

# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, April 8, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## Virginia Tech to observe 2023 Day of Remembrance

BLACKSBURG - Virginia Tech will observe the 2023 Day of Remembrance to honor the students and faculty members who lost their lives on April 16, 2007.

"Virginia Tech will forever honor these 32 lives and support their families and others affected by this tragedy," said Associate Vice President Debbie Day. "It is also a time when we come together as a community and express our commitment and support for one another because so many Hokies were affected by this tragedy."

On Saturday, April 15, the 3.2-Mile Run in Remembrance, an annual event that has attracted thousands of walkers, joggers, and competitive runners to campus since 2009, will begin at 9 a.m., rain or shine, on Alumni Mall near the Torgersen Hall bridge. The event, which will start with a moment of silence and takes participants across campus and into Lane Stadium, will end at the April 16 Memorial.

Virtual participation opportunities for the run will be available in addition to the in-person event. Virtual participants are encouraged to engage in a way that is meaningful to them and to share photos using the hashtag "#VT32Run" on Instagram and Twitter. Encouragement and communication also will be shared through the respective Facebook event.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA FRANUSICH FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**A cadet stands vigil at the April 16 Memorial during the 2022 Day of Remembrance.**

Preregistration for this event is strongly encouraged. Visit the Department of Recreational Sports website for registration and event information.

On Sunday, April 16, the lighting of the ceremonial candle will be held at 12:01 a.m. at the April 16

Memorial, located in front of Burruss Hall on Drillfield Drive. The candle will be lit by representatives of the student body, and the names of the 32 Hokies lost

See **Remembrance**, page 4

## Montgomery County School Board approves collective bargaining

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Montgomery County School Board members voted 5-2 approving collective bargaining during their Tuesday, April 4 regular meeting.

Prior to the vote, the school board heard public concerns and comments on topics of collective bargaining, pornographic material, and students' disruptive behavior in the classroom. The school board heard 22 public speakers on issues currently weighing on community member's minds.

Stevie Bowman, Chapter Chair for Moms for Liberty, is from Riner and spoke during the public comment part of the meeting.

"I would have to disagree with Mrs. Franklin and argue that more discussion needs to occur before a vote...a teacher should never have to pay a penny for a seat at the table," Bowman stated. Bowman was referring to a comment

from board member Penny Franklin as "overthinking" the collective bargaining resolution discussion that occurred during a work session two weeks prior.

During the public address, signs were visible to the audience expressing a need to say no to the collective bargaining resolution. Others at the meeting expressed a need for teachers to be a part of decision-making in the county.

Penny Franklin spoke with the first motion to accept the collective bargaining resolution, responding to a previous comment from a community member that she should not vote on the resolution based on her position as a union president.

"Folks asking me not to vote for this is like folks saying that any time they talk about race, you should not speak to it and certainly shouldn't vote for it," Franklin commented.

Adding on to Franklin's comment,

See **Bargaining**, page 4

## Obenshain running for new House District

Chris Obenshain, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Montgomery County, is in the running to be the Republican candidate in the newly created 41st Virginia House of Delegates District.

In his announcement, Obenshain said he is running for the House of Delegates because things, as he says, have been getting progressively harder for working families over the past several years.

"Most of the blame for that falls on poor decision making and bad policies that came into effect when Democrats controlled Virginia's government in 2020 and 2021," he said in a speech in Radford on Monday. "I believe we have a small window of opportunity to change course and correct those mistakes."

This is his first time running for public office. His knowledge about public office comes as a family affair.

His cousin, Mark Obenshain, is a state senator from Harrisonburg who



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS OBENSHAIN

**Chris Obenshain**

ran for state attorney general in 2013. His father ran for the State Senate in 2003.

District 41 is a new district that encompasses parts of Montgomery County (including Blacksburg, Shawsville and Riner) and Roanoke County (including parts of Catawba, Glenvar, Windsor Hills and Cave

See **Obenshain**, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHCNRV

## Community Health Center of the NRV awarded grant for dental program

NEW RIVER VALLEY - The Community Health Center of the New River Valley (CHCNRV) has been awarded a \$500,000, two-year Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) planning grant to develop a Teaching Health Center Residency Program in

dentistry.

The grants represent the first time funding has been directed to community entities to build residency programs, which have traditionally been located in hospitals. The new program's focus is two-fold: to support and train community-

based providers in their own environment, and to create a stronger health care workforce.

The planning grant will support the work of building a program, developing a training curriculum, recruiting clinical faculty, retooling workflow to integrate

residents, and achieving accreditation.

Upon completing the grant and receipt of dental accreditation, the CHCNRV will formally become a Teaching Health Center and begin accepting dentists

See **Grant**, page 4

## The Highlander Hotel Radford is open for business

*Hotel celebrates the arrival of its first guests with ribbon cutting ceremony*

RADFORD - The highly anticipated Highlander Hotel at Radford has officially opened.

