



News Messenger

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YMCA at Virginia Tech brings back Santa's Holiday Village today

After a two-year break, the YMCA at Virginia Tech is bringing back Santa's Holiday Village today, Saturday, Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Children are invited to come meet Santa. The Y's holiday elves from the Y Leaders Club and YMCA Student Program Leaders will be on hand to help with the taking of pictures. They will also lead children into a special "Kids Only" shopping area and will assist children in shopping for surprise presents for their family members.

According to the Y at Virginia Tech, pricing will be nominal so that every child can afford to purchase gifts they want to give. This includes those children with very limited family resources.

Pricing will be nominal so that every child can afford to make the purchase of gifts as needed.

Founded in 1873, the YMCA at Virginia Tech has as its mission "building community through learning, leadership and service." Through its four main program areas of community, education, international programs, and student programs, the Y serves the community.

The Y at Virginia Tech provides a variety of services for those in need, creates volunteer opportunities open to all, provides leadership development and training opportunities for students and is one of the community's

YMCA HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Saturday, December 10

11 am-3pm

Y Center

1000 N. Main St. Blacksburg

Get your picture with Santa and let the elves help your child shop for special gifts for their family members in our kid's only shopping village!



PHOTO COURTESY OF YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH

leading non-profit agencies focusing on community education. With more than 1,200 volunteers who give more than 20,000 hours to the Y's diverse programs annually, the Y touches community members from all

walks of life while developing new leaders who will continue to make the community a better place.

- News Messenger staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY KAISER
Gap Civil was formed in 2017, is based in Sparta, NC, and features Chris Johnson on banjo and bass, Lucas Pasley on fiddle and vocals, and Kyle Dean Smith on bass and lead guitar.

NRCC Concert Series presents free concert today in Dublin

The music of Bluegrass Kinsmen and Gap Civil will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event today, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022. Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

Bluegrass Kinsmen is a bluegrass band from Southwest Virginia that was formed in 1971. They perform a variety of bluegrass music that includes traditional, folk, and gospel. Band leader Ebby sings harmony and plays banjo and is accomplished on guitar, mandolin, and fiddle as well. Band members also include his wife, Teresa, who sings lead and harmony, and other guest musicians.

Gap Civil is an Appalachian mountain music band built on its motto of honor and innovation. They honor the mountain traditions

that have shaped and rooted their music, and they take great pride in innovative and exciting original songs, tunes, and arrangements. The band fluidly blends old time, country, bluegrass, and Americana.

Gap Civil was formed in 2017, is based in Sparta, NC and features Chris Johnson on banjo and bass, Lucas Pasley on fiddle and vocals, and Kyle Dean Smith on bass and lead guitar.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset the musicians' travel expenses..

For more information about the NRCC Concert Series, contact Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625 or visit www.nr.edu/concerts.

- News Messenger staff report

Blacksburg Regional Art Association presents Radford holiday open house

RADFORD - Three area artists will be showcasing their works at the seventh annual holiday open house presented by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 408 Eighth St., Radford.

The event is free and is open to the public. A percentage of all sales will be donated to local charities.

Collage artist Martha Olsen uses recycled and found papers as her preferred medium to create her free-flowing style.

Painter Ruth Lefko lets each of her works speak for themselves, choosing to create a feeling rather than a realistic depiction.

Fine art photographer Susan Lockwood, known primarily for European subject matter, frames her pieces with archival acid-free materials.

- Submitted by BRAA

Circuit Court clerk restores, preserves, and digitizes significant historical records

CHRISTIANSBURG - Significant historical records have now been restored, preserved, and digitized thanks to Circuit Court Clerk Erica W. Conner and her team. The restored volumes are the original Town of Christiansburg minute book from 1854 through 1861 and the Christiansburg District tax book for 1914.

These volumes are part of an ongoing cycle of restoration funded by Library of Virginia preservation grants. The most recent cycle represented a \$9,490 grant to the Montgomery

County clerk's office for preservation services.

The Town of Christiansburg Minute Book 1854 - 1861 is a collection of motions and minutes from hearings in the Town of Christiansburg by the Christiansburg Board of Trustees. The condition of the book was very fragile, and it was crumbling apart, creating many loose pages. Conner directed modern preservation to the book, meaning the original marbled cover was preserved and all pages are shown.

The 1914 Christiansburg District

Tax Book is a list of taxes collected in the Christiansburg and Cambria area between individuals and corporations. The book was also in very fragile condition and was missing its back cover. Conner requested the book to be bound with a similar cover so it could be preserved and maintained for the future.

"We are ensuring that these documents and records remain a permanent part of the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's

See Records, page 4

Holiday office parties without regrets; guidelines for acceptable behavior

Workplace holiday gatherings in a post-COVID era may be a good way to reconnect with people, but some people's social skills may have dulled a bit.

William Becker, an expert in organizational behavior and human resource management at Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business,

encourages companies to look closely at their culture and establish ground rules for acceptable behavior in light of heightened awareness of sexual harassment.

"The purpose of hosting holiday parties is for employees to come together and celebrate their shared membership in the organization and

remind them that it is a work function," says Becker.

Becker offers these tips for companies to consider:

1. Remind employees in advance of social gatherings that the organization has no tolerance for any inappropriate conduct.

2. Be extremely proactive when setting

guidelines and limiting or monitoring alcohol consumption.

3. Make certain employees understand attendance is optional. It should not in any way be considered a condition of their employment.

