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# News Messenger

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USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## Montgomery County Public Schools appoints new superintendent

By Alli Graham

According to an announcement from Montgomery County Public Schools, the county School Board Tuesday appointed Dr. Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., as the new public schools superintendent.

"I am extremely grateful and excited to be given this opportunity," said Dr. Bragen. "I believe that I can add value to the district and assist it on its path to excellence."

Bragen isn't technically new to the superintendent position. MCPS said that he's had nine years of experience working as a superintendent in New Jersey public schools.

His career in education began as a special education teacher and study team member, MCPS said, and after ten years, he transitioned into administration.

And school leaders were happy to make the decision.

"The School Board is excited to make this announcement," said Sue Kass, chairwoman of the Montgomery County School Board. "We look forward to the leadership, dedication, and commitment to collaboration that Dr. Bragen will bring to the students, staff, and families in our county."

MCPS said that welcome activities for Dr. Bragen will be announced at a later date.



Submitted photo: The Montgomery County School Board has appointed Dr. Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., as the new superintendent.

## Radford University welcomes sports broadcaster Lauren Sisler for National Recovery Month event



Submitted photo

A sports broadcaster for both ESPN and the SEC Network, Lauren Sisler suffered the tragic loss of both her parents to prescription drug addiction when she was 18.

Radford University will help raise awareness about Recovery Month by welcoming ESPN and SEC Network sports broadcaster Lauren Sisler to campus to present "Road to Redemption" on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 7:30 p.m. in Bondurant Auditorium.

The event is free and open to all Radford University students, faculty, and staff.

A native of the Giles County area, Sisler lost both of her parents to their concealed battle with prescription drug addiction within hours of one another when she was an 18-year-old student at Rutgers University. She will discuss that tragedy and how she was able to overcome the resulting adversity, finding her own path to a successful life and career.

"Sports is my passion, but my purpose is to share what I learned from my parents' story and how I learned to fall

See Sisler, page 4

SINKLAND FARMS 9.23.22 - 10.30.22 | THU - SUN

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### Music Schedule - Sat-Sun 1-4pm

- |                               |   |                                    |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Sat. 9/24 - Leslie Brooks     | Sat. 10/8 - Howlin' Mudbellies                  | Sat. 10/22 - Last Chance Band      |
| Sun. 9/25 - Jake and Jess     | Sun. 10/9 - Marie Anderson                      | Sun. 10/23 - Old Man Kelly         |
| Sat. 10/1 - Lily Comer        | Sat. 10/15 - Java Brothers with Connie McCardle | Sat. 10/29 - Spring Fed Roots      |
| Sun. 10/2 - The Groove Houndz | Sun. 10/16 - Leslie Brooks and Al Coffey        | Sun. 10/30 - Indian Run Stringband |

[SinklandFarms.com](http://SinklandFarms.com) for festival info and tickets

Submitted photo

## Hurricane season remains far from over due to dry climate, says VT expert



Submitted photo

VT hurricane expert Stephanie Zick says Hurricane Fiona is expected to intensify and turn north after leaving Puerto Rico and then turn northeastward away from the continental United States but may still bring hurricane conditions to Bermuda and the Atlantic coast of Canada. She cites dry air and warm water along the coastline as the culprits that may well cause Fiona to intensify.

The arrival of Hurricane Fiona and the devastation it has already caused to Puerto Rico is an important reminder that hurricane season is far from over, says Virginia

Tech hurricane expert Stephanie Zick. "While it's been a quiet hurricane season so far, it only takes one storm to make the season impactful." Hurricane Fiona has

already caused massive power outages and flooding in Puerto Rico and the storm is expected to intensify after bringing

See Hurricane, page 4

## League of Women Voters to hold leadership seminar Rise Up: Exploring Political and Community Leadership set for Oct. 8

Women interested in becoming engaged in community and political leadership are invited to a day-long workshop, Saturday, Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. titled "Rise Up: Exploring Political and Community Leadership."

"Women hold only 27 percent of seats in Congress at a time when women's voices are more important than ever in our nation," said Elizabeth Obenshain of the League of Women Voters, Montgomery County, one of the leaders working on the program.

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, The Women's Center of Virginia Tech, and VT Engage and The Center for Leadership and Service Learning are sponsoring the free event, which will be held on the Virginia Tech campus at Squires Student Center and Newman Library.

The workshop is intended to bring interested women together to learn the nuts and bolts of running for political



Submitted photo

Former Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court Elizabeth McClanahan

office or taking on a leadership role within the community.

Throughout the day, participants will hear and learn from current women leaders. The keynote speaker will be Elizabeth McClanahan, CEO of the Virginia Tech Foundation and a former Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. Anne Holton,

See Seminar, page 4

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Sept. 24:

### Blue Ridge Vocal Connection fundraiser

A Blue Ridge Vocal Connection fundraiser for Eagles Nest Regeneration and for the vocal connection will be held at 7 p.m. at Belmont Christian Church, 1500 Peppers Ferry Rd. The fundraiser will include a raffle and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 each. Music will be a part of the evening with a concert titled "Times of Your Life."

### Sons of Norway meeting

For all people of Scandinavian/Nordic heritage or those interested in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland), interesting programs, and activities on their heritage and culture, the local lodge of the international Sons of Norway organization will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. at College Lutheran Church, 210 South College Ave., in Salem. All ages are welcome, men and women, boys and girls. For information, call Joann Barfield, 540-380-2926.

### Friends of Claytor Lake poker run

This fundraiser for Claytor Lake will start with registration at Rock House Marina at noon and leave out for the five card stops at 1 p.m. Five locations on the water will be marked and a map will be provided. Participants will then regroup back at Rock House for prizes for best hands, food, and music. Email [info@focl.org](mailto:info@focl.org) or text 540-395-3625 to register. Participants should send their contact information, along with their boat registration number to get \$5 off or register the day of the event for \$30/boat (two people) Any extra hands in a boat who want to participate will be \$10/each.

### Fashion show

The Radford University Fall Fashion Show for the Family will be held at 2 p.m. at Hurlburt Auditorium on the Radford University campus.

### Gospel sing

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren will hold its annual gospel sing at 6 p.m. Dale Buckner, a soloist from Christiansburg; Sounds of Harmony from Floyd; and Melody and Austin Peyton, Kay Whitaker, and Mike Campbell, a group from Auburn Baptist Church, will provide an evening of beautiful gospel music. The church is located at 310 South Franklin St. across from Sunset Cemetery. The public is invited and is welcome to attend.

### Grub club

At the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library at 11 a.m. This cooking program for kids will teach important kitchen skills and show them how to make simple and fun recipes that do not require an oven. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Children under 10 will need to be accompanied. Registration is required. The program is not recommended for those with food allergies.

### Seed and plant swap

At the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library at 1:30 p.m. Anyone with extra seeds or seedlings who would like to share or swap them can come by the library and share the wealth. Extra houseplants and cuttings are also welcome. The library will provide pots, soil, and envelopes for seeds. Books about gardening will also be available to check out.

## Sunday, Sept. 25:

### Sand Casting 101

At Hacksburg, 1872 Pratt Drive Suite 1620, Blacksburg from 1 to 4 p.m. Participants can make their own sand cast aluminum object at this casting class. Sand casting is an exciting process that's very accessible to the hobbyist. Ages 16 and up; wear all-natural fibers and long pants. \$5 for non-members, free for members. RSVP at <https://hb.gy/Sww84>.