The first guests began arriving and checking in on Saturday April 1, Joey Thornton Hair (Radford University Alumna, class of 1995) was the first guest, checking in with her husband, Mark, and their son, Hunter. They were in town to visit another son, Sean, who

is currently finishing up his junior year at Radford University.

On Tuesday April 4, a formal community ribbon cutting ceremony was held to mark the milestone opening and celebrate the arrival of first guests to the eagerly anticipated new property. Hotel General Manager, Rachel Pegues, shared

See **Highlander**, page 3



PHOTO BY KRISTINA ROSE

(Left to right): Andrew Caspersan, State Senator Travis Hackworth, Ginger Clark, Dan McKinney, Rachel Pegues, John Cox, Jr., Bret Danilowicz, Ramiro Albarran, Radford Mayor David Horton.

**APRIL 20, 2023**

**Eastern Divide**

**Brewing Company**

3175 Commerce Street,  
Blacksburg

Benefiting



**FREE**  
ADMISSION

Food  
available for  
purchase  
at venue

**\$1**

per beverage  
will be donated to  
CHCNRV and  
BBC

**Silent  
Auction**



4:00-5:00 P.M. **DOORS OPEN**  
**THE HIGHLANDS JAZZ TRIO**

5:00-6:00 P.M.  
**JARED GIBBS TRIO**

6:00-7:00 P.M.  
**VINCE LEWIS TRIO**

7:00-8:00 P.M.  
**LENNY MARCUS GROUP**

8:00-9:00 P.M.  
**VIRGINIA TECH JAZZ ENSEMBLE**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, April 8:

**Spring Plant Swap**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 2-3 :30 p.m. Bring plants, bulbs, and seeds to swap. Vegetable plants, house plants, landscape plants, flowers, and empty plant pots all welcome. Bring plants in from 2-2:30 p.m. and the first swap will begin at 2:30 p.m., then 2:45 p.m. for the second round.

**NRCC Campus Cruise-in**  
New River Community College's Campus Cruise-In will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in parking lot H at NRCC in Dublin, featuring classic cars from regional car club members. Event is sponsored by the NRCC automotive technology department. Automotive students will judge the cars. Trophies awarded for the first three places. Event is family-friendly, open to the public and free of charge. Registration will be held on the day of the event and is \$5 per car to enter the competition. Call (540) 674-3600, ext. 4285 for more information.

## Monday, April 10:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov).

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

## Tuesday, April 11:

**Blacksburg Town Council meeting**  
Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

**Christiansburg Town Council**

**meeting**  
Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

**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 on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Camp Member James Evans will speak on "Life in a Northern Prison Camp". For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

**Kids Cooking Club**  
At the Radford Public Library; 2- 3 p.m. Join us for our very first program with our mobile kitchen, the Charlie Cart! We will be making Johnnycakes, and kids should be ready to assist in the kitchen! Registration is required, and spots are limited. Please email [morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov](mailto:morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov) or call 540-731-3621 to register. For kids ages 7-12.

**Woman's Club meeting**  
The Woman's Club of Radford will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Radford Public Library. Laura Beth Weaver, Executive Director of the Woman's Resource Center of the New River Valley, will be guest speaker. The Resource Center is a non-profit that provides services to victims of abuse. The meeting is open to the public.

## Wednesday, April 12:

**Coping Techniques for Caregivers**  
Commonwealth Senior Living at Christiansburg will be hosting seminar titled "Coping Techniques for Caregivers." The seminar will discuss ways to care for a senior loved one while also caring for yourself.

## Thursday, April 13:

**River City Quilt Guild**  
The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn from others, this guild is for you. We welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information call Anna Handy,

540 320 7791.  
**New River Valley Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists**  
At the Radford Public Library; 6-7:30 p.m. Join us to learn more about becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist and our upcoming training program which starts in August 2023.

## Wednesday, April 19:

**Business Women's meeting**  
American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network April luncheon meeting; 11:30 a.m.- 1p.m., Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Drive, Christiansburg. Join us for networking fun at our April meeting. We will engage in interactive ice breakers to get to know each other better. We have lots of new members in recent months and would love to become better acquainted with each and everyone. Paige Godwin is the Speaker Sponsor for this meeting. RSVP by April 17. Cost is \$16. Contact: Terri Welch at [christiansburg@wineanddesign.com](mailto:christiansburg@wineanddesign.com) or Paige Godwin at [godwinpaige@gmail.com](mailto:godwinpaige@gmail.com).

**Radford Army Ammunition Plant community meeting**  
The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold the next Commander's Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library, 125 Shelton Street, Christiansburg. It also will be broadcast on Facebook Live ([facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/](https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/)). Meetings are open to the public.