4. Encourage spouses or significant others to attend.

See Parties, page 4

Virginia's active fall fire season concludes

During this year's fall fire season, wildfires burned more than 2,650 acres and damaged nine homes and structures across the Commonwealth. Suppression efforts by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) and its firefighter partners are credited with saving more than 150 homes and other buildings, with an estimated protected value of more than \$25 million.

Although the fall fire season has ended, the threat of wildfire is always present. The leading cause of wildfires this year was once again escaped debris burning. Don't let a careless mistake ruin the holidays

See Fire, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Dec. 17:

Blacksburg leaf collection extended

Leaf collection in the Town of Blacksburg has been extended approximately two weeks from the scheduled Dec. 3 conclusion date to ensure all neighborhoods have been served. Public Works has been operating with a significantly reduced staff dedicated to leaf collection, so patience is greatly appreciated.

Saturday, Dec. 10:

Handcrafted Holiday Pop-up Market

At Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery, hosted by MountainTrotter Arts. The market will feature local artisans, crafters, and more from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The food truck Empanada Nirvana will be on site as well. Santa will be available to take pictures on Glencoe Mansion's porch. Visitors can also enjoy Glencoe Mansion's Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, Dec. 11.

Volunteer tax preparer interest meeting

At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. Learn to prepare taxes and make a difference in the community at the same time simply by volunteering to help prepare taxes free of charge with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs.

Holiday movie

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 12:30 p.m. Kick off the holiday season with a Christmas movie and some hot chocolate. The film follows the misadventures of Jack Skellington, Halloweentown's beloved pumpkin king, who has become bored with the same annual routine of frightening people in the "real world." When Jack accidentally stumbles onto Christmastown, all bright colors and warm spirits, he gets a new lease on life. He plots to bring Christmas under his control by kidnapping Santa Claus and taking over the role. But Jack soon discovers even the best-laid plans of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry. Rated PG. Call (540) 268-1964 with any questions.

DIY terrariums

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Too cold to grow plants outside? Grow some in a terrarium. All supplies will be included. Registration is required. Intended for adults. Presented by Master Gardeners.

Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11:

Seventh annual Radford Holiday Open House

Three area artists will be showcasing their works in the seventh annual holiday open house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at 408 Eighth St., Radford. The event is free and is open to the public. A percentage of all sales will be donated to local charities. Martha Olsen, a collage artist, uses recycled and found papers as her preferred medium to create her free-flowing style while painter Ruth Lefko lets each of her works speak for themselves, choosing to create a feeling rather than a realistic depiction. Fine art photographer Susan Lockwood, known primarily for European subject matter, frames her pieces with archival acid-free materials.

Monday, Dec. 12:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in a closed session at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and will be allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

RCPS Special Education Advisory Committee meeting

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at Belle Heth Elementary School, 151 George St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair/Secretary, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link.

STEM Club

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. This homeschool STEM club explores science, technology, engineering, and/or math. Ages 8 and up.

Holiday crafts for all ages

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 4:30 p.m. Drop in to make variety of holidays crafts. All supplies will be provided. For all ages.

Tuesday, Dec. 13:

Talking about books

At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. To be discussed is "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Call (540)-552-8246 to reserve a copy.

Homeschool creative writing

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 p.m. Teens and tweens are invited to this Homeschool Creative Writing club. Participants will practice their writing skills with fun and creative prompts, learning about constructive criticism by working with peers and talking about stories. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

Art for Tots

At the Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Participants will make some fun art projects appropriate for little hands. Supplies will be provided.

Science Fiction Book Club

At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. To be discussed is "Permafrost" by Alastair Reynolds. Call (540) 552-8246 to reserve a copy.

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to the meeting. If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-

9864.

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The Blacksburg Town Council will meet in regular session at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and are televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

The Christiansburg Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.). The public is welcome and is encouraged to attend with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will meet at 6 p.m. at the School Board Office at 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford.

Wednesday, Dec. 14:

Page to screen movies: "Rebecca"

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45 p.m. This is a screening of the 1940 Hitchcock classic "Rebecca" on the library's big screen. The movie starts at 5:45 p.m. and has a 130-minute run time. The film is rated PG. Popcorn from Lil'Bit Corny LLC will be provided while supplies last.

Library Board of Trustees meeting

At the Christiansburg Library; 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 15:

Radford Photo Club meeting

The Radford Photo Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. Attendees are invited to share their three best photos of the year and talk about each one. Goodies to share will be welcome. The photo challenge this month is Vacation Photography. Bring a print. There is also an Open Theme challenge. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley.

Gingerbread houses

At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. All ages are invited to build a personalized gingerbread house with the supplies provided. Registration is required.

Saturday Dec. 17:

Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library; noon. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. For all ages. Email spahl@mfrl.org for more information.

Holiday movie

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 12:30 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit with a showing of this fan-favorite holiday animated film (rated G) about a young boy who embarks on a train ride to the North Pole. Call (540) 268-1964 with any questions.

Teen DND

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons for ages 11 to 17.

Gingerbread Houses

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. All ages are invited to build a personalized gingerbread house with the supplies provided. Registration is required.

"The Grinch" Movie, Photos, and S'mores

At Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery. S'mores and pictures with the Grinch at 6 p.m. The movie at 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 19:

STEM Club

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 2 p.m. Participants will explore science, technology, engineering, and/or math. Ages 8 and up.

Pokémon Club

At the Christiansburg Library; 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.

Ongoing:

Help the veterans with donations

The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Donors can bring the following items to the library during December: 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. Co-Sponsored by VFW Post 5311 and Montgomery-Floyd Regional libraries.