### "Princess Bride" party

At the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library at 3 p.m. The Princess Bride movie is turning 35. INCONCEIVABLE! Moviegoers can enjoy the coolest princess, pirate,

and swashbuckling party of its kind. Snacks, games, and crafts will be available. Those attending are encouraged to dress up as their favorite character from the movie.

## Monday, Sept. 26:

### Mother and daughter book club

At the Radford Public Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is a fun book club for mothers and daughters (ages 8-12). To be discussed this month is "Island of the Blue Dolphins" by Scott O'Dell. Anyone with questions can email [morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov](mailto:morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov), but registration is not required.

## Tuesday, Sept. 27:

### Teen book club

At the Blacksburg Library at 4 p.m. To be read and discussed this month is "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by V. E. Schwab.

### PROS: Performance to Reduce Online Scams

At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. Come to an interactive theater performance to address online scams presented by the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology; the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention; and the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech.

### Science fiction and fantasy book club

At the Blacksburg Library at 6:30 p.m. To be discussed is "The Spirit Ring" by Lois McMaster Bujold. Call 540-552-8246 to reserve a copy.

## Wednesday, Sept. 28:

### Sustainable Blacksburg lunch & learn: Sharing economy

At the Blacksburg Library at noon. The community's sharing economy and what its citizens can do to help support it will be discussed. Featured will be Little Libraries, Free Fridges, and similar local resources.

## Thursday, Sept. 29:

### Worry pet workshop

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Lots of kids struggle with worry and/or anxiety, especially around the start of the new school year. Worry Pets are small enough to fit in a pocket or backpack. The cuddle fabric is snuggly soft and provides comforting sensory input and something to rub between worried fingers. Participants can even sew their own Worry Pet with sewing machines and all materials provided.

### Montgomery Chamber of Commerce training session

Hiring practices, campus recruiting and internships: What does post-pandemic recruiting look like? Hint: Not 2019! The Montgomery County Chamber will host a training session on hiring practices, campus recruiting, and internships. The speaker will be Jim Henderson, the Associate Director of Employer Relations with Virginia Tech Career and Professional Development. Henderson leads a team whose primary function is to provide guidance and assistance to employers and recruiters throughout the nation, helping them recruit and hire students into internships, cooperative education and post-graduation jobs. The session is from 10 to 11 a.m. at 210 Laurel St. in Christiansburg. It is free to chamber members and is \$10.00 for non-members. <https://www.montgomerycc.org/events/details/hiring-practices-campus-recruiting-internships-9021>.

## Friday, Sept. 30:

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. Fill a standard-size grocery bag for \$5. Individual items are \$1 for hardbacks, \$.50 for paperback, and \$1 for CDs, audio books, and DVDs. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

## Saturday, Oct. 1:

### Downtown Christiansburg Food Truck Rodeo

On West Main St., downtown Christiansburg from 4 to 9 p.m. Food trucks, live music, craft beer, and wine.

## Monday, Oct. 3:

### Humans of Radford

Everyone has a story. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/RadfordHumans](http://tinyurl.com/RadfordHumans) to come and share yours on the McConnell Library Lawn. Begins at noon. Citizens, business owners, and everyone else in Radford is welcome to join this event to share their story.

## Thursday, Oct. 6:

### Montgomery Chamber October eggs & issues breakfast

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will hold its October eggs and issues breakfast at Warm Hearth Village, 2387 Warm Hearth Drive in Blacksburg, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. The topic is New River Valley Passenger Rail. Invited Speakers are Raymond D. Smoot Jr., Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board; Michael McLaughlin, COO, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VRPA); Sandy Davis, Co-Chair, New River Valley Passenger Rail; Kevin Byrd, Executive Director, New River Valley Regional Commission; and moderator Ann Cassell, President, The Blacksburg Partnership. The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Space is limited, and reservations are required by no later than October 4 at noon. Register and pay online or contact [programs@montgomerycc.org](mailto:programs@montgomerycc.org). <https://bit.ly/oct22eggs>.

### American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

## Tuesday, Oct. 11:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Saturday, Oct. 15:

### National Paint Your Own Pottery Day at Paint 'n Fun Ceramics

Paint Your Own Pottery (PYOP) stores around the country will offer special classes and events to celebrate National PYOP Day. Paint 'n Fun Ceramics in Christiansburg will be participating with activities for everyone in the family.

## Sunday, Oct. 16:


### Author talk with Jane Goette

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Jane Goette will talk about her book "A River Road Memoir," a journey through a young girl's idyllic childhood in the rural South to her restless adolescence when the Civil Rights struggle became urgent and personal to her family. The unfolding story is told through the second daughter's eyes. This author event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information, contact Linda Spivey at 540-382-6969, ext. 221.

## Saturday, Oct. 22:

MEDICAL | DENTAL | BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## A proven passion for patient-centered care.



Community Health Center of the New River Valley welcomes Physician Assistant Jennifer L. Johnson, MSPA, PA-C, CAQ-Psych to our Christiansburg location. Johnson has more than ten years of experience working in an integrated healthcare team setting.

"Jennifer's extensive background and passion for patient-centered quality care for all ages will be a great asset to our community" said Michelle Brauns, CEO of CHCNRV.

Johnson's focus is family medicine but is skilled and passionate about serving those with substance use disorders.

Jennifer earned her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Virginia Tech and her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Mountain State University.


**STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR COVID VACCINE? WE CAN HELP.**  
Register online at [chcnrv.org](http://chcnrv.org).

**GILES CENTER** | 540.921.3502  
219 South Buchanan Street | Pearisburg, VA 24134

**MONTGOMERY CENTER** | 540.381.0820  
215 Roanoke Street | Christiansburg, VA 24073

**DUBLIN CENTER** | 540.585.1310  
5826 Ruebush Road | Dublin, VA 24084

**GILES HIGH SCHOOL** | 540.381.0820  
1825 Wenonah Ave | Pearisburg, VA 24134



**COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
of the New River Valley

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NRVCHC/](https://www.facebook.com/NRVCHC/)

[chcnrv.org](http://chcnrv.org)

Community Health Center accepts patients with or without insurance.

## WestRock donates to NRCC program



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The WestRock Foundation recently presented a donation to New River Community College's instrumentation and control automation program. Pictured (left to right) are Zachary Dones, NRCC student; Jacob Phillips, NRCC student; Dustin Carter, NRCC assistant professor; Sarah Karalus, WestRock representative; Camden Reed, NRCC student; Ryan Zembruski, NRCC student. WestRock and The Nature Conservancy established a partnership in 2017 in support of WestRock's commitment to sustainable forest management and environmental stewardship.

## VT receives \$80 million grant to help farmers implement climate-smart practices to reduce greenhouse gasses

Virginia Tech has received an \$80 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to pilot a program that will pay producers to implement climate-smart practices on farms of all sizes and commodities, an initiative that could have significant impacts on curbing climate-changing gasses.

Virginia Tech will distribute at least \$54 million directly to producers to help them enact these climate-smart agricultural practices for crop and animal production. The grant, which is the largest in the university's history, will create a three-year pilot program in Virginia, Arkansas, Minnesota, and North Dakota that will test the feasibility of rolling out a similar program on a national scale. If scaled up nationally, the program could help producers reduce agricultural emissions by 55 percent and total emissions in the United States by 8 percent after 10 years.