## Saturday, April 22:

**Montgomery County/ Blacksburg Kiwanis Club Brunswick Stew fundraiser**  
At Prices Fork Elementary School (PFES), 4021 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg; noon - 2 p.m. Fundraiser benefits programming at PFES and local youth charities supported by Kiwanis. Pre-orders are encouraged by calling (540) 951-5834 or emailing [pfesstew@gmail.com](mailto:pfesstew@gmail.com). Payment accepted by cash or check upon pickup. Kindly make checks payable to PFES. Drive-thru service will be available the day of pickup. Price is \$10/quart or \$9 /quart for five quarts.

## Saturday, April 29:

**Library of Virginia on-the-go**  
At the Meadowbrook Library; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Library of Virginia is bringing their state-of-the-art equipment and offering their expertise. Join us to explore research resources, discuss regional and family history, enjoy children's activities and much more. Door prizes, Genealogy 101 and help with your questions, tours of the Meadowbrook Museum and the

MFRL Mobile Library, special guest Daniel Thorp, and Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo. All events are free and open to the community.

## Sunday, April 30:

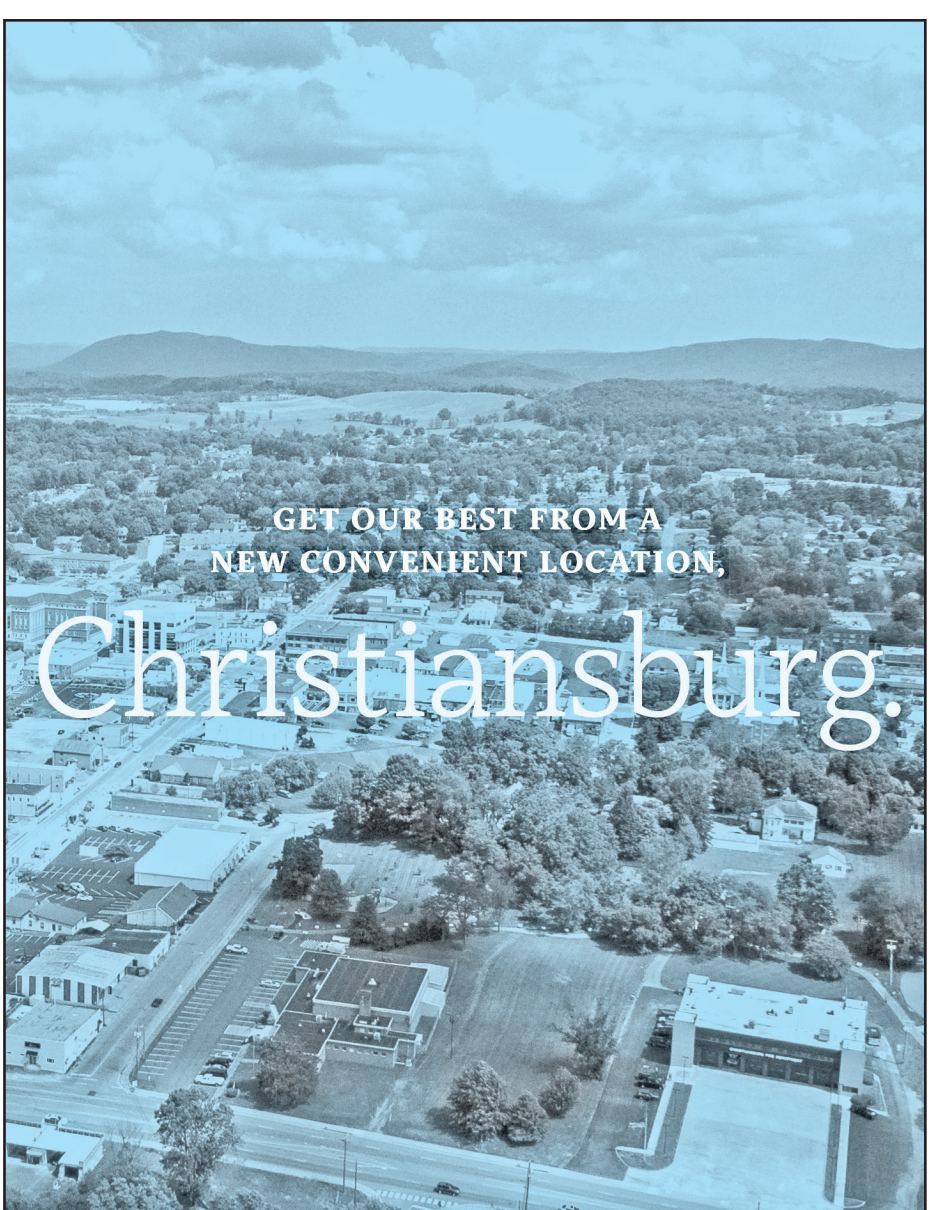
**Christiansburg Presbyterian Church Spring Concert**  
Christiansburg Presbyterian Church will offer its annual Spring Concert at 4 p.m. This year's guest artist will be classical guitarist Justin Craig. Justin is a graduate of Radford University with a Master of Music degree in classical guitar performance. He is a busy regional guitarist, jazz performer, recording artist, and teacher. He performs often as a soloist and leads a variety of groups including a modern jazz and Brazilian group. This concert is free and open to the public.