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Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR QUOTES
The City of Radford is seeking to procure two (2) 14 passenger (12-passenger plus 1-wheelchair and driver) body on chassis paratransit bus. The complete Request for Proposals (RFP) package is available on the City's website at <https://www.radfordva.gov/1276/Current-Bids-and-RFPs> or upon request. Written proposals must be received no later than 12:00 PM local prevailing time on January 9, 2023 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141, for consideration. PROPOSALS MUST BE SEALED IN AN ENVELOPE CLEARLY MARKED "RADFORD TRANSIT 14 PASSENGER ADA BUS", RFP # 23-01-Transit, ALONG WITH THE NAME OF FIRM, ADDRESS AND PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON. Proposers are required to submit all items listed in the Request for Proposals, including acknowledgement of all addendums.



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Help Wanted

Part Time Newspaper Production Help
Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work- inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$11 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Highland Memory Gardens is looking for 2 Full Time cemetery ground maintenance people.

Great Benefit package, Health, Dental, Vision, uniforms, and 401-K Retirement program pay commensurate with experience. Must be able to pass a background check and drug test.

For confidential interview, call Paul at 540-674-5231.

RSVP celebrates the season with holiday party

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Montgomery County and Radford held its holiday party on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Christiansburg Recreation Center.

Thirty-four people attended, and wonderful goodies, holiday music, and Santa filled the room with Christmas cheer. Outgoing Advisory Council Members Melissa Adams-Felts, Sharon Brown, Nola Elliott, Shannon Hammons, Rosemary Jones, Amanda Terry, Carol Trutt, and Remon Yassa were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the program.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Chair Sherri Blevins, Deputy County Administrator Angie Hill, Montgomery County

Human Services Director Tonia Winn, Montgomery County Communications Specialist Becky Hertling, Town of Christiansburg Mayor Michael Barber, and Christiansburg Recreation Center Director Brad Epperley thanked the volunteers for their support. Chair Blevins congratulated volunteers for their 25,463 hours of service as of Oct. 31, 2022.

RSVP sent out special thanks to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for their support, the Christiansburg Recreation Center, and Brian Compton, who assumed the role of Santa Claus.

- News Messenger staff report



RSVP volunteers and community partners gather to fill their plates with holiday goodies.



Santa Claus (Brian Compton) with Advisory Council Members Carol Trutt (left), Rosemary Jones, Nola Elliott, and Sharon Brown



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MANDY HAYES

Santa Claus (Compton) with Irene Dowdy (left), Brenda Arnold, Shirley Mullins, and Rosemary Jones

Community chorus Blue Ridge Vocal Connection to sing at Hotel Roanoke Sunday

On Sunday, Dec. 11, Blue Ridge Vocal Connection, the New River Valley's fastest-growing and farthest-traveling community chorus, continues a festive parade of holiday concerts with a stroll through Hotel Roanoke's "Fashions for Evergreens" Christmas tree display.

The group will sing in the North Entry Foyer near Roanoke Ballroom (D) between 5 and 7 p.m.

The program, called "Christmas in the Air... Waves," features familiar, toe-tapping hits such as a Pentatonic-styled "Up on the Housetop," "My Grown Up Christmas List," and "All I Want for Christmas is You."

The chorus will meander among the merry boughs, serenading with

holiday favorites such as "Silent Night," "The First Noel," "Silver Bells," and "The Holly and the Ivy" along with a fresh, original version of upbeat gospel great, "Children, Go Where I Send Thee."

Director Thomas L. DeBusk founded Blue Ridge Vocal Connection in the summer of 2021 as a way to bring people together. The chorus has grown significantly in just a few months, now numbering more than 30 singers. DeBusk routinely combines people who "just like to sing" with original musical arrangements to create truly entertaining musical programs.

Blue Ridge Vocal Connection is a community-based organization purpose-driven to build community

through engagement.

While this is only the chorus's second Christmas season, they've already performed concerts at the Lyric Theatre in Blacksburg and Primland Resort in Meadows of Dan.

Upcoming concerts, in addition to the Dec. 11 concert at the Hotel Roanoke, include Saturday, Dec. 17, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Christiansburg; Sunday, Dec. 18, at New Dublin Presbyterian Church in Dublin; and Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the Karr Center at Warm Hearth Village in Blacksburg.

- Submitted by Mark D. Freeman

Blacksburg Young Pros Holiday Mixer



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Blacksburg Young Professionals will hold their annual holiday mixer at The Inn at Virginia Tech on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

NRV Cares Director Andi Golusky named Non-Profit Director of Year



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED WAY OF THE NEW RIVER

Andi Golusky, Director of NRV Cares, was named the Non-Profit Director of the Year at the recent Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce annual dinner. NRV Cares is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families.

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. Workschedules 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.

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 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION - Construction is underway on road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) for a new entrance to Belview Elementary School. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flagging.

See VDOT, page 4

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

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VDOT

from page 3

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. 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:

- RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

- LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

- o Northbound lane closures from I-81 mile marker 136 to 141.
- o Southbound Lane closures from I-81 mile marker 141 to 136.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right

lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for 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.

- Virginia Dept. of Transportation

News Messenger

Established 1869

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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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Events

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Free GED Classes

At the Meadowbrook Public Library, 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. New River Community College is offering free GED classes at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday until Thursday, Dec. 15. For more information or to sign up, call the library at 540-268-1964.

Fire

from page 1

for you, your neighbors and your community.