"We are proud to lead this effort that gives agricultural producers incentives to enact climate-smart practices and the financial means to do so," said Tom Thompson, principal investigator on the project, associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, director of CALS Global, and a professor. "This is a watershed program that helps the agricultural industry be a leader in addressing climate change."

The pilot program will pay producers \$100 per acre or animal unit for voluntary adoption of climate-smart practices that deliver more than that amount in public environmental benefits. Unlike previous cost-sharing programs that put some of the financial burdens of adopting climate-smart practices on producers, this program pays producers more than the cost of implementation of these practices while also improving their bottom lines. In addition to RIPE, 15 state and national organizations will help to implement the RIPE Partnership.

The RIPE partnership pilot will reach an estimated 5,200 operations representing up to 600,000 acres in the initial four states. If scaled up nationally, as much as 80 percent of agricultural producers could be enrolled in the program, which would make a significant impact on global carbon emissions. Only about 3 percent of producers currently participate in carbon reduction programs.

In tandem with tackling the issue of climate change, the project also will target boosting agricultural productivity in order to help feed a growing global population that is expected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050.

"The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has been a driving force for innovation and adoption of best practices that have helped the agriculture industry grow since Virginia Tech was formed 150 years ago," said Alan Grant, dean of the college. "This pilot program is at the core of our land-grant mission as we strive to serve our communities by investing our time and knowledge to help them thrive both now and for generations to come."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) "is delivering on our promise to build and expand these market opportunities for American agriculture and be global leaders in climate-smart agricultural production," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said when he recently announced \$2.8 billion in funding for 70 climate-smart projects. "This effort will increase the competitive advantage of U.S. agriculture both domestically and internationally, build wealth that stays in rural communities, and support a diverse range of producers and operation types."

The initiative will help agriculture and forestry — the largest private sector industries in Virginia — continue to thrive.

"Agriculture and forestry combine for an annual economic impact of over \$90 billion. They are a crucial

See Grant, page 6

## New River Health District to offer free flu vaccine at drive-thru clinic

CHRISTIANSBURG – The New River Health District will offer free seasonal flu vaccine at a special drive-thru dispensing clinic on Tuesday, Oct. 4, from noon to 7 p.m. at the NRV Fairgrounds, 5581 Fairgrounds Cir, Dublin, VA

Vaccine will be available free on a first-come, first-served basis. Those to be vaccinated are encouraged to wear clothing that is loose around the arm so a public health nurse can administer the flu shot in the upper arm without having to leave the comfort and convenience of the car.

Influenza, commonly called "the flu," is a serious disease caused by the influenza virus that affects the respiratory tract. It is highly contagious and generally spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

The virus can be transmitted even before flu-like symptoms appear. A person usually becomes sick one to three days following exposure to the virus. Typical flu symptoms include fever, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches, and extreme fatigue.

"Vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza and its potentially severe complications," said Noelle Bissell, the director of the New River Health District. "This unique 'drive-thru' approach has proven to be a fast and efficient way to vaccinate a large number of folks in a short time. Herd immunity develops when more people get vaccinated," Dr. Bissell said. "There is less virus present to potentially infect those who cannot be immunized, such as infants under 6 months old; this helps protect everyone from this potentially deadly disease."

Getting a flu shot is especially important this year because COVID is still circulating, and getting infected with both the flu and COVID can increase the severity of the illness. Expectations are that this will be a more severe flu season than in the past few years.

"The timing and duration of flu seasons vary. They can occur from early fall to late spring," said Dr. Bissell. "Receiving an annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your risk of becoming sick with the flu and spreading the virus to others. It takes up to two weeks to develop the vaccine's full protection."

All persons aged 6 months and older should be vaccinated against influenza each year. Particular effort should be made to vaccinate those at higher risk for influenza complications, including pregnant and postpartum women, or those who will be pregnant during the influenza season; persons over 65, including residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities; persons who have chronic lung or heart problems, including asthma; and persons who have other serious medical conditions, such as diabetes, kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, anemia, cancer, weak immune systems (including those with HIV) or a seizure disorder.

To help prevent the spread of influenza, those who live in a high risk group and healthcare workers should also receive an influenza vaccine. Travelers to countries outside of the U.S. may also need to consider influenza vaccination, even at different times of the year.

Each year in the U.S. approximately 200,000 people are hospitalized due to the flu, and flu-related deaths range from 12,000 to 56,000 each year, averaging 34,000 per year over the last three decades.

To minimize the risk of contracting or transmitting the flu, follow these simple steps: get vaccinated, consider wearing a mask if one is high-risk or if one is having symptoms, wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds, cover coughs either by using a disposal tissue or coughing into your sleeve, not your hand, stay at home when you are sick.

## Virginia State Parks to mark National Public Lands Day with free parking today

Across the commonwealth, Virginia State Parks will join the celebration of National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 24, with free parking, special programs, and volunteer events.

This year's theme for National Public Lands Day is Giving Back Together. On this single-day volunteer event for public lands, opportunities at nearly all Virginia State Parks allow the public to give back by helping to improve the environment while connecting with the outdoors.

Thirty-eight events are scheduled with opportunities for everyone to get involved.

### Projects include:

- invasive species removal at Smith Mountain, Bear Creek Lake, Lake Anna, and Widewater state parks.
- shoreline cleanup at Douthat, Holliday Lake, James River, York River, Chippokes, First Landing, Westmoreland, Caledon, Leesylvania and Mason Neck state parks.
- trail maintenance at Natural Bridge, Staunton River, Belle Isle and False Cape state parks.

### Events include:

- educational "Trailgate" at Hungry Mother State Park: staff and local volunteers will teach about various topics pertaining to flora, fauna, and the landscape itself using vehicle tailgates packed with resources and visual aids.
- "Bark in the Park," a guided hike with canine companions, at Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park.
- Outdoor Exploration Day on Kiptopeke's State Park's 30th anniversary.

Volunteers should dress for the weather, and the project, and bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hungry Mother State Park has consistently ranked as one of the commonwealth's greatest state parks.

## Study: Virginia Beach is eighth-best surfing spot in the US

A recent study by ParkSleepFly analyzed surfing spots around the world on various factors such as Google searches, Instagram tags, coastline length, and average sea temperatures to reveal the best surfing spots in the United States and determined that Virginia Beach is the eighth-best surfing spot in the country.

According to the study, the ten best surfing spots in the United States are 1. Cocoa Beach, Fla.

2. Waikiki, Oahu, Hawaii
3. Huntington Beach, Orange Co., California
4. Montauk, New York
5. Folly Beach, South Carolina
6. San Clemente, Orange Co., California
7. La Jolla, San Diego, California
8. Virginia Beach, Virginia
9. Half-Moon Bay, Washington
10. Santa Cruz Harbor, Orange Co., California.

## County seeks public review of proposed transportation plan

CHRISTIANSBURG – Montgomery County is seeking public input as it develops a county-wide transportation plan.

An open house will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept., 29, in the Multipurpose Room of the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg.

The Montgomery County Transportation Plan, also known as Transportation Matters, is intended to help establish the county's priorities, policies, and goals for its transportation network. It evaluates the existing transportation facilities, sets clear steps for improvement, and will offer guidance for implementation and intergovernmental cooperation.

Special consideration has been given to enhancing multimodal transportation options such as biking and walking and establishing a transportation network that supports the county's overall land use vision.

The meeting to review draft recommendations will be held in an open house format to allow attendees to come and go at their own convenience. Information boards and public comment stations will be set up in the room throughout the day.