## On-going:

**Registration open for annual Scrabble tournament for literacy**  
Registration is now open for the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley 15th Annual LVNRV Scrabble Tournament, which will be held Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Sinkland Farms in Christiansburg. All proceeds from the fun evening support free tutoring for adults to provide them with the skills they need for personal independence and family self-sufficiency. Programs include one-on-one tutoring, Skill Up NRV and Family READS programs, GED and U.S. Citizenship preparation classes, and Bridge to Digital Learning initiative. Register at [www.lvnrv.org](http://www.lvnrv.org) or call 540-382-7262.

**Cap and Gown Drive**  
The Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office is partnering with Blacksburg High School and Sustainable Blacksburg to encourage re-use of previous years' graduate gear for the 2023 senior class. Gowns (blue only - from 2018 and later), caps, stoles, and cords are accepted. Donations can be made between 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Main Entrance of Blacksburg High School. It is appreciated if materials are dry-cleaned, but not required. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or [sustainability@blacksburg.gov](mailto:sustainability@blacksburg.gov).

**Free GED Classes**  
New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 - 8 p.m. The classes began on Tuesday, Jan. 17 and end on Thursday, May 11. For more information or to sign up please call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.



Our Christiansburg branch has moved to a new location. Stop in and let's chat about how we can make your finances brighter, your business stronger, your goals reachable, and your dreams achievable. In other words, let's bring out your best—together.

**2681 Market St. NE, Christiansburg, VA**

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# MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARREST LOG

DATE	NAME	OFFENSE
<b>March 18- 24, 2023</b>		
<b>Saturday, March 18:</b>	WEIDMAN, TRENT	OBSCENITY DRUNK IN PUBLIC - PROFANE LANGUAGE
	CABRERA, RENZO	DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED - FIRST OFFENSE
	MELSON, JONATHAN	FAIL TO STOP FOR POLICE, POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED PARAPHERNALIA
	MARCHESE, SHANE	DWI-1ST CONVICTION - .15 TO .20
	CUCCI, VITTORIO	DWI-1ST CONVICTION - .15 TO .20
	WATTS, ETHAN	DWI-1ST CONVICTION - .15 TO .20
	BUTTS, CHRISTINE	PROBATION VIOLATION - FELONY, PROBATION VIOLATION - FELONY
	JOHNSON, NYKELLE	FAIL TO APPEAR
	KILGORE, JACKSON	OBSCENITY DRUNK IN PUBLIC - PROFANE LANGUAGE
<b>Sunday, March 19:</b>	FRANCIS, GABRIEL	OBSCENITY DRUNK IN PUBLIC - PROFANE LANGUAGE
	SEVILLA-PEREZ, JOSE	DWI-1ST CONVICTION - .15 TO .20 DRIVE W/O VALID LICENSE - 2ND OFFENSE
	HENDRICK, NATHAN	OBSCENITY DRUNK IN PUBLIC - PROFANE LANGUAGE
	BOLSTER, JOHN	OBSCENITY DRUNK IN PUBLIC - PROFANE LANGUAGE
	TAGLIARENI, ALEXANDER	OBSCENITY DRUNK IN PUBLIC - PROFANE LANGUAGE
	BAXTER, RYAN	STRANGLE ANOTHER CAUSING WOUND/INJURY, ASSAULT, SIMPLE ASSAULT - AGAINST FAMILY MEMBER
	PERKINS, DIANNA	DRIVING AFTER LICENSE REVOKED FOR DUI
	LYTTON, ELISHIA	TRAFFIC - OPERATOR'S LICENSE REVOKED-DRIVE WHILE - (FIRST
<b>Monday, March 20:</b>	BRUMFIELD, MARK	VIOL. OF CONDITIONS OF REL, PRETRIAL REL
<b>Tuesday, March 21:</b>	KNOTT, JOSHUA	TRAFFIC - OPERATOR'S LICENSE REVOKED-DRIVE WHILE - (FIRST OFFENSE), DISPLAY ALT/FICT REG/TITLE/PLATES, DISPLAY ALT/FICT REG/TITLE/PLATES, NARCOTICS POSSESSION
	BECKETT, STEVEN	FRAUD FALSE PRETENSES - OBTAIN MONEY BY - >=\$200, FRAUD GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO \$200 OVER 6 MONTH PERIOD, FRAUD FORGERY OF CREDIT CARD
	LAFEMINA, MARIE	DWI - FIRST CONVICTION, INFLUENCE OF DRUGS
	AKERS, APRIL	VIOL. OF CONDITIONS OF REL, PRETRIAL REL.
	BURTON, BRANDON	NARCOTICS POSSESSION, NARCOTICS POSSESSION
	EANES, ALLISON	FAILURE TO APPEAR ,FAIL TO APPEAR IN COURT FOR MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE
	GRAVES, DICKEY	LARCENY LESS THAN \$200 NOT FROM PERSON
<b>Wednesday, March 22:</b>	EVANS, GRAYSON	OBSCENITY DRUNK IN PUBLIC - PROFANE LANGUAGE
	SORENSEN, AMANDA	LARCENY EMBEZZLEMENT - \$200 OR MORE
	VENTH, PAUL III	PROBATION VIOLATION - FELONY
	LAIGNEL, ASHLEY	FAIL TO APPEAR FEL/MISD/ SUMMONS