“This has been a busy year for wildfires in Virginia,” said VDOF Director of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. “Virginia’s leading cause of wildfires remains debris-burning fire escapes. VDOF supports careful outdoor burning completed in a safe and lawful manner. Always monitor the weather and take extra precautions with any outdoor fire to ensure it remains under control. Wildfires can start at any time. All it takes is one escaped ember.”

Follow these tips when burning debris:

Avoid burning on dry, windy days, keep your burn pile small, have a rake or shovel on hand, keep a

charged water hose nearby, have a phone ready to call 911 if a fire escapes your control, stay with your fire until it’s completely out (drown, stir, drown again, ensure it’s cool), consider a “green” alternative to burning yard debris: compost your organic yard waste for your garden or yard

The Virginia Department of Forestry also reminds those with live Christmas trees to follow safe practices on placing and caring for your tree.

Virginia’s spring fire season (and 4 p.m. burn law) begins Feb. 15.

- Virginia Dept. of Forestry

Parties

from page 1

5. Hold events in a family-friendly setting.

Becker, whose research interests include work emotion,

turnover, organizational neuroscience, and leadership, is based in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area at Virginia Tech.

Records

from page 1

Office for future generations,” Conner said. “The amount of historical facts in Montgomery County contained within these records is fascinating. It is my hope that by restoring these records and preserving a part of local history they will be valuable for generations to come.”

Town of Christiansburg Mayor

Michael Barber said, “I am so pleased that these books have been preserved both digitally and physically. These books provide insight into town business during the early years and are a most important set of documents that will aid many people as they search for family history. My sincerest thanks to Clerk Erica Conner and

the entire staff of the Montgomery County Clerk’s Office. I look forward to seeing future ‘lost treasures’ that might be hidden in the vast collections of records.”

- Submitted by Jennifer Tatum Harris, county public information director

CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS**

 1. Abu __, U.A.E. capital
 6. Herring-like fishes
 11. 55120 MN
 12. Indigo bush
 13. Pollyanna-ish
 15. Pleasing to the ear
 18. Parcels of land
 19. Microns (alt. sp.)
 20. Cooking containers
 21. Express pleasure
 24. Meat from a calf (alt.)
 25. 7th Greek letter
 26. Operated the sales register
 30. Blueprint for the day
 32. Congressperson (abbr.)
 33. Angle (abbr.)
 35. Fragrant health promotion
 43. Trespasses

44. __ Lanka
 45. Wife of Hercules
 47. A large body of water
 48. Chicken house
 49. Sicilian volcano
 51. Coarse edible red seaweed
 52. __ May, actress
 54. Opposites of credits
 55. Unable to move
 57. Someone who is highly skilled
 58. 100 = 1 kwacha
 59. "Rocky" star Talia

4. Used for hitting the ball in various games
 5. Not out
 6. South Dakota
 7. Possessed
 8. Grad
 9. UPS driver
 10. Fired
 13. In a way, augmented
 14. River in SE S. Am.
 16. Division of geological time
 17. Follows sigma
 21. Sign language
 22. Expression of surprise
 23. Hull Identification Number
 26. Salmwood
 27. Associated Press
 28. Half of an em
 29. Networks in Spanish

31. Dough fermenting agent
 34. Auto fuel
 36. An alternative
 37. Manuscripts (abbr.)
 38. Digested
 39. Darjeeling or green
 40. Horsepower
 41. 1985 Formula 1 champion
 42. Expression of alarm
 43. Gain possession
 45. Own (Scottish)
 46. Snake-like fish
 48. Dicer
 50. Afresh
 51. Hindu mother goddess
 53. Before
 54. Code for dash
 56. Atomic #52
 57. Millisecond



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OBITUARIES

Alls, Phyllis Keister

Phyllis Keister Alls, 68, passed Rodney and Paige Keister and away Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022.

She was a member of Riner Grace Brethren Church and was a domestic housekeeper.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jimmy and Elizabeth Keister.

Survivors include her husband, Robert B. Alls of Riner; a son, Ethan Alls of Riner; a brother, Rodney Keister of Radford; a sister, Gail Quesenberry (Danny) of Pulaski; a sister-in-law, Lois Lancaster; a nephew-in-law, Michael Lancaster; a nephew, Keith Ferrell; nieces Kelly Holzer and Paige Keister; special pets Karl and Fuzzy; and all of her cats that she loved so much.

The family would like to thank



Good Samaritan Hospice for taking such good care of Phyllis in her last days.

The family will receive friends from 10 until 11 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Kenny Farley officiating. Graveside services will follow in Rockford Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to Good Samaritan Hospice.

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

Caldwell, Reginald Wayne

Reginald Wayne Caldwell, 61, Miller, and Teresa Guth.

of Blacksburg, died Thursday, Dec. 2, 2022, at his home. He was born in Radford on Sept. 18, 1961. He is survived by his parents, Lois and Clinton Lowe; sister, Regina Wright; brothers, Randall Caldwell and Ashley Lowe; special nephew, Brian Caldwell (Jennifer) and their children, Bryce and Brody; God son, Mark McIntyre; God daughters, Summer Brown and Cassie Brown; special friends, Wanda Brillhart, Alex



Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Gary McCoy and Rev. Randy Jarrells officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Reginald W. Caldwell Memorial Fund, C/O The National Bank of Blacksburg, P.O. Box 90002, Blacksburg, VA 24062, or in person at any NBB location.

See Obituaries, page 6

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

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

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

TRUST THE TRUTH

Read 2 Timothy 1:1 through 4:22

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

The Greek word orthotomeo, translated here as "correctly handles," is rendered "rightly dividing" in other versions.