# VDOT ROAD WATCH

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the

duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

**ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Road is now open. Flagging operations may continue to be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 2022.

**ROUTE 685 UTILITY WORK** – Utility work is being performed on eastbound Route 685 (Prices Fork Road) to connect gas lines. Motorists should expect delays due to lane closures from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Work is expected to be completed by September 30.

**ROUTE 8 EVENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION** - Route 8 may experience heavy traffic on fall weekends due to congestion related to tourist events at local farms in the area. If possible, motorists should utilize detours to avoid traveling on Route 8 between Christiansburg and Riner during the peak hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING**

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141** – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Starting in February and continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier walls can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier walls will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

Nighttime lane closures may be in place and lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for

See VDOT, page 6

## Seminar

from page 1

who has engaged in political, legal, and academic leadership, will open the conference speaking about the importance of women's leadership.

Breakout sessions with community leaders including Laura Beth Weaver, executive director of the Women's Resource Center; Gunin Kiran, former

chair of the Montgomery County School Board; and Jessica Wirgau, CEO of the Community Foundation of NRV, will be held throughout the day.

Separate parallel sessions are planned for those interested in campus leadership and those interested in community leadership. The student sessions will

feature skills geared towards leading changes on campus. The community sessions will be for women looking to engage in political leadership or involvement in civic and nonprofit leadership in the community.

Sessions include the importance of women running for office, exploring

your values and aligning your platform, political engagement and change-making at VT, and the nuts and bolts of running for office.

The event is free.

To attend, register before Oct. 3 at <https://forms.office.com/r/eJ8KeFhKi8>.

## News Messenger

Established 1869

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USPS 016-490 Online: [www.ourvalley.org](http://www.ourvalley.org)

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

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

## Hurricane

from page 1

damaging strong winds and heavy rain to the Dominican Republic. Zick says the storm is expected to turn north and then northeastward away from the continental U.S., but may bring hurricane conditions to Bermuda and the Atlantic coast of Canada later this week.

"There are still warm sea surface temperatures in place across the central tropical Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. Near the U.S. coastline, the waters have been particularly warm and storms have the potential to intensify rapidly close to land," said Zick. "We definitely need to keep our eyes on the tropics through the end of the season."

"At the beginning of the hurricane season, the North African monsoon season was very active, generating numerous tropical waves, which moved westward over the tropical Atlantic, but these waves quickly dissipated as the waves encountered dry air," said Zick. "There is also more vertical wind shear than we would normally expect during a La Nina phase. That is, the wind speed and direction are changing with height. Wind shear causes developing tropical systems to tilt."

Zick said that tropical systems need to be vertically stacked, so wind shear inhibits development. "Other

factors have been favorable, including warm sea surface temperatures, but so far this season, most of the tropical waves have been unable to organize in the face of the dry air and wind shear," she said.

Why is there so much dry air? "Compared with an average summer, there have been a lot of mid-latitude frontal systems moving across the North Atlantic and that has caused there to be drier, sinking air in the subtropics and even farther south into the main development region."

"The vigorous North African monsoon season has also led to large outbreaks of dry Saharan air moving westward over the Atlantic, which is also contributing to the anomalously dry air across the North Atlantic," said Zick.

"The hurricane season ends on November 30. There's a lot of time left in the season and we need to stay prepared."

*Stephanie Zick is an assistant professor of geography and meteorologist in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment. Her research areas include tropical meteorology, tropical cyclones, precipitation, numerical weather prediction, and model forecast verification.*

## Sisler

from page 1

in love with my own," Sisler said.

"Lauren is one of the most engaging, motivational speakers I have had the honor of listening to," said Cora R. Taylor '09, assistant director of Substance Abuse and Violence Education Support at Radford University. "She will make you come to realize that you have a story, and it's okay to embrace your story and see greater purpose behind every difficult circumstance."

A short panel discussion with Reed Yearwod, Radford University's peer recovery specialist, and Rosalind Watkins, the founder of the JHW Foundation, a not-

for-profit foundation aimed at raising awareness about substance use disorders in young adults and supporting young adults in recovery, will follow Sisler's presentation.

The presentation and panel discussion provide an important opportunity for the Radford community to explore mental health and substance abuse topics, which are on the rise among college students.

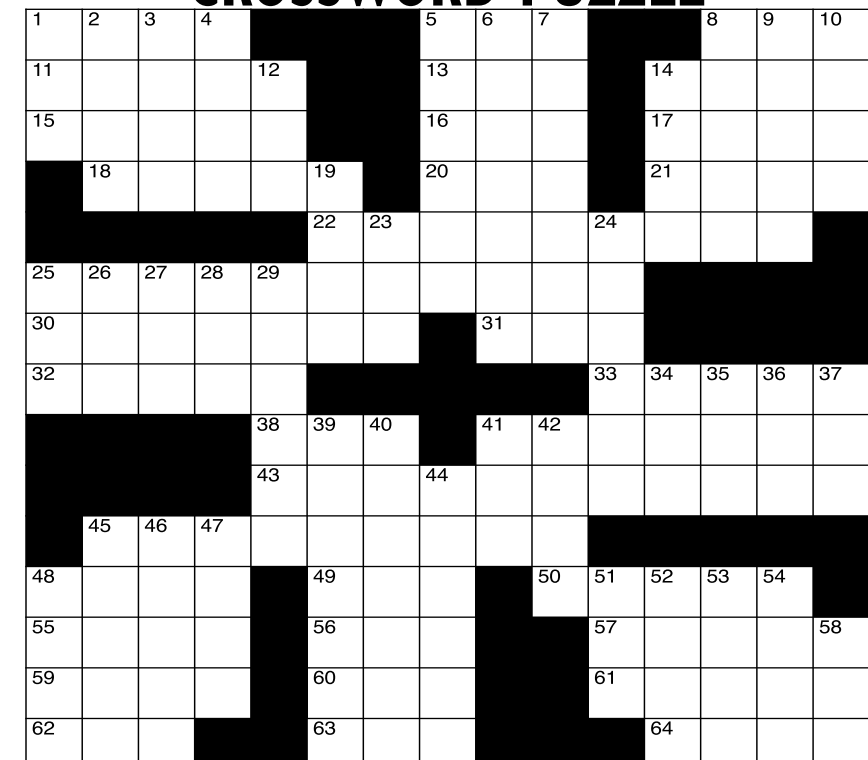
"Eighteen to 24 is when most mental health and substance issues are diagnosed," said Taylor. "Of course, that is the age range of traditional college-aged students,

so college can truly prove to be a turning point."

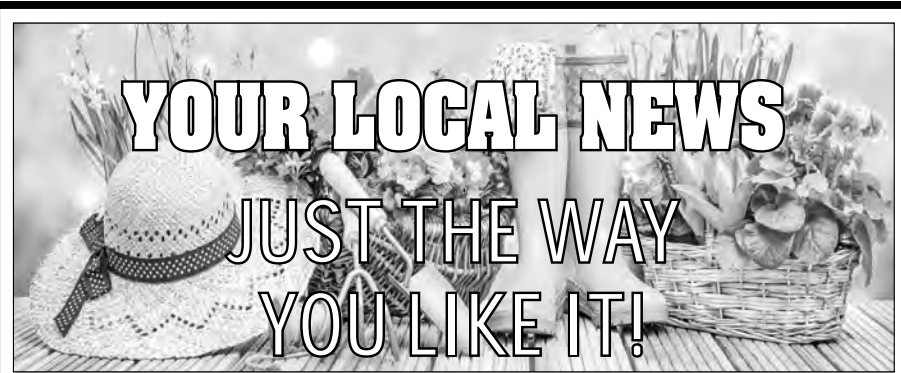
Taylor added that there is a lot of effort put into breaking the stigma around substance use, and Sisler's story is a powerful example of how her family's battle with substance use impacted not only those struggling with addiction but also the entire family for years.

