riner," apparently the predecessor to Auburn High and probably the alma mater of my mother and her sisters. I do not know for sure whether it was Riner High or Auburn High when they graduated. Auburn High itself did not take up football until 1976, again according to my source, and the 1922 contest is the only reported game between the high schools in that part of the county and Christiansburg High.

CHS's all-time record against hated rival Blacksburg is 38-56 with one of the ties being among the more infamous games in Montgomery County sports history. In 1963, CHS and BHS played to a 7-7 tie in the last game of the season with the Blue Demons entering the game 8-1 and the Indians

8-0-1, so the tie gave the New River District championship to BHS. The papers the next day read "Blacksburg beats Christiansburg 7-7" (literary license here), much like the more famous "Harvard beats Yale 29-29" headline in 1968. Look it up.

I was 10 years old at the time of that historic Nov. 8, 1963, game, and was forced to sit on the Blacksburg side for one half because my Dad was county superintendent of schools and required to show some degree of impartiality. This requirement was "waived" by Curtis "Ducky" Gray, principal of Blacksburg High when I was playing later for the Blue Demons. Legend also has it that the Blue Demons suffered their one loss in 1963 (to Giles) only because our star player was suspended for a driving offense (or six). My cousin Bobby was a senior that year and a friend of the star, so I think this story is accurate. Bobby was probably in the car.

A few more interesting facts about CHS football. The team was coached in 1928 and 1929 by Bentley Hite, later a prominent

lawyer in town for many years and a leading community citizen. His 1928 team went 6-0 in the regular season, losing to Big Stone Gap in something known as the "Southwest Va. Championship." My father and his twin brothers Clyde and Cline played around this time. Mr. Hite also coached the CHS boxing team during these years. Who knew there was one?

On a (considerably) lesser note, one of the King twins, my Uncle Cline, coached the team in the 1938 and 1939 seasons, going 0-8 each year. My Dad was principal at this time, so I guess he had the ignominious responsibility of telling his brother, "Cline, we need to make a change." Before looking at fourseasonsfootball.com, I did not know that Cline had been the coach (if you're 0-16 I guess you don't talk about it a lot), although I do remember my Dad telling a story of his brother betting the team that he could "run circles around the whole lot of them" and then literally doing so, in a sprint from one goal line to the other. More on Cline and

his twin later.

Until 1966, the schools in Montgomery County were segregated, and the African-American kids in Christiansburg, as well as from several surrounding counties, attended Christiansburg Institute, or Christiansburg Industrial Institute as it was known in its later years. The school was frequently referred to as CII and was near the site of the current Christiansburg High. Booker T. Washington played an important role in the development and direction of the institute, which itself played a significant part in the history of Montgomery County.

CII had its own sports teams and played football against other black schools in the state. Going from memory, the school colors were green and gold and the teams were known as the Tigers. The marching band was legendary. I remember their performances in the town Christmas parades when I was very young.

This all changed in the fall of my eighth grade year, which at that time was the first year of high school. Our schools were desegregated and combined. As a result, the first African-American varsity football players at CHS became James "Chuckie" Anderson and brothers Earl and Marshall Carter (of the wonderful Carter family. I later played with their younger brother, Jerry, one of the best players ever at CHS. Their young-

est brother Harold was a star basketball player at CHS in the mid 70's.)

The eighth grade team I played on that momentous year included five African-American players: Tony Price, Alan Johnson, Spencer Flippens, Cortez McDaniel, and John Hairston. They were my teammates throughout our CHS years and an important part of CHS football history. I also need to mention the African-American guys who played on the CHS jayvee team that year: Jerome "Michelle" Robinson, Ernie Morgan, Garnett Franklin, Gratton Moore, and Willy Alexandria.

It took a lot of courage for these kids to come into an all-white school and join these teams, but I think it went relatively smoothly. I know our eighth grade team had great times and benefited from the experiences, particularly the volunteer coaching of Omar Ross.

Now a little Blue Demon minutiae, some involving family history. The school fight song, "Oh CHS is Just the School for Me," is to the tune of the Washington & Lee Swing, apparently borrowed from the college down the road. (When I was a small kid, I thought the lyric "C'burg High" was "Siebern High" and had something to do with Norm Siebern, a backup first baseman for the New York Yankees at the time. I never claimed to be a genius.)