# Grant from page 1

to complete a one-year post-graduate rotation. CHCNRV was one of only two grant recipients in Virginia among the 46 awarded nationwide.

“We are excited to be a part of the solution of bringing more dental care professionals into rural health,” said Michelle Brauns, MS, APR, Chief Executive Officer of Community Health

Center. “The Teaching Health Center residency program will also provide a predictable, secure workforce pipeline so that we have dentists constantly in service to provide for the dental needs of

our community.”  
*Submitted by Community Health Center of the NRV*

# Bargaining from page 1

school board member Sue Kass, who will be leaving her position at the end of this year, assured the community that she would continue to vote on all school board items.

Other topics of discussion involved aggressive behavior in the classroom and threat of violence or bullying that is even apparent in the elementary school environment.

Edward Zelinsky proposed options for aggressive behavior and violence in the classroom through virtual learning. His wife works at Falling Branch Elementary School as a teacher as well as having his own children attend the same school.

“Nobody’s kid is perfect, I get that, but I think that something should be done, or at least discussed, about disciplinary action. My kids go to Falling Branch. They love it there, except when a kid throws a chair in the classroom or whispers in their ear ‘I’m going to bring a knife to school and cut you.’ Then my kid comes home and I have to talk to them about that,” Zelinsky shared, walking to his seat amidst an applauding audience.

Theresa Brown from Christiansburg echoed a concern for mediation to help students struggling with bullying and harassment that involves threats of violence from

other students.

Nick Shepherd, a student at Auburn High School, spoke out against a book containing profane language and material that was not just assigned to read, but read aloud by his teacher in the classroom. Reading from several pages in the book, the student explained that the material was not something he would want read by his own parents, much less a teacher. Shepherd was followed by several other AHS students agreeing with his statements about the book’s offensive nature.

Betty Thomas, from Blacksburg, commented on the discussion of books in the school district as well. Thomas stated, “it’s just words on a page. I have read some of these books, including Flamer, they were funny, inclusive, and just good books.”

In a policy discussed by the school board in a prior meeting, the board unanimously voted for approval of the 5-1.2 Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy. This document may be read in its entirety with edits in the Board Docs platform on the www.mcps.org website.

The Montgomery County School Board also recognized Seniors of the Month for April, 2023 from each of the four strands of Montgomery County schools during Tuesday night’s meeting.

Auburn High School’s April Senior of the Month, Morgan Elaine Mundy, plans to attend NRCC or Radford University after graduation. Blacksburg High School’s April Senior of the Month, Conner James Rutherford, will be attending University of Georgia to run Cross Country and Track,

and pursue BSFR Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management focuses. Marshall Lane Farmer, from Christiansburg High School, was also recognized as April Senior of the Month and plans to attend New River Community College through the ACCE program and pursue a career as a HVAC Technician. Eastern Montgomery High School April Senior of the Month, Allison Kay Bower, will be studying at Virginia Tech University’s Agricultural Technology program and plans to specialize in Agricultural Management.

The Virginia High School League State Champions for winter sports were also warmly received and recognized by their coaches, parents, and administrative staff along with the school board during the meeting.

Mr. Stephen Howard, Coach of the Blacksburg High School Indoor Track Boys and Girls teams, recognized the boys as the Class 4 Team State Champions, as well as the hard work of the Indoor Girls Track and Field team during the season. Several boys and girls individual state champions were also acknowledged and present.

Coach, Chris Reilly, recognized Theo Villaneuva as the Blacksburg High School Diving Individual State Champion.

Presenting acknowledgment for Christiansburg High School, Principal Gene Jones recognized the CHS 2022-23 Class 3, Indoor Track and Field Girls Individual Pole-Vaulting Championship, Madelyn Moles and CHS Wrestling Individual State Championship in the 120-pound weight class, Brady Hand.

# News Messenger

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(540) 389-9355  
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USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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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# Remembrance from page 1

on April 16, 2007, will be read. Members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will stand in watch for the 24 hours that the candle is lit.