"At a time when college students are really struggling, we are a disconnected society, and are searching for meaning and purpose," Taylor said, "Lauren's story is encouraging and inspirational."

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Group of languages
  - No seats available
  - Helps little firms
  - Having a strong sharp smell or taste
  - Established by the Treaty of Rome
  - Whale ship captain
  - Thick
  - When you hope to get there
  - First capital of Japan
  - Cyprinids
  - Dry white wine drink
  - Witnesses
  - Alcohol drinks
  - Synthetic resin
  - Latin for "very early"
  - Bill Clinton plays it
  - One-time province of British-India
  - Folic and amino are two
  - Integrated data processing
  - Use to build roads
  - 44th US President
  - Where school kids eat
  - Small New Zealand tree
  - Doctors' group
  - Civil Rights group
  - Swedish rock group
  - Baby's dining accessory
  - Succulent plants
  - Dutch word for "language"
  - Polynesian garland of flowers
  - Spiritual leader
  - Single Lens Reflex
  - Baseball stat
  - Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- CLUES DOWN**
- He's honored every June
  - Breezed through
  - Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
  - Flat, thin round object
  - One looking for knowledge
  - Calls it a career
  - Egg-shaped wind instrument
  - Allied H.Q.
  - Reveals
  - Greek sophist
  - Speedy ballplayer Gordon
  - Body that defines computing protocols
  - Common Japanese surname
  - Eucharist box
  - Oil company
  - Parts per billion (abbr.)
  - A metal-bearing material
  - The common gibbon
  - Affirmative
  - Writer
  - Taxi
  - Pioneering journalist Tarbell
  - Used to hold back
  - Senior officer
  - OK to go out with
  - First in order
  - Defunct phone company
  - Southern Ghana inhabitant
  - Peninsula in SW Asia
  - Political plot
  - "Great" Mogul emperor
  - Young horse
  - Where wrestlers compete
  - Swiss river
  - Wings
  - Baseball legend Ty
  - Skipper butterflies
  - Immoral act



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# OBITUARIES

## Taylor, Chuck

Charles David "Chuck" Taylor, who served as the Radford University athletic director from 1974 to 1996, died peacefully in Charleston, S.C., on Sept. 21, 2022, at the age of 76 after a brave battle against a form of blood cancer called Myelodysplastic syndromes.

Chuck is survived by his father, Charles; his wife, Cheryl, and their children, Chip and Charlee; and his five grandchildren: Walker, Charlie, and Enuka, Chip's sons; Kelly Grey, Chip's daughter; and Palmer, Charlee's son.

Chuck was preceded in death by some of his favorite people, including his mother, Anne Shelley Taylor and his grandmother, Eunice Mae Shelley.

Chuck was born on March 30, 1946, in Jackson, Tenn.. He loved Elvis, sports, desserts, misbehaving at church, and remodeling houses and cars. His first car was a 1930 Ford Model A Coupe, and

as recently as August 2022, he replaced the oil pan gasket on a purple Suzuki Samurai he was restoring.

Chuck's dedication to the Highlanders paled in comparison to his devotion to the importance of mentorship, loyalty, and leading by example. "Always enjoy life, don't take yourself too seriously, and remember that 90% of the things you worry about don't come true," he advised.

Chuck lived his life protecting his friends and family, and his last request was "no drama." His service will be a simple scattering of ashes by close family members at Snowville, a place where Chuck escaped for tranquility and rest.

During his last months, Chuck's life was improved because of the generosity of blood and platelet donors. If you are able, please consider making a donation to help someone like Chuck.

## Cromer, Nora Sheppard

Nora Sheppard Cromer passed away at Heritage Hall-Rich Creek on Monday, Sept. 19, 2022. Nora was born May 14, 1943 in Virginia.

She was predeceased by her husband, Fred Cromer; her parents, James and Ethel Hutchison Sheppard; daughters Sandra Rice and Lenora Fulp; and 10 siblings.

Nora is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Brenda Price and JR; special son-in-law Billy Williams; sons and daughters-in-law David and Sherry Cromer, Larry and Karen Cromer,



and Anthony Cromer and Jennifer Harris; grandchildren Michael Cole, Brandon Snider, Melissa Vickers, Jason Cromer, Michelle Cumbee, Brandy Moore, Cory Cromer, Dustin Cromer, Christopher Cromer, Tyler Cromer, and Maddie Fulp; and numerous great-grandchildren and other family members.

Funeral services were conducted at the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, Sept. 23, 2022.

See Obituaries, page 6

montcova.com

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

### BAPTIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

### EPISCOPAL

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

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Sincere Remorse

Read Hosea 8:1 through 14:9

"Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the Lord is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins: They will return to Egypt" (Hosea 8:13).

Hosea declared the futility of Israel offering insincere sacrifices. The Lord was not pleased with rituals performed without remorse for wrongdoing. Instead of receiving forgiveness from heartfelt confession, the nation suffered punishment for their accumulated sins.

Hebrews 9:22 teaches that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgive-

ness." The blood from animal sacrifice pointed to the time when Christ's blood would secure forgiveness for all who receive Him. His death paid the penalty for sin once and for all.

Israel had treated the Lord as one of many gods, sacrificing only to gain favor. Doing good things to gain God's favor will not cover our sin. Nothing can substitute for the blood Christ shed. God sees each heart. He knows if there is true remorse that brings about change.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord Jesus, my forgiveness is only possible through You. I owe You everything.

Quicklook: Hosea 8:11-13

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

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

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

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

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

### MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pasthall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey,

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

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. 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. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

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

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

**Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

### WESLEYAN

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

# Obituaries from page 5

## Flippo, Elaine E.

Elaine Elsam Flippo, 89, passed away on Sept. 15, 2022.

She was born in the Veedersburg parsonage of the First Christian Church in Indiana where her father, the late Chaplain Col. Harold Gordon Elsam (US Army Ret.) served as the pastor along with his wife, Lucille Salisbury Elsam.

She spent most of her younger years in Illinois and Indiana. Elaine was the classic 'middle child' and is survived by her older sister and younger brother. She graduated from Radford College, which was the Women's Division of VPI (Virginia Tech) at the time, where she majored in art.

She was on the VPI Homecoming Court, and it was at VPI in Blacksburg that she met and then married her roommate's brother, the late Col. Charles Flippo, (USAF Ret.). They enjoyed the military life, raising four children while they lived and traveled all over the United States and Europe until his retirement, at which time they moved to a farm in Christiansburg.

It was at this time that she decided to start her career as a secretary at the Virginia Tech Athletic Department where she worked for 30 years until she was 73.

Elaine enjoyed shopping for antiques, thrifting, and finding collectibles, and had a rock collection from the places that she traveled. She also had an extensive goat collection because of her Capricorn birthday that will be passed down to another lucky Capricorn. She was a talented artist with an eye for beautiful paintings and artwork. She grew up during the depression and consequently was always frugal with her money, but she



always had enough for a good glass of wine. Elaine moved to Franklin, Va. a few years after she retired and lived at The Village and later at East Pavilion. She passed peacefully at Bon Secours East Pavilion Nursing Home in Franklin.