The nickname "Blue

Demons" according to King family lore resulted from the exploits of my uncles Clyde and Cline on the gridiron. My dad told the story that his twin brothers were the best athletes in the family and were star running backs at CHS. At that time, the sports teams at CHS were known as the Wildcats. In a big game against one of the Roanoke schools, the twins starred, running up and down the field in their blue jerseys. A reporter for the Roanoke paper wrote the next day that the "King twins played like blue demons." Again per my dad, the name stuck.

I would love to verify. At this time, all I can say is why let facts get in the way of a good story.

One more fun family fact. My cousin Joe Board reportedly scored five touchdowns in one game against Radford, although the Bobcats won 41-31. Joe is certainly one of the best players in school history, if not the best, but I am biased.

Over the years there have been hosts of Griffiths and Epperly and Carters and Franklins on the Blue Demon rosters. One of the beauties of high school football in small town America has always been family legacy.

There have also been many great men who coached at CHS over the years, several of whom I knew and played for and many of whom I remember simply because of my dad's stories. During my dad's early years as teacher and principal at the school, the Blue Demon teams were coached by Tex Tilson and Bob Lawson and Bob Gerald and the legendary Boodie Albert (unfortunately, Boodie only coached one year at CHS and went on to make his legend at Covington High in a highly successful 33-year career).

Later, my dad as principal and then superintendent started a long line of Emory & Henry coaches: Buddy Earp and Omar Ross and Curt Campbell and Joe Rusek and Doug Greene and Phil Robbins, affectionately known as the "Wasp Mafia." In recent years, Mike Cole and Tim Cromer and now Alex Wilkens have been highly successful coaches of CHS. I even learned from my research that my Dad's great friend, Icky Pharis, coached the team in 1925 and 1926. Apologies to anyone I left out.

I hope this little piece of Christiansburg history was fun to read. It was great fun to research and write. And congrats and good luck to the current Blue Demons. You stand on the shoulders of my uncles, Clyde and Cline. Maybe.

Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Ends Thursday November 11th @ 4 PM

Gorgeous 415 Acre Farm for Sale
Little Creek Rd. Dublin VA 24084

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



You have the opportunity to purchase a stunning farm for sale in Pulaski County VA. This property features 415 +/- acres of open and wooded land. Ut would be great for farming and has Little Creek running through. The wooded portion of the property had timber cut 50 years ago. Great pastureland and fencing make this property even more desirable! The property is located across from 1909 Little Creek Road, Dublin VA and between 2056 and 1702 Little Creek Road Dublin VA. The property has a lot of road frontage on Little Creek Road and adjoins Jefferson National Forest. Perfect for use as a private recreational retreat, a farm, or for building your dream country home!

Survey for property is in progress. Auctioneer and Seller estimate property to be 415 acres approximately. Auction is online only and bids placed are by the acre. Sales price will be determined when survey is complete by taking price per acre x acreage + 10% Buyer's premium. Small cabin by creek will be removed prior to closing. Property is currently leased and being used for cattle. The lease runs out May 31st 2022, buyer may look into continuing lease as tenant keeps up fencing and property maintenance.

Preview - Friday November 5th @ 3 PM

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$20,000 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps. Pulaski County GIS is not accurate because property being sold is a portion of property shown on GIS. Refer to bidder pack for maps, Online Bidder Agreement, and Sample Purchase Contract. Purchasers are expected to read entire bidder pack and purchase contract prior to bidding. Bidding will be by the acre. Final purchase price will be calculated prior to closing by taking bid price per acre plus 10% Buyer's Premium multiplied by acreage on final survey provided by seller prior to closing. Contract will be subject to no more than 10% variance from 415 acres shown on maps provided in bidder pack.