At 9:43 a.m., a brief wreath-laying ceremony and moment of silence will be held at the April 16 Memorial. Student members of the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad will carry wreaths to the memorial, which will then be placed by Virginia Tech President Tim Sands

and Laura Sands and Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke.

At 11:59 p.m., the ceremonial candle will be extinguished, and the light will be carried back into Burruss Hall, representing the university’s commitment to never forget.

Several other university events, including Black Alumni Reunion, Spring Family Weekend, and the Spring Game with a kickoff at 3

p.m. Saturday will be held over the April 15-16 weekend. Parking and transportation information is posted online to help those attending any event that weekend. Please visit that website for the latest information on parking, road closures, and related information.

For more information, visit the We Remember website.

Mark Owczarski for Virginia Tech

# Give your loved one a place of honor

PERMANENT MEMORIAL OPTIONS IN OUR CEMETERY



## Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley

2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060 • (540) 552-7800  
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C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
R	14				15				16					
O	17				18				19					
S	20				21				22					
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O	33						34				35			
R	36				37	38			39	40				
D	41			42							43			
W	44			45					46	47				
O				48					49					
R		50	51					52	53			54	55	56
D	57							58				59		
E	60							61				62		
	63							64				65		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. 1965 PGA Champion David
  - 5. Pesetas (abbr.)
  - 9. So. Am. treeless grassland
  - 14. A fencing sword
  - 15. Do over, as of a house
  - 16. Confederate general. Richard S.
  - 17. Seamen
  - 18. Honey bee genus
  - 19. City in central Poland on the Mleczna
  - 20. E. M. Forster novel
  - 23. Jenny \_\_, Swedish soprano
  - 24. Illumined
  - 25. Escargots
  - 28. Surgical clamp
  - 33. Maize
  - 34. Ngerlud is the Republic's capital
  - 35. \_\_ Jima, WW II battlefield
  - 36. Master copies
  - 39. Jack of little fat
  - 41. Apple or lemon meringue
  - 42. Actress Zellwegger
  - 43. At this place
  - 44. Remunerations
  - 46. Removes writing
  - 48. Fit out a ship with sails, etc.
  - 49. Elinor \_\_, British novelist
  - 50. M. Ali's famous boast
  - 57. Myanmar is the capital
  - 58. Worldly rather than spiritual
  - 59. Winglike structures
  - 60. Indicating silence
  - 61. Myanmar monetary unit
  - 62. 100 = 1 tala
  - 63. Translucent, greenish variety of chalcedony
  - 64. Impudence
  - 65. Netherlands river
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Denotes change of position
  - 2. So. Am. armadillo with 3 bands of bony plates
  - 3. About aviation
  - 4. Repairing worn shoes
  - 5. Decapods
  - 6. Having moderate heat etc.
  - 7. Almost horizontal entrance to a mine
  - 8. Somalian shilling (abbr.)
  - 9. Penetrable
  - 10. To be in store for
  - 11. People of ancient Media
  - 12. A way to work the soil
  - 13. Air-launched missile
  - 21. 1/1000 of an inch
  - 22. \_\_ Mater, one's school
  - 25. Old English poet or bard
  - 26. Persian wheel used to raise water
  - 27. Spirit in "The Tempest"
  - 28. Drag, cart or haul
  - 29. If not; otherwise
  - 30. Coverings for wheels
  - 31. Having cognizance
  - 32. Lugs
  - 34. Sheet of glass in a window
  - 37. Cause annoyance in
  - 38. Sound of a horse
  - 40. Apparition
  - 45. Military land forces
  - 46. Selects by votes
  - 47. A shag rug made in Sweden
  - 49. Anchovy pear tree
  - 50. 8th Jewish calendar month
  - 51. Blood clams genus
  - 52. Benevolent & Protective Order of
  - 53. Birthplace of Buddhism Both
  - 54. Ancient Greek City aka Velia
  - 55. Capital of Yemen
  - 56. Golf ball pegs
  - 57. Engine additive

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# News Messenger

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# OBITUARIES

## Caldwell, Cathy Lyn

Cathy Lyn Caldwell, 61, of Longshop, died Monday, April 3, 2023. She was born in Christiansburg on May 16, 1961. She is survived by her parents, Saford S. and Elsie R. Caldwell; sisters and brother-in-law, Patty and Clayton Allen, and Vicky Caldwell; brother and sister-in-law,



Curtis and Catherine Caldwell; two nieces; one nephew; and four great-nephews. A memorial service was held Thursday, April 6, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with John Croft officiating. The family received friends prior to the service.