Left to cherish her memory are three sons: Richard Charles Flippo (Lana) of Los Angeles, Calif., LtCol Stephen Mark Flippo (USAF Ret.) (Rebecca) of Prattville, Ala., and LtCol David Alton Flippo (USAF Ret.) (Dawn) of Las Vegas, Nev.; daughter, Laura Bernice-Flippo Camp (Stafford 'Cass') of Courtland, Va.; a sister, Patricia Paulsen (Tom, deceased) of Olympia Fields, Ill.; a brother, Eric Elsam (Lois) of Escondido, Calif.; six grandchildren: Renata Flippo, Richard Flippo; Sean Flippo (Hannah), Ryan Flippo (Niki); Stafford 'Carson' Camp, Michalann Cole (Dylan); and seven great-grandchildren: Liam, Eliza, Clayton, Kaylen, Mikey, Avery, Adeline, and another on the way. She also had many nieces and nephews and good friends whom she thought of often.

The family would like to thank all the wonderful doctors and caregivers at The Village at Woods Edge, Southampton Memorial Hospital, and East Pavilion Long Term Care for their tireless efforts, especially during the extremely difficult COVID years.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family suggests that memorial donations may be made to the East Pavilion Discretionary Fund, 100 Fairview Drive, Franklin, Va., 23851 or any favorite charity.

# Community Events from page 2

## Blacksburg leaf compost pick up

Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive or for composting and is available to Blacksburg residents for pickup.

Register at: <https://www.blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/News/News/10139/304?backlist=%2fhome%2f-fsiteid-1#!/>

## Ongoing:

### Chamber annual awards nominations

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce is now accepting awards nominations through Sept. 30 for deserving businesses and/or leaders in the community. Awards will be presented in the following categories: Business of the Year; Minority Business of the Year; Small Business of the Year; Distinguished Business Leader; Distinguished Government Leader; Distinguished Non-Profit Leader; Non-Profit of the Year (small & large); Community Service – Organization; Community Service – Individual; Technology Company of the Year; Green Business of the Year. <https://bit.ly/mcc2022annual>.

### Coat drive in memory of Cindy Collins

Donations of new and gently used coats sizes 4t-XXL in memory of Cindy Collins, who died on Aug. 3, may be dropped off at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Coats will be for students in Eastern Montgomery. Contact Cindy Minnick with any questions. (540) 268-1964.

### Blacksburg Police community survey

The Blacksburg Police Department is asking the community to complete a short (approximately three-minute) survey ranking individual satisfaction with the department. All responses are recorded anonymously, and honest feedback is appreciated. These responses will help the department continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg community. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFYG9J8>.

### Applications underway for NRV master gardener grants

The NRV Master Gardener Association, a volunteer organization of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, is accepting grant applications for 2023 gardening projects. Grants will be awarded based on merit to any educational, caregiving, or community-based organization seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve the quality of life for participants through a gardening-related project. Organizations in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery (and towns within) are encouraged to apply. In the past, grants have been awarded to public and private schools, 4-H groups, public libraries, other educational groups, as well as community gardens and nursing homes. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by Oct. 15, 2022. For more information and to submit a project application, contact Carol Trutt: 540-239-9591 [caroltrutt53@hotmail.com](mailto:caroltrutt53@hotmail.com). Email is preferred, but the application may be mailed to Carol at the following address 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

# Grant from page 3

component of Virginia's economy, especially in our rural areas. Promoting and growing economic development is a top priority for the administration. Ensuring a sustainable and vibrant industry will be crucial for the long-term growth and success of Virginia," said Matt Lohr, Virginia's Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. "This pilot project provides an optimal plan for investing in rural communities and supporting agricultural producers who deliver significant environmental benefits through their climate-smart production practices."

In Virginia, the college is partnering with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Virginia State University to roll out the program. The Virginia Department

of Agriculture and Consumer Services also provided support for the grant application.

A website will be available within the next few months to allow producers within the pilot states to apply and enroll in the program.

The grant will provide \$2 million to both Minnesota and Virginia to pilot the implementation of high-value and high-cost climate-smart practices in animal feeding operations. The national program would have a benefit-to-cost ratio of 5:1, reaping a total environmental benefit of \$440 billion, working under the assumption that multiple climate-smart practices are implemented on the same cropland acres and animal units after ten years of the program.

Producers will receive 50 percent of the payment

up front, 25 percent after implementation, and 25 percent after final reporting is completed. Limited-resource producers may be eligible for a 100 percent upfront payment.

If this project is adopted nationally, Congress could set a target for a minimum level of additional reductions to be achieved and grant USDA authority to raise payment terms for new practice adoption without creating an incentive to delay adoption.

"This is an extraordinarily exciting time to be involved in agriculture," Thompson said. "Farmers have always been the great stewards of our land, and American agriculture has long been a productivity powerhouse. This pilot program will help them continue to be so for generations to come."

# VDOT from page 4

guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142

Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is currently closed until later in the month of September. Supply chain issues have delayed manufacture and delivery of metal bases for the new lighting poles that must be installed before the facility can be reopened. The Virginia Department of Transportation's contractor Branch Civil

Inc. will need additional time to install the lighting so reopening the facility needs to be postponed.

Signage indicating the closure is posted in the rest area. A temporary concrete barrier wall will remain in place in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot are closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces.

REST AREA OPTIONS: While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various

routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

· Botetourt County: Alternating lane closes on I-81 southbound between mile marker 162 and 164.

· Montgomery County: Lane closures in place for paving of I-81 northbound between mile marker 116 to 114.

· Roanoke County: Alternating lane closures on I-81 northbound for milling and paving from mile marker 134.5 to 132.4, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.



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<p><b>Yard Sales - Vinton</b></p> <p><b>Huge 4 Church Yard Sale</b></p> <p>Saturday October 1 from 8 am to 1 pm. All Proceeds go to BackPack Program at Stewartsville Elementary School. Mays Memorial United Methodist Church 1121 Odd Fellows Rd in Stewartsville. Turn left behind the Shop Inn at the light Rain or Shine. Food available.</p>	<p><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>Newspaper Delivery Driver</b></p> <p>Looking for a Part-time delivery driver for the Salem-Times Register @ \$12 an hour. Please call (540)389-9355 for a more detailed description and to set up an interview.</p>	<p><b>For Sale - Misc</b></p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing &amp; shipping, moving &amp; storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.</p>
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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## CHS lineman Ayden Conley to play in Blue-Grey All-American game

Marty Gordon  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Ayden Conley, a senior offensive lineman from Christiansburg High School has been selected by a committee of NFL veterans and administrators to play in this year's Blue-Grey All-American Bowl.

The game will be played on Jan. 30, at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Raymond James Stadium.

At 6-4, 305 pounds, Conley is starting to receive a lot of attention from college coaches.

Last season, Conley was named the all-county/all-city lineman of the year. He suffered a torn ACL late in the season and missed most of the team's playoff run. After rehab, he is now back at full-steam and starting on both sides of the ball.

The game features many of the nation's top prospects from the Class of 2023. Some competed in the All-American

combines at various NFL stadiums and professional training facilities; most others are highly-rated recruits. All-American Bowl participants will represent nearly all 50 states from the North to the South.