Contact - Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com;
Darrell Hylton Realtor at 540-250-0850 or email dwh@swva.net

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Moving Sale-Indoors
 Furniture, homegoods, glassware, misc.
 November 12th & 13th
 9am-2pm
 181 Branch Road
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Yard Sales - Roanoke County

5 Generation Estate Sale
 817 Ridgcrest Drive
 Roanoke, VA 24019
 November 12: 9:00 - 3:00
 November 13: 9:00 - 3:00
 November 14: 1:00 - 3:00
 Dream sale for catering businesses, wedding planners, furniture flippers, art collectors, jewelry makers, and photographers. Sewing machines, vintage furniture, vintage jewelry, and vintage clothing plus exquisite crystal and silver. ALSO a complete room of Christmas decor. A wood working shop complete with rare 1800's walnut carpenter portable tables and tools. Large and small tools for various wood working projects. Many more treasures on site. (Cash or Venmo only, no access to card readers)

Yard Sales - Botetourt County

Estate/Moving Tag Sale
Friday-Monday Nov. 12-15
Personal property of Sandra and Benton Bolton
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Friday & Sat, 10-4; Sun. 1-3; Mon. 12-4

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Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014314-06-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Eli
 Commonwealth *vs.* Unknown Father
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler.
 It is ORDERED that Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014314-04-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Eli
 Commonwealth *vs.* Fowler, Jerry
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler.
 It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014314-05-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Eli
 Commonwealth *vs.* Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler.
 It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014315-06-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Nicholi
 Commonwealth *vs.* Unknown Father
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler.
 It is ORDERED that Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014315-05-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Nicholi
 Commonwealth *vs.* Fowler, Jerry
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler.
 It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014315-04-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Nicholi
 Commonwealth *vs.* Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler.
 It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014313-03-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Lula O
 Commonwealth *vs.* Fowler, Jerry
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Lula Fowler.
 It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014313-04-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Lula O
 Commonwealth *vs.* Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Lula Fowler.
 It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

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Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014302-04-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Wright, Cooper
 Solstice Commonwealth of Virginia *vs.* Martin, Holly Isabella
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Cooper Wright.
 It is ORDERED that Martin, Holly Isabella appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/19/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014302-05-00
 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Wright, Cooper
 Solstice Commonwealth *vs.* Wright Jr, Gary Robert
 The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Cooper Wright.
 It is ORDERED that Wright Jr, Gary Robert appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/19/2021
 Jessica Hall
 Deputy Clerk

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT

COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **Case No. CL21-597**
 Complainant, *v.* BESSIE MILLER DUNBAR, ET AL,

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Botetourt, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Botetourt, Virginia, described as follows:
 Tax Map No. 9-9
 Account No. 27417

All that certain piece, parcel or tract of land, containing 17 acres, more or less, situate, lying and being in Botetourt County, Virginia, near Baldwin Station, which said piece of land is bound on the South by the County Raod, leading from Baldwin Station to Craig's Creek; on the east by the land of Mamie Woods; on the north and on the west by the lands of the United States of America.

Being the same property of Kenneth C. Dunbar, who died intestate, seized and possessed on February 21, 1978, and survived by the following heirs of law: Bessie Miller Dunbar, widow, Mary Maxine Dunbar McCulley, Kenneth C. Dunbar Jr., Ella Dunbar Jeffries, Edith D. Noble, Jimmy M. Dunbar, Michael W. Dunbar, Frank A. Dunbar, Jewel Dunbar Watkins, Barbara Dunbar McGaha, Johnny A. Dunbar, Betty Dunbar Hylar, Haden L. Dunbar.

Less and Except that 2.00 acres portion of land conveyed to Frank A. Dunbar and Rita M. Dunbar, husband and wife, by Deed dated July 15, 1983 and recorded August 2, 1983 in the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Botetourt, Virginia, in Deed Book 286, Page 321.

Less and Except that 1.50 acres portion of land conveyed to Michael W. Dunbar and Peggy S. Dunbar, husband and wife, by Deed dated July 15, 1983 and recorded August 2, 1983 in the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Botetourt, Virginia, in Deed Book 286, Page 323.

Less and Except that 2.00 acres portion of land conveyed to Jimmy M. Dunbar and Susan H. Dunbar, husband and wife, by Deed dated July 15, 1983 and recorded February 9, 2011 in the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Botetourt,

Legals - Botetourt County

Virginia, as Instrument Number 110000592.

And being the remaining 11.5 acres, more or less, portion of the property conveyed to Bessie Miller Dunbar from Heirs of Kenneth C. Dunbar by Deed dated April 21, 1983, and recorded June 6, 1983 in the Botetourt County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 284, Page 531.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 99, Page 362 .