It carries the idea of cutting straight like a surgeon and getting to the heart of the matter. Paul's letters to Timothy emphasize sound doctrine, which must be taught in the churches so believers will be established in the truth. Is false teaching being advocated? Stand firm on God's truth. Do unbelievers mock our Christian life? Stand firm on God's truth.

We are all to be students of God's Word—diligently studying it, faithfully putting it into practice in our daily lives, and effectively sharing it. We should never be ashamed to be identified with Christ, nor do we want to be embarrassed by our lack of preparation for witnessing.

We need to be ready with knowledge of the truth and guided by God's Spirit in sharing it with others.

Thought for Today: Train in the truth and trust its teaching.

Quicklook: 2 Timothy 2:7-15

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

Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN

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

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

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

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

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler

Jones brings relevant messages for 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.centralmethodistchurch.com.

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

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

WESLEYAN

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

Obituaries

from page 5

Bailey, Linda Garlic

Linda Garlic Bailey died Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, at her home in Shawsville.

She was born on April 15, 1949, to the late George Lee Garlic and Mary Rose Garlic.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Charles Duncan, Mike Duncan (Loretta), and Ronald

Duncan (Jodi); grandchildren Josiah Duncan, Jailee Duncan, Jesse Duncan, and Madelyn Duncan; and a brother, Jerry Garlic.

A visitation will be conducted on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. SW Blacksburg.

Jenkins, Jimmie Vaughn

On Sunday, Dec. 4, in the early morning hours, Jimmie Vaughn Jenkins went home to be with her Lord and Savior. Her final years were spent at her daughter and son-in-law's residence and her final moments were spent with her daughter and son-in-law by her side.

Jimmie was born in Norton, Va., on Feb. 24, 1935. She graduated from Norton High School in 1953. She and her husband were King and Queen of their senior prom. They were married shortly after graduation and began their 58-year journey together as husband and wife.

The couple decided to put down their roots in Radford and never looked back. Jimmie believed in building the community in which she wished to live and raise her family. She devoted her time to her church and to other community organizations that promoted her values. She loved everything about building a home. Hers was welcoming and inviting and full of unconditional love. She was known for her impeccable taste.

Jimmie was predeceased by her parents, Jim and Margaret Vaughn; her husband, Max Jenkins; her daughter, Meg Jenkins Goepel; a grandson, John Patrick Jenkins; three brothers, Bobby Vaughn, Johnny Vaughn, and Jack Vaughn.

She is survived by her son, Robert



Max Jenkins; a daughter and son in law, Jill Jenkins Alderman and Tony Alderman of Radford; grandchildren William Alex Alderman of Lake Tahoe, Calif., Robert Max Jenkins II of Richmond, Emily Walters Jenkins of Kent Island, Md., Andrew Chambers Goepel of Greenville, Va., and Abigail Vaughn Jenkins

of Kent Island, Md.; a sister, Mary Sue Daniels of Norton, Va., and her daughters Denise Hickman of Durham, N.C. and Jeannine Vires of Norton; a brother in law and his wife, Bobby and Stathia Jenkins of Reidsville, Va.; special friend Barbara Van Dyke of Radford, and other dear friends too numerous to mention; a very special granddog, Rhett Butler Jenkins Alderman of the home; and special nephews and cousins.

The family would like to thank Intrepid Hospice for the care and comfort they provided to Jimmie and her family during her illness.

A memorial service was held on Friday Dec. 9, 2022, at The Presbyterian Church of Radford with the Rev. Steve Willis officiating. The family received friends at a reception immediately following the service at the church.

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

Jones, Edna Elizabeth Hall

Edna Elizabeth Hall Jones, 80, of Radford, formerly of Old Town, Fla., passed away on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022. She resided in Old Town with her husband, Victor, for 28 years. Edna came into this world in 1942 in Comer's Rock, Va. She loved quilting, knitting, sitting on the porch with family and friends, and her fur baby cuddles. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter Ernest and Nellie Elizabeth Hall; her brother, Bobby Hall; and her grandson, Chase Landon Jones.

Survivors include her husband, Victor Jones of Old Town; a daughter, Becky Jones of Radford; sons and daughters-in-law Tim Jones of Lenoir, N.C., Kenny and Kim Jones of Thaxton, and Shon and Melissa Jones



of Lenoir, N.C.; a stepson, Woody Jones of Florida; grandchildren and their spouses Chad and Amanda Jones, Sarah and Todd Ray, "Lil" Victor Jones, "Lil" Kenneth and Karolina Twigg, Brittany and Tom Deely, and Jacob Jones and Lacy Baker; great-grandchildren, Micah Ray, Destiny Ray, Charity Ray, Madalynn Twigg, Mallory Twigg, Orion Twigg, Natalie Twigg, Isabella Deely, Kenny "Boo" Collins, Darian Jones, Kris Smith, and Ariel and Dewey Perkins; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be held at a later date. The Jones family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Lockee, Nova Christine Godwin

Nova Christine Godwin Lockee, her retirement, she enjoyed travel 95, of Blacksburg, passed away on Dec. 3, 2022.

She was born on June 11, 1927, in Pembroke, N.C., to the late William Purcell Godwin and Jessie Florence Chavers.

Christine is survived by her son, Robert Merritt Lockee (Barbara) of Blacksburg; a grandson, Chase McPherson Lockee of Savannah, Ga.; a brother Angus Chavers Godwin (Joan) of Ithaca, N.Y., a sister-in-law Ruth Godwin of Denver, Colo., and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins throughout the country. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings Junior, Marie, Claire, and Tom.