Now more than ever, coaches at the next level use the All-American Bowl as a recruiting tool to help finalize their potential selections. Equally important, more than 500 colleges nationwide will be viewing, and/or scouting, the practices as well as the game.

In the last three years alone, nearly 80 percent of All-American Bowl alumni successfully landed scholarship offers before, during, or after the game, a great investment considering the cost to attend college often averages more than \$35,000 per year.

Participation in the All-American Bowl at NFL stadium does require an administrative fee of \$575, which also serves as a deposit at the start of the



FILE PHOTO

**CHS senior offensive lineman Ayden Conley (shown blocking) is headed to Tampa to play in the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl game on Jan. 30.**

process to lock in a roster spot for each player. The deposit is due by September 30, or an alternate player will be selected.

After submitting the deposit, four additional payments of \$364 are required and due on Oct. 30, Nov. 30, Dec. 30, and Jan. 26. The total amount for the three-day event, including the non-

refundable administration fee, is \$2,031.

A Go-Fund campaign has been started by Conley's family and friends to help offset the cost.

The link to the Go-Fund effort can be found at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ayden-conley-to-the-bluegrey-allamerican-bowl>.

## Hokie wrestling preview: New faces at 125

With the 2022-2023 Virginia Tech wrestling season right around the corner, let's take a look at the 125- and 133-pound wrestlers suiting up for the Hokies.

### 125:

With Sam Latona making the jump up to 133 pounds this season, Tech plans on continuing its dominance at the 125-pound weight class. The first wrestler competing in the weight class is redshirt freshman Eddie Ventresca, a Moxbury, New Jersey, native from Pope John High School. In his high school career, Ventresca placed at the NJSIAA state tournament all four years and claimed the 120-pound title in 2019. During his redshirt year, Ventresca accrued a 15-6 record at 125 pounds, winning the Southeast Open, placing sixth at the Wolfpack Open, second at the Patriot open, and eighth at the Southern Scuffle.

The second Hokie competing for the starting spot is redshirt freshman Cooper Flynn, a Seymour, Tenn., native who wrestled for McDonough School in Maryland.

In high school, Flynn made it to the MIAA state finals three times, claiming the title twice. In addition, he was a 2019 Walsh Ironman finalist, and he won the 2020 Super 32 title and the 2020 Prep National Championships, placed at Fargo three times and finished third at the prestigious Beast of the East. At the end of his high school career, he was the No.-3 ranked 126-pounder in the country and No. 22 overall, according to FloWrestling.

During his redshirt campaign, Flynn finished with a 15-3 record at 125 pounds. He was a Southeast Open finalist, the Wolfpack Open champion, and the Dave Lehman Open champion.

### 133:

With the departure of two-time NCAA All-American and four-time conference champion Korbin Myers, Tech has multiple Hokies eager to fill those big shoes.

The first is redshirt junior Sam Latona. Hailing from Thompson High School in Alabaster, Ala., Latona proved that you don't have to be from a historically successful

wrestling state to achieve great things.

During his high school career, Latona won the 2017 Alabama state championships, two Fargo titles, and two NHSCA titles, and was a 2018 Super 32 finalist. In addition, he was ranked sixth in the country at 120 pounds by FloWrestling and Intermat, as well as No. 51 on FloWrestling's Class of 2019 Big Board.

Transitioning into his college career, Latona put together a spectacular first season. As a redshirt, he finished the season with a 20-2 record. He won the Southeast Open, the Appalachian Open, and the ARMS Software/GMU Patriots Open, placed third at the Wolfpack Wrestling Club Open, and placed third at the Southern Scuffle with his lone loss coming to No.-4 Nick Piccininni of Oklahoma State.

In his redshirt freshman year, Latona finished the season with a 14-3 record and won his first 12 matches of the season. He was the 2021 ACC Freshman of the year, won the ACC title at 125 pounds, was seeded No. 2 at the 2021 NCAA Championships where he placed sixth and clinched the 2021 ACC Dual Meet Title for the Hokies with a last-second takedown and nearfall points over Jakob Camacho of NC State.

During his redshirt sophomore season, Latona finished with a 14-9 record. He was a Southeast Open finalist, an ACC finalist, and made it to the Round of 12 of the NCAA tournament as the No. 24 seed before falling to Eric Bennet of Wisconsin.

The next wrestler competing for the spot at 133 pounds is redshirt junior Brandon Wittenberg. Wittenberg was a four-time state champion for Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Va. In addition, he placed at multiple prestigious high school tournaments such as

Escape the Rock, Beast of the East, and Powerade, and was a two-time NHSCA All-American.

Wittenberg competed at 125 pounds his redshirt season where he placed sixth at the Southeast Open, went 4-2 at the Wolfpack Wrestling Club Open, 3-2 at the ARMS Software/GMU Patriots Open, and finished the season with a 12-7 record.

As a redshirt freshman, Wittenberg moved up to 133 pounds and went 1-2 with his lone win coming over Drake Doolittle of Duke via a 5-3 decision.

In his redshirt sophomore year, Wittenberg finished with a 12-10 record. His season was highlighted with fourth place finishes at both the Wolfpack Open and the ARMS Software/GMU Patriots Open as well as a win over Michael Rapuano of George Mason in the Moss Arts Center dual.

The last Hokie competing at 133 pounds is redshirt freshman Caden Hagler. Hagler wrestled for Providence Day School in Charlotte, N.C. During his high school career, Hagler made four ISAA state finals appearances and claimed the title three times.

During his first college season, Hagler finished the year with a 3-6 record. His best performance of the year came at the Wolfpack Open where he went 2-2, picking up two falls.

## VT Men's soccer coach Brizendine reaches milestone 100 career wins

Through 14 seasons, six straight NCAA Tournament appearances, four Sweet Sixteen appearances in the past six seasons, three wins over No. 1 programs and being just one of three programs to win at least one game in the NCAA Tournament the last six years, Virginia Tech men's soccer head coach Mike Brizendine finally earned his 100th career victory as the Hokies defeated Longwood University Tuesday night.

When Brizendine arrived to take over the program, men's soccer was facing recruiting restrictions. Under his leadership, Tech has become one of the most consistent programs in the Atlantic Coast Conference and has gained national recognition for its accomplishments. In Brizendine's career, three games stand out as milestones along the way to 100 wins.

1. First Win: Sept. 6, 2009, 2-1 vs. Milwaukee

Brizendine got his first career win at Wisconsin's Soccer Complex in Madison as midfielders

Koen Oost and Charlie Campbell notched their first goals of the season. The Hokies took an early 1-0 lead on the Oost score that was bootered in from 20 yards out and didn't look back.

2. First win over a ranked team: Sept. 27, 2009, 2-0 vs. No. 16 NC

State

Three weeks to the day after the coach's first win, Virginia Tech returned home to Thompson Field and defeated its first-ever ranked opponent. The win came via late goals from Emmanuel Akogyeram and James Shupp. Akogyeram's put-in off a corner kick in the 79th minute ignited the maroon and orange late down the stretch, and the Hokies added another tally five minutes later on Shupp's score on a cross.

3. First Win Over No. 1: Sept. 10, 2011, 1-0 in 2OT vs. North Carolina

The first of three victories against the nation's top-ranked team came when Brizendine's Hokies knocked off North Carolina in a thriller on a Saturday night at Thompson Field. Perhaps the most improbable win in Brizendine's tenure even to this day, the match was scoreless through both regulation and the first overtime period and seemed destined for a tie until James Shupp in the 102nd minute finished off a bouncing ball that found the back of the net and resulted in the game's lone goal. The win seemed even more improbable when the Tar Heels won the national championship that season and the upset was Tech's lone win in conference play.