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Bessie Miller Dunbar, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 2358 Wood Town Road, Eagle Rock, Virginia 24085; Jimmy M. Dunbar, whose last known address is 75 Forrest Hill Drive, Eagle Rock, Virginia 24085; Betty Dunbar Hylar, whose last known address is 1263 Commercial Avenue, Clifton Forge, Virginia 24422; Haden L. Dunbar, whose last known address is 1737 Webster Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24012; Jewell Dunbar Watkins aka Lydia J. Watkins, whose last known address is 3423 Norway Place, Norfolk, Virginia 23509; Montie K. Jeffries, whose last known address is 6203 Rich Patch Road, #6203 , Covington, Virginia 24426; Glenn J. Hylar, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 1263 Commercial Avenue, Clifton Forge, Virginia 24422;

Carolyn Tinsley Dunbar , who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Johnny A. Dunbar , who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 202 Crossing Lane, Low Moor, Virginia 24457; Charles L. Dunbar , whose last known address is 304 Karnes Road, Covington, Virginia 24426; Irkamullah Abbasi , whose last known address is 5212 S Cornell Avenue, Apt W, Chicago, Illinois 60615; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before December 7, 2021 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered on the 27th day of October, 2021.

Joel R. Branscom
 Judge

I Ask For This:
 Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)
 John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
 Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)
 Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)
 Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)
 Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)
 Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC
 P.O. Box 31800
 Henrico, Virginia
 23294-1800
 Phone: (804) 864-0080
 Facsimile: (804) 545-2378
 TACS No.: 639654

Legals - City of Salem

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21-404
 Salem Circuit Court
 2 E. Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153
 Isaias Rosa da Silva *v.* Victoria Nichole Davis
 The object of this suit is to: Obtain a divorce
 It is ORDERED that Victoria Nichole Davis appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before November 24, 2021.

Legals - City of Salem

October 4, 2021
 Stacy L. Owen
 Deputy Clerk

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004795-06-00
 Floyd County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Floyd County DSS *v.* Christian Knode
 The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Christian Knode, legal parent of Gabriel Knode a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonably

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Legals - Montgomery County

likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time, failed to maintain continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. It is ORDERED that Christian Knode appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before December 6, 2021.

10/13/21
 Bradley Dalton
 Judge

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg, Radford, East Mont make it to the postseason

Marty Gordon
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Christiansburg, Radford, and Eastern Montgomery are in the football playoffs.

The three teams will begin playoff action Friday night. They actually locked up playoff spots a week ago based on the points classification list.

Radford rolled in its regular season finale 42-0 over James River. Eastern Montgomery, on the other hand, took it on the chin in a Pioneer District championship game 35-0 to Parry McCluer. Christiansburg beat a stubborn Pulaski County squad 41-28.

Now it will be a one-and-done situation.

Christiansburg (9-1) won more games this year than in the past three combined as Alex Wilkens was

in year 5 of his tenure with the Blue Demons. By virtue of their points in Region 3C, the Blue Demons will host games. In the region postseason this week, Christiansburg will face a 4-5 Staunton River team that is coming off a 70-7 loss to Lord Botetourt, a game in which Staunton River could manage less than 70 yards of total offense.

Radford (7-3) will play a familiar face in Floyd County (6-4), whom they defeated 42-7 two weeks ago.

Eastern Montgomery (5-5) will be on the road in Pearisburg to play Giles (6-3).

Predictions:
 Christiansburg 40,
 Staunton River 12
 Radford 38, Floyd 20
 Giles 32, Eastern Montgomery 8

Brush Mountain Throwdown top 30 finishers

The top 30 finishers in the various races of the Brush Mountain Throwdown, run in Blacksburg on Saturday, Oct. 30:

12-Miler: 1) Garrett Pitt 1:28.09.24, 2) Peter Alexander, 3) Joe Urbanowicz, 4) Ignacio Moore, 5) Katie Wardinski, 6) Mark Lattanzi, 7) Graham Snider, 8) Joshua Norris, 9) Bryce Cannon, 10) Michael Stowe, 11) Marc Edwards, 12) Erik Olsen, 13) Taylor Cherry, 14) Trevor Stewart, 15) Stephen Sabo, 16) Kristen Bretz, 17) Jennie Wyderko, 18) Meagan Dodds, 19) Peter Jolles, 20) Kyle Brown, 21) Emma Helm, 22) Taylor Christian, 23) Emily Hutchins, 24) Gemma Grove, 25) Joe McGrory, 26) Amy Pruden, 27) Eric Johnson, 28) Jessica Meier, 29) Hannah Jirsah, 30) Sarah Lattig.