Christine served her full career as a teacher of history, English, and social studies at McClintock Junior High School in Charlotte, N.C. After



and time with family, especially the annual gatherings of treasured siblings, nieces, and nephews.

She was a proud member of the Lumbee Tribe of Eastern North Carolina and valued the legacy of her family's heritage and engagement in the Pembroke community.

A private graveside service and interment were held at Sharon Memorial Gardens at 5716 Monroe St. in Charlotte on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Catching the Dream, a scholarship fund for Native American students pursuing higher education. More information about the organization is available at <https://catchingthedream.org>.

Quesenberry, Clarence William

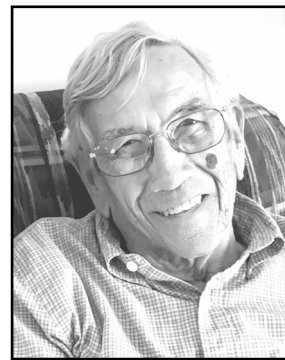
Clarence William Quesenberry until moving to Penn Laird in 2017. passed away at his home in Penn Laird, Va. on Dec. 5, 2022.

A native of Radford, he was born on March 2, 1931 to the Rev. Roy Pierce and Eula Elizabeth Rupe Quesenberry. Preceding him in death were two brothers and three sisters; Lawrence Everette Quesenberry, the Rev. Roy Glennard Quesenberry, Barbara Ann Quesenberry, Dorothy Quesenberry Thompson, and Lelia Quesenberry Thompson, and a great-granddaughter, Josephine Mae Crawford.

He is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Alice Annabelle Sutphin Quesenberry; a daughter, Teresa Ann Quesenberry Crawford and her husband, James Fillmore Crawford, Jr.; granddaughter Jessica Lea Crawford DiPuma and her husband Charles James DiPuma; a grandson, James McChesney Crawford and his wife, Stephanie Noble Crawford; a great-grandson, Jaden McChesney Crawford; a sister, Ruth Marie Quesenberry Kirtner, and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Clarence graduated from Radford High School on June 1, 1948, and attended Emmanuel College in Georgia.

On December 24, 1952, he married Alice Annabelle Sutphin. They lived in Fairlawn until their move to Dublin in 1959. In 2002 they moved to Bridgewater, Va. where they resided



Employee Relations, making his total service to RAAP 41 years.

Clarence was an avid bowler, fisherman, and golfer. He was a founding member of the Dublin Volunteer Fire Department and a past Worshipful Master of the Henry Clay Masonic Lodge in Dublin. He is now rejoicing in Heaven with those who have gone before him.

The family will receive friends on Friday, Dec. 16, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A Masonic service will be held following visitation at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

A graveside service will be held at Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. All who knew and loved him are invited to attend either or both services.

In lieu of flowers, honorary donations can be made to the Dublin Volunteer Fire Department, P. O. Box 699, Dublin, VA 24084.

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

Richardson, Billy Gene

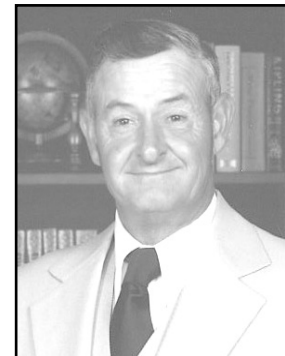
Billy Gene Richardson, 92, passed away Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, at his home in Riner.

He retired from Kroger where he drove a tractor-trailer for 27 years and was a proud member of Teamsters Local #171.

Billy was a lifelong resident of Riner and a graduate of Auburn High School. He was an avid outdoorsman, loving to fish and hunt, was a lifelong member of the NRA, and was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oakley John, Sr., and Mildred Ethel Simmons Richardson; and brothers O.J., Jr. and Larry Richardson.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mary Jane Farley Richardson; a daughter and son-in-law, Pamela Richardson-Finley (Terry) of Radford; grandsons Jermaine Richardson of Riner, Terrell Richardson of Radford, and Braedon Richardson (Amber) of Radford; great-



grandchildren, Isaiah and Autumn Jane Richardson; sisters and brother-in-law, Janet Shelburne (Richard) of Riner, and Judy Clingenpeel of Boones Mill; sisters-in-law, Florence Bishop of Christiansburg, Cora Thompson (Gratton) of Christiansburg, Lou Ellen Belcher (Freddie) of Princeton, W. Va., and Margaret Richardson of Connersville, Ind.; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The family received friends on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services were private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Riner Volunteer Fire and Rescue or to New Freedom Farm, 6118 Lithia Road, Buchanan, Va.

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

Submit letters
to the editor to
editor@ourvalley.org

www.montcova.com

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

FROM THE SIDELINES

By Marty Gordon

Committee got it right, transfer portal opens up

The College Football Committee has received a lot of criticism over the past few years in deciding the final four for the college playoffs, but this year, they might have gotten it right. Georgia definitely deserves to be the top seed, and Michigan is another good choice.

TCU and Ohio State are also good choices, but think about the future of twelve playoff teams. Would it be better or worse?

There are plenty of positives and negatives on both sides of the debate. More will only make it more interesting to watch and maybe more competitive.

If the procedure was in place in 2022, Georgia would face Utah in the first round, along with TCU and Tennessee. Michigan would face Clemson, and Ohio State would battle Alabama.

The larger bracket would draw a larger crowd and of course a larger payout for everyone involved.