Send community news and photos to community news @ourvalley.org

**THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TIP AMENDMENT #5**

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is amending its 2021-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The purpose of the amendment is to add projects to fund track upgrades and station development for extension of passenger rail to the New River Valley. It is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and Montgomery and Pulaski Counties. It is also available on the MPO website: [www.newrivervalleympo.org](http://www.newrivervalleympo.org)

Written comments for this amendment will be received until 5:00 PM, October 18, 2022.

**The public can also speak at the November 3, 2022 MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM at the Montgomery County Government Center.**

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the TIP amendment meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c).

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

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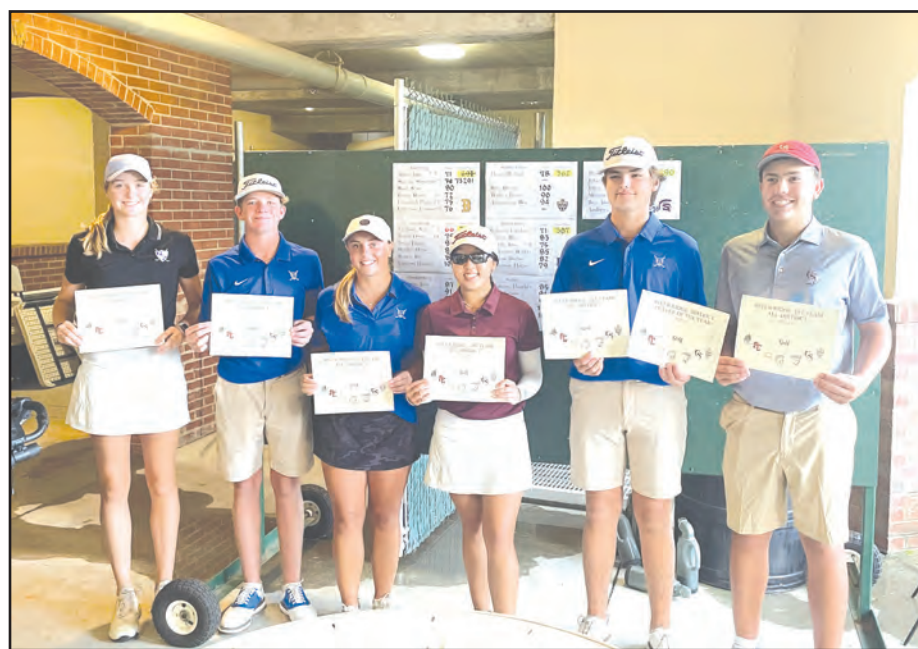
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# Blacksburg dominates All-River Ridge golf

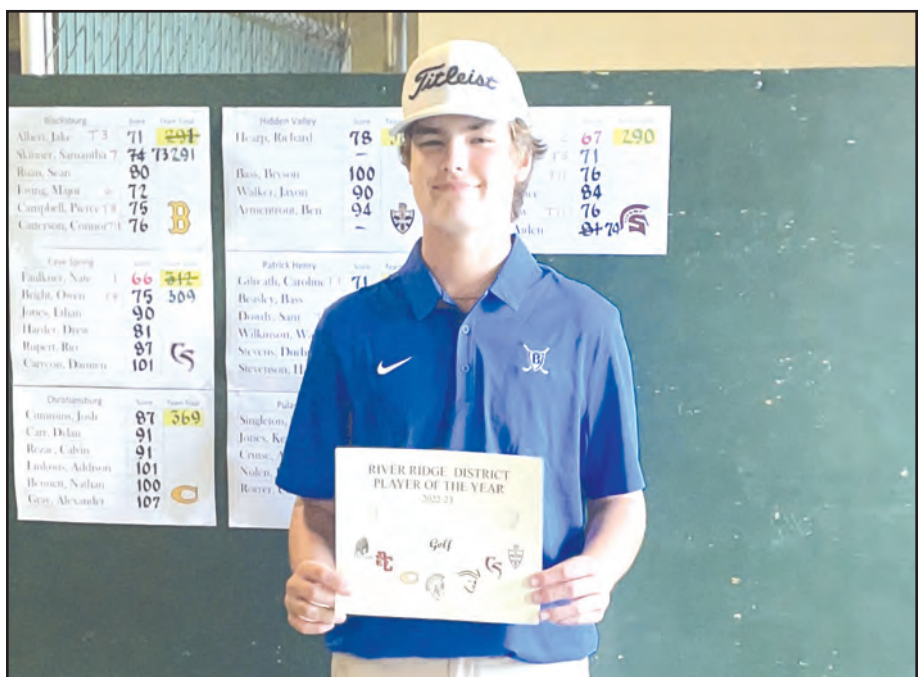


First Team All-Ridge golfers were: (from left) Caroline Gilreath (Patrick Henry); Pierce Campbell (Blacksburg); Samantha Skinner (Blacksburg); Kathryn Ha (Salem); Jake Albert (Blacksburg) and Nate Faulkner (Cave Spring).



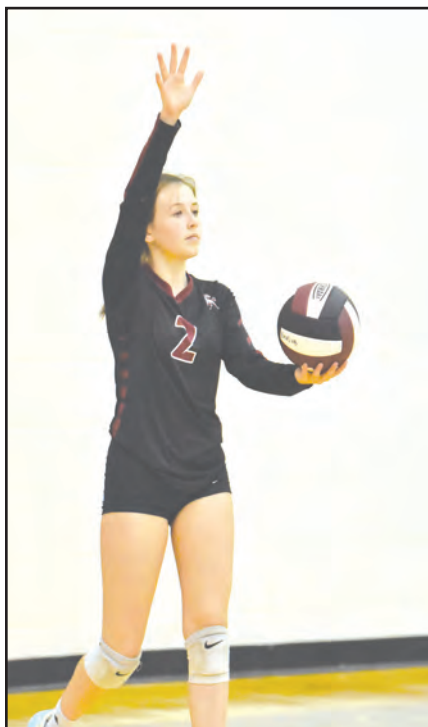
Second Team All-District golfers were (from left) Macy Johnson (Salem), Richard Hearp (Hidden Valley), Owen Bright (Cave Spring), Major Ewing (Blacksburg); Connor Catterson (Blacksburg) and Sean Ruan (Blacksburg).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL



Blacksburg High School's Jake Albert was named the 2022 River Ridge District golfer of the year.

# East Mont volleyball defeats Parry McCluer in four sets



Freshman Olivia Boone had 12 digs and 5 aces.



Senior Logan Boone had 11 kills, 12 digs and 2 blocks.



Senior Lilly Underwood had 13 assists, 8 kills, 12 digs and 2 blocks.

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**THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR AMENDMENT #2 TO THE 2045 CL RTP**

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is amending its 2045 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CL RTP). The purpose of the amendment is to add projects to fund track upgrades and station development for extension of passenger rail to the New River Valley. It is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and Montgomery and Pulaski Counties. It is also available on the MPO website: [www.newrivervalleympo.org](http://www.newrivervalleympo.org)

Written comments for this amendment will be received until 5:00 PM, October 18, 2022.

**The public can also speak at the November 3, 2022 MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM at the Montgomery County Government Center.**

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the TIP amendment meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c).

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