7-Miler: 1) Tyler Best 44:57.92, 2) Evan Grace, 3) Anderson Norton, 4) Kevin McGuire, 5) Ryan Ankrum, 6) Nathaniel Hall, 7) Travis Wiehe, 8) Thomas Cummins, 9) Hannah Varnell, 10) Tommy Oravetz, 11) Ryan Singman, 12) Patrick

Green, 13) Kristen Chang, 14) Christopher Byron, 15) Jonathan Petters, 16) Adam Calvin, 17) Sean Johnson, 18) Lynn Schmitt, 19) Scot Shippee, 20) Marcia Parks, 21) John Beech, 22) Ryan Brem, 23) Gavin Miller, 24) Carin Ahner, 25) Brett Wilson, 26) James Mann, 27) David Brown, 28) Andy Ankrum, 29) Brandy McGrory, 30) Marian Brown.

Brush Mtn. 5K: 1) Isaak Waisnioski 27: 54.16, 2) Orien Altman, 3) Lucinda Cherbaka, 4) Sean Powers, 5) Carter Bailey, 6) Anderson Peeples, 7) Ella Byrd, 8) Kirsten Slagle, 9) Evan Slagle, 10) Peter Means, 11) Becky Hertling, 12) Coy Allen, 13) Patrick McDaniel, 14) Duane Peck, 15) Austin Sterk, 16) Doug Sterk, 17) William Johnson II, 18) Chris McNabb, 19) Megan White, 20) Jennifer White, 21) Rachel McNeil, 22) Rajesh Bagchi, 23) Rachel Bagchi, 24) Andy White, 25) Corrine Sterk, 26) Miranda Lucia, 27) Bridgette Tattersall, 28) Donna Akers, 29) Jason Church, 30) Vicky Johnson.

Christiansburg's Mite League football team wins rec league Super Bowl



Christiansburg's Caleb Haley reacts after recovering a Pulaski fumble in Saturday's Mite League Super Bowl. The Blue Demons took home the trophy with an 8-0 win at Blacksburg High School's Bill Brown Stadium.



Christiansburg's Brody Wallace stretches the ball across the goal line to score the only touchdown in the Blue Demons' Mite League Super Bowl victory over Pulaski County.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Christiansburg's 2021 Mite League football team won the rec league Super Bowl Saturday with an 8-0 win over Pulaski County.

Four from Blacksburg High sign letters of intent for college

Blacksburg High School has recognized four student athletes who are planning to further their sports careers at the collegiate level: McKenzie Cheynet, Morgan Cheynet, Mia Jones, and Bennett Shealor. The ceremony took place Sunday, Nov. 7, in the school's library.

McKenzie Cheynet, a senior center midfielder, has signed her national letter of intent to play collegiate soccer and continue her academic career at Radford University. McKenzie is a four-year starter for the varsity girls' soccer team. In the 2021 spring season she helped lead the team to the Virginia High School League 4D region championship and on to the Class 4 state semifinals.

McKenzie finished the season with seven goals and seven assists, including the game-winning goal in the Region 4

championship game. She has played travel soccer with New River United for the past seven years and traveled to New Jersey last summer to compete in the United States Youth Soccer Eastern Regionals. She was on the Olympic Development Program's Virginia State team for two years and traveled with the squad to compete in Germany her freshman year. Alongside soccer, McKenzie has been a starter on the varsity basketball team for three years and will continue to play this winter.

Morgan Cheynet, a senior forward, has signed her national letter of intent to play collegiate soccer and will also continue her academic career at Radford University. She is a 4-year starter for the Bruins' varsity soccer team.

Last spring, she played a significant role in helping her team go undefeated in the

regular season and win the VHSL Region 4D Championship, earning her team a spot in the state tournament. She finished the season with 16 goals and 10 assists.