But back to 2022, Georgia should have a great opener and for all purposes, should face Michigan in the championship game. A Michigan-Ohio State rematch could add to the conversation, and a TCU-Michigan contest is intriguing. We just hope the fans will show up for the gate and watch on television.

The expansion of the playoffs is just around the corner, and we have to hope it will get better.

Meanwhile, the transfer portal is about to take its toll in Blacksburg. First-year coach Brent Pry is watching the open door with as many as a dozen players simply out of the program.

Earlier this week, he admitted his staff is working with those players and their families to make the right decision for them as an individual. Behind the scenes, he might be sweating the rising temperatures while monitoring the portal for incoming players of his own.

The Hokies need a few good receivers, several defensive linemen, a quarterback to make the competition stiffer in the spring, and a good running back and some offensive linemen to open holes this fall.

Pry is discovering this is the new way of recruiting, and he will have to do everything possible to convince players that this is the place for them.

Sometimes the grass is not greener on the other side as many former Hokie football players have discovered.

Thanks for the memories, but Hokie fans will forget you as quickly as you forget them.

Helmet ratings expand to include equestrians



PHOTO BY ELEANOR NELSEN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Equestrian sports account for more than 50,000 visits to hospital emergency rooms annually for concussions and other brain injuries, more than any other sports in the country. To develop a set of ratings for equestrian helmet ratings, researchers from the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab conducted extensive testing under real-world conditions at the Alphin Stuart Livestock area on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus.

Over the past two years, the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab researchers analyzed more than 100 videos of riders falling off horses. The researchers measured the hardness of the sand, dirt, grass, and synthetic surfaces under foot at equestrian events.

The researchers dragged dummy heads and necks and pendulums and other equipment including boxes and boxes of helmets out to Virginia Tech's equestrian facilities to simulate falls.

Then the team of researchers from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics took all that data back to the lab to recreate those events in a series of controlled, quantitative tests. They used those tests to assess 40 equestrian helmets from different manufacturers.

The result is the first set of equestrian helmet ratings from the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab.

Equestrian sports account for 30 million rides in the U.S. every year and 50,000 trips to the emergency room for concussions and other brain injuries. That's more than any other sport in America.

"Most people are surprised to learn that," said Stefan Duma, the Harry Wyatt Professor of Engineering and the Helmet Lab's founder. "But when you think about the height of a horse and the distance a rider would fall, that translates into a high impact energy."

If a rider's head hits the ground in a fall, the helmet can determine whether the rider makes it through without an injury.

That's why the helmet lab wanted to determine which helmets perform better than others. Of the 40 models included in this initial set of ratings, two earned the top score of five stars. Eleven earned four, and the rest earned three or below.

Price isn't necessarily a predictor of quality: One of the two five-star helmets retails for \$460, and the other for \$58.

The ratings apply to falls that occur during walking, trotting, galloping, jumping, and the wide variety of other

horse movements that can occur in equestrian disciplines including hunter-jumper, eventing, and dressage.

The lab's extensive testing also shed more light on what happens during real impacts in the equestrian arena and illuminated some gaps between the required safety standards these helmets have to pass before going on the market and the actual impacts they're subjected to when a rider is wearing them.

"Standards for equestrian helmets are typically based on severe impacts," Duma said. "What we found is that a lot of riders come off at lower velocities, and many helmets are too stiff to effectively cushion those softer impacts. The helmets that perform better are able to deal with different energy levels."

Virginia Tech's ratings also go beyond the existing standards by using a formula that considers the rotational acceleration that occurs when a rider's head hits the ground, in addition to linear acceleration.

This is the lab's ninth major ratings release since researchers began rating helmets in 2011. They have tested and rated helmets for varsity, youth, and flag football; soccer; cycling; hockey; snow sports; and whitewater sports, transforming the science of sports safety by giving athletes, parents, and coaches unbiased, quantitative data they can use to choose the safest equipment.

The ratings for each sport come together through a meticulous process of translating metrics from real-world head impacts into evidence-based test methods that assess helmet performance under realistic conditions.

The equestrian ratings, and those for the other sports the lab has studied, are available on the Virginia Tech Helmet Ratings website, along with the corresponding test methods. That allows companies to use the protocols to evaluate designs and prototypes, optimizing a new helmet's safety profile before it ever hits the market.

- Virginia Tech Athletics

Hokie wrestlers place 11th at Keen Open

The No. 10 Virginia Tech wrestling team returned to Blacksburg from the 40th Annual Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational this weekend with five place-winners in tow. The Hokies sent seven wrestlers to Vegas, and five found the podium to help lead Tech to an 11th-place team finish on Saturday evening.

Leading the way was No.-2 Mekhi Lewis with a runner-up finish. In his second CKLV finals appearance in as many entries, Lewis became the first two-time finalist in program history. In a highly entertaining finals match, Lewis dropped a tight loss to No. 3 Mikey Labriola of Nebraska 3-1. Lewis was tactical all weekend, picking up two

bonus point victories and dispatching three ranked opponents.

The second highest-placing Hokie was graduate senior Hunter Bolen with a third-place finish. The Christiansburg Cowboy went 6-1 over the two-day tournament to claim third in his last Cliff Keen Invitational. Bolen dropped his quarterfinal bout to No.-4 Kaleb Romero of Ohio State before winning two straight on the backside to set up a third meeting with Romero this season. He avenged his earlier loss with a 3-1 sudden victory. Bolen secured three bonus point victories in six wins to help match his third-place CKLV finish of three years ago.