## Martin, Marcy Lynette

Marcy Lynette Martin, 52, of Radford, died Saturday, April 1, 2023, at her home. She was born in Ohio on Sept. 23, 1970. She was preceded in death by her father, Gary Wayne Merryman. She loved her Lord and Savior, family, friends, and Elvis. She is survived by her husband, Timothy Martin; mother, Kay Merryman; daughters and son-in-law,

Kalynn McGuire, Emily McGuire and Troy Albert; granddaughter, Kendra Meredith; sister and brother-in-law, Jamye and Bobby Jones; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Gloria and Dennis Mullins; nieces and nephews; special friends, Cindy Brower and Steven B.B. A visitation was held Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Clower, Vera Ilene Vest

Vera Ilene Vest Clower, 97, of Christiansburg, died, Monday, April 3, 2023, at Richfield Health Center. Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Mike



Vest officiating. Interment will follow at Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. prior to the service at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W., Blacksburg.

## Spence, Mary Rae McCoy

Mary Rae McCoy Spence, of McCoy, Pam Spence Matney and husband, Tony, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family April 2, 2023. She was born to the late Hobart and Mary Jane Price McCoy Aug. 13, 1933 in Blacksburg. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 60 years, Rufus Spence. She was also preceded in death by brothers, Duane and Alvin McCoy. She is survived by her two daughters,



Trish Spence Handley and husband, Rob, of Granite Falls, N.C. She is also survived by five granddaughters and one grandson - LeAnn Smith (Harvey), Brandi Horne (Joe), Kelly Shaver (Leroy), Jenna Godbey, John Godbey and Kaitlyn Peters, and nine great grandchildren. See Obituaries, page 6

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook  
**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.  
**St. Thomas Anglican Church** - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fberadford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.  
**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.  
**Faith Christian Church of Christ**, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

### CHURCH OF GOD

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.  
**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### ECKANKAR

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

### EPISCOPAL

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

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### SICK WITH SIN

Read Psalms 37:1 through 38:22

Every one of the world's billions of people will face injury and illness in life. No one can escape pain and suffering. When we hurt, we usually seek help. We bandage wounds, take medication, visit a physician—all in an effort to gain healing.

Why aren't we as eager to cure sin? Why don't we deal with it as we do other ailments? God provided a solution for sin: repent, confess, and forsake the sin. Yet we often ignore it or let it go until it looms full-blown and potentially life-threatening (Psalm 38:5,6).

I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin (Psalm 38:18).

The best time to address sin is when we first experience sin symptoms. It's best to remove a splinter before it gets infected, even though it may cause momentary discomfort. In the same way we should dig out any scrap of embedded sin before it leads to something worse.

Jesus is our Great Physician and the Bible our spiritual medicine chest. Our Divine Doctor prescribes daily doses as preventative treatment against sin.

Thought for Today: What remedy do you find today in God's Word?

Quicklook: Psalm 38:8-18

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

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

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.  
**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.  
**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which

has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@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. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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

one at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram  
**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. 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: christwesleyanchurch.org



# Obituaries from page 5

Mary is also survived by special friends, Blake McCoy, who she called her angel, and Lisa Langdale, who enjoyed visiting her, and her brother and sister-in-law, John and Frances McCoy.

Mary Rae was loved by all who met her. She served in the Tazewell County School System for 30 years and served many churches where Rufus was interim pastor. Even her final caregivers loved taking care of her. One of her favorite things was to play Rook with her family,

and she would stay up all night doing so. She also enjoyed going on trips with Rufus, John and Frances.

Her family would like to thank Catawba Valley Medical Center nurses, CNAs, therapists and especially Dr Le who took excellent care of her.

Visitation was held at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg, on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, and the funeral followed, with interment at McCoy Family Cemetery in McCoy, Va.

## Stong, Dr. Todd Darrah

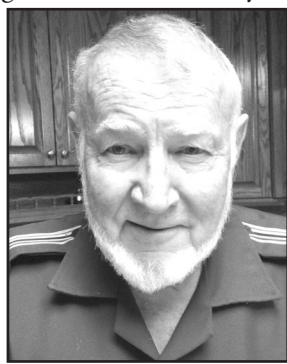
Dr. Todd Darrah Stong, 83, of Philadelphia, Pa., died peacefully with his family by his side on Friday evening, March 31, 2023.

He was predeceased by his father, Harold Philip Stong, and mother, Julia Battis McCullen, as well as his brothers Blaine Stong, Philip Stong, and Harold Stong.

Todd is survived by his wife, Ann Vivian (Jacobsen) Stong; daughter, Melanie Davis (Glenn); and six sons, Gayvin Stong (Susan), Nathan Stong (Luanne), Ian Stong (Samira), Tim Stong (Susan), Matthew Stong (Lan Chih) and Todd (Jared) Stong (Sara); and his four sisters, Carol Huey, Sherry Davis, Holly Bradford, and Meg Mehl. In addition, he is survived by 19 grandsons, five granddaughters, and 48 great-grandchildren.