Morgan contributed to four game-winning goals over the course of 13 games in the 2021 season and has played with her club team, New River United, for eight years, making it to the USYS Regional Championships for the first time in NRU history this past summer. She also has played State Olympic Development Program soccer for two years and was named to the Region 1-ODP pool in 2018. In addition to soccer, Morgan has played varsity basketball for the Bruins all four years and played a role in helping the team make it to the Region 4D semifinals her sophomore year.

Mia Jones signed her na-

tional letter of intent to run cross country and track and continue her academic career at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. She is a four-year member of the Blacksburg cross-country and track teams. In the past three years, the Bruins have earned both first-place finishes at the VHSL 4A Region D Cross-Country Championships and runner-up finishes at the VHSL 4A state championships.

Jones achieved all-region honors in cross country and all-state honors in track while running for the Bruins. During her junior year, she placed third in the 3200m at the VHSL 4A Indoor Track State Championships and was part of the 4x800m relay that placed second. She was awarded the Blacksburg High School cross country Newcomer Award and the school's Indoor Track Women's Dis-

tance Runner of the Year award.

Bennett Shealor has signed his national letter of intent to play collegiate baseball and continue his academic career at George Mason University. Bennett is a four-year starter for the Bruins' varsity baseball team and played basketball for the Bruins.

As a freshman, he received honorable mention notice at the catcher position in the River Ridge District. Bennett garnered national recognition with two different travel baseball teams. While playing for the Richmond Braves travel team, he was named a Preseason All American in 2020 and 2021. With his current travel team, U.S. Elite, he was named to six national all-tournament teams in 2021. Bennett has a 4.03 GPA at Blacksburg High and plans to study sports management.

Blacksburg's Jennifer Fleming fulfills her dream of running the Boston Marathon

After running since the eighth grade, Blacksburg's Jennifer Fleming has fulfilled her dream of running in the Boston Marathon. She finished 587th overall (out of 15,381 and 51st female (out of 7,439) in a time of 2:47:38.

"Back in April, my friend (and fellow 2021 Boston Marathon finisher) Michael Stowe told me that they were holding the race in-person in October and encouraged me to apply," Fleming said. Her qualifying time from the Richmond Marathon in 2019 (2:56:05) was

still viable for Boston in 2021.

This was her second marathon including the Richmond event, but she hopes to do many more.

Fleming was blown away by everything associated with the Boston Marathon both on and off course.

"Never in my life have I seen so many people absolutely losing their minds, screaming at the top of their lungs at people jogging down the street," she said. "The entire 26.2 miles, there were people crying out endless en-

couragement; waving creative, hand-made signs; blasting music as loud as their speakers could go. It was an amazing and electric atmosphere and the perfect distraction from the pain in my legs."

The bigger picture convinced her she would love to do it again.

"But I would also like to try out other marathons or even some ultramarathons," Fleming said. "I have a long bucket list. It's always exciting to see new places, and racing is a great excuse to travel and have a guaranteed adventure."

Fleming began running in the seventh grade when she didn't have soccer practice, but in the eighth grade she made running her sole sport.

"I ran all throughout Blacksburg High School with legendary coach James Demarco and two years at Virginia Tech before stepping away from

the team due to a serious hip injury," she said. "I began swimming and biking more to cross-train through that injury and joined the Virginia Tech Club Triathlon Team my

last two years at VT."

At that point, she found that her hip could handle the balance of training across three sports a whole lot better than just one.

Thus, she started slowing down her running pace, finding out she could run longer without pain, which led to the Richmond and Boston events.



Blacksburg's Jennifer Fleming smiles as she runs the Boston Marathon in October, her first time in the event.

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Eastern Montgomery falls to Parry McCluer



Eastern Montgomery's Xavier Brown tracks down a Parry McCluer ball carrier. The Mustangs lost 35-0 to PM Friday night.



Seth Burleson picks up yardage for the Mustangs against the Parry McCluer defense.



Eastern Montgomery's Luis Martinez recovers a fumble to end a Parry McCluer drive. The Mustangs finished the regular season 6-4 and will travel to Giles in the opening round of the Class 1C playoffs Friday night.

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