Making their Cliff

Keen Invitational debuts and finding the podium were No. 9 Sam Latona, No. 13 Tom Crook, and No. 32 Andy Smith. Latona highlighted his weekend with an upset victory over returning All-American No. 7 Chris Cannon of Northwestern to push him into the semifinals. Crook picked up three ranked wins on the night in his first trip out west. Smith put the nation on notice with his victory over No. 11 Tanner Sloan of South Dakota State to propel him into the semifinals match.

The Hokies return to action next Sunday for the first home dual of the season as they host No. 6 Mizzou at 4:30 p.m.

- Virginia Tech Athletics

Four Hokies qualify for Olympic trials

Caroline Bentz, Emma Atkinson, AJ Pouch and Forest Webb qualified for the 2024 U.S. Olympic Trials during their time in Greensboro at the Toyota U.S. Open Championships. In case you missed the Hokies swim, NBC Network will stream a taped version of the U.S. Open Championships on Dec 10 for viewing at 4:30 pm.

U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIERS & EVENTS

Caroline Bentz: 100 backstroke and 200 backstroke

Emma Atkinson: 100 backstroke and 200 backstroke

Forest Webb: 100 backstroke

AJ Pouch: 200 breaststroke

Junior Caroline Bentz took her A game to Greensboro. She started day three with her first Olympic Trials qualifying time during prelims in the 100 backstroke at 1:01.18. Bentz finished the finals in fifth place with a time of 1:01.21.

Taking that momentum into the next day, she qualified in the 200 backstroke during finals on day four with a time of 2:12.25, finishing fifth.

Also swimming backstroke, Emma Atkinson showed out alongside Bentz. With a time just behind Bentz in the 100 backstroke during day-three

prelims, Atkinson finished with a time of 1:01.40 and qualified for the Olympic Trials. She finished the finals in sixth place with a time of 1:01.64. During day-four prelims, Atkinson swam 2:12.64 in the 200 backstroke, making the Olympic Trials cut. She later beat that time in the finals, placing fourth with a time of 2:11.00.

Men:

Continuing his strong back stroke performances, Nico Garcia Saiz made the A final during the day-four prelims in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:01.28. He finished second overall in the 200 backstroke with a time of 1:59.49.

Forest Webb started day three prelims with his first Olympic trials qualifying time in the 100 backstroke, finishing at 55.54. He placed sixth overall during finals with a time of 55.71.

AJ Pouch finished off the U.S. Open strong by making the A final in the 200 breaststroke during day-four prelims with a qualifying time of 2:14.78. Pouch later went on to beat that time in the finals, finishing fifth with a time of 2:13.06.

- Virginia Tech Athletics

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Lord Botetourt takes down Blacksburg girls 58-36



Blacksburg's Brynn Ferguson scores against Lord Botetourt during the third quarter Tuesday night, Ferguson had 15 points in the 58-36 loss to the Cavaliers.



Blacksburg's Gabby Brooks scores over Lord Botetourt's Gracie Huffard Tuesday night.



Blacksburg's Riley Price drives into the lane and draws a foul from the Lord Botetourt defense.



Blacksburg's Mila Santsaver-Jones grabs a defensive rebound against Lord Botetourt.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Five reasons to attend Sunday's VT-Missouri wrestling match

Need a reason to attend this Sunday's dual featuring Virginia Tech hosting Missouri? How about five?

- 1) This Sunday's match marks the first home dual of the season for the No. 9-ranked Hokies. Tech returns a national champion, a two-time finalist, four NCAA All-Americans, four conference champions, and nine NCAA qualifiers to their lineup. Tech is coming off a first-place team finish at the Keystone Classic and an 11th-place finish at the 40th Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational, which saw five out of seven Hokies find the podium.
- 2) A top-10 battle. In the latest National Wrestling Coaches Association poll, Tech ranks at No. 9 while Mizzou enters the bout at No. 7. This will be the second year in a row that the two programs meet while ranked in the top-10. Both squads boast a full lineup of ranked wrestlers with a full list of credentials up and down the lineup. Both programs have a national champion in their lineup with a total of seven All-

Americans, Hokies with four, the Tigers with three. Additionally, the dual is laden with international accolades with a total of four junior world championship medals from both sides.

3) In the spirit of the season, a toy and stuffed animal drive will be held prior to the dual. Fans are encouraged to bring either a new stuffed animal to be donated to the Carilion Clinic and/or a new toy that will be donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

4) Hokie holidays in full effect. With the holidays right around the corner, fans are invited to wear their best festive sweater to the dual Sunday afternoon. An ugly sweater contest will also be held.

5) As with all wrestling matches in Cassell, admission is free. The dual will start at 4:30 p.m. with doors opening at 3:30 p.m.

- Virginia Tech Athletics

HOKIES
WRESTLING
HOME OPENER
 VS MISSOURI
 DECEMBER 11 | 4:30 PM
 CASSELL COLISEUM | FREE ADMISSION

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

The dual will start at 4:30 p.m. with doors opening at 3:30 p.m.

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PREVIEWS: Thu Dec. 1 3-5; Sun Dec. 11 1-3; Wed Dec. 14 12-2; self-guided tours ok
DIR: From Christiansburg, 81S 22mi to exit 94 for Pulaski. L at end of ramp. 1/4mi to L on Old Rte 100. 1/4mi to R on Lowmans Ferry. 3/4mi to R on Lake Ridge. 1mi to on left.
TERMS: 10% deposit. Close on or about 30 days. 5% buyer's premium.

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