Todd was born on Dec. 14, 1939 and was the first of eight children. At four years old, his family moved to a home with no electricity or telephone, outside of Downingtown, Pa. After working to fix the home, his Dad was called to serve in the war, leaving Jule to manage the family. Todd had many adventures growing up, including a pyrotechnic episode that set him back a grade in school. He spoke of the family cow, Tiny, that was prone to leave the fenced pasture to eat green corn and get drunk. Attaining the honor of valedictorian of his high school class was the beginning of his many honors and awards.

Todd attended college at West Point Military Academy (top 10% of his class), Purdue University, and received his Doctorate of Engineering from the



University of New Mexico. Todd served in the military for 27 years before retiring as a Colonel in the Army Corp of Engineers. He graduated from Airborne and Army Ranger training, and received 12 military awards, including three Bronze stars and two Legion of Merit awards. Todd then worked four more years at a private company, before doing humanitarian work for 30 years around the globe in Africa, Asia and most recently Mexico. His projects included bridge building, water treatment, sewer treatment, fish production, agriculture, childhood liver disease research, and various research projects. He was always looking for projects that could provide jobs for others.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Todd served in many positions throughout the world, including, as a bishop. He loved genealogy and helped many to find their ancestors as well. Todd has helped many people throughout the world through his caring and concern. He was always willing to share his love of Jesus Christ and provide counsel and advice to others.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 900 Pendleton Street, Radford. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 10 until 11:30 a.m.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Sassafras Bluegrass Band will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event on Sat., April 8, 2023.

## NRCC Concert Series to hold free concert on April 8

The music of Sassafras Bluegrass Band will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event on Sat., April 8, 2023.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

Sassafras Bluegrass Band is based in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. The group is a bluegrass band who pays homage to the Bill Monroe and the Flatt & Scruggs era but also enjoys pushing the edge of progressive Newgrass music as well. Their repertoire also includes a range of musical styles including old time, country, folk, western swing and originals. Sassafras Bluegrass Band members have performed at a long list of festivals and venues including Merlefest, Walnut Valley Festival, Riverhawk Music Festival, Songs of the Mountain, King Pup Syndicated Radio, Red White and Bluegrass Festival, Albino Skunk Festival, Plum Hollow Festival, Chomp & Stomp Festival, Mean Fiddler, Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival, Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival, High Mountain Bluegrass Festival, Pickin' on the Plains, Rogersville Bluegrass Festival, Outer Banks Bluegrass Festival, Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival, and many others. Collectively, they have shared the stage or studio with Doc Watson, Jack Lawrence, Charlie Waller, Josh Graves, John Cowan, Jim Lauderdale, Ronnie Bowman, Tony Rice, Russell Moore, Jim Buchanan, Allison Krauss, Tim

O'Brien, Mark O'Connor, Laurie Lewis, Tony Furtado and many others. The group includes Wes Tuttle on mandolin, fiddle and vocals; Gray Tuttle on banjo and vocals; Josh Scott on bass and vocals; and Randy Gambill on guitar and vocals.

Corporate sponsors of the music events include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc., Radford; CCCKY, LLC - Fazoli's, Dublin; Deanie Hall - State Farm Agent, Dublin; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; King Tire Service, Pulaski; Lee's Body Shop, Pearisburg; Martin's Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgometry & Pulaski Counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset the travel expenses for the musicians. The music events are typically held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.

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

Submitted by NRCC

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Abigail Caldwell named to the Champlain College Dean's List

BURLINGTON, VT - Abigail Caldwell, of Radford, has been

named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester.

Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester.

Making the Dean's List is a tremendous achievement in any year. Many of the high achievers balance their classes with serious jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering, as well as a global pandemic.

Sage Boyer serves others during Alternative Spring Break

HARRISONBURG - Blacksburg resident Sage Boyer spent spring break serving others through James Madison University's Alternative Spring Break Program. Boyer traveled to Lake Lure, N.C. to volunteer with Carolina Climbing Coalition.

The student-led Alternative Spring Break trips took place from March 11-18. Each trip focused on a social issue, such as homelessness, environmentalism or community wellness, in a specific region. The 90 participants embarked on 11 spring break trips around the country. The students spent the week living simply, focused on service in their destination community but also on teamwork and reflection within their group.

Sumin Lee receives degree from Georgia Tech

ATLANTA - Sumin Lee, of Blacksburg, has earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Lee was among approximately 5,620 undergraduate and

See Achievements, page 7

www.montcova.com

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Town of Christiansburg proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 23.55% percent.

2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.130803 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."

3. Effective Rate Increase: The Town of Christiansburg proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$ 0.14 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$ 0.009197 per \$100, or 7% percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase."

Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total operating budget of Town of Christiansburg will exceed last year's by 8.8 percent.

A public hearing on the increase will be held on May 9, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall in Council Chambers at 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA

## HUGE SALE!

**APRIL 15, 2023**

**STARTS AT 10:00 A.M.**

Bins available for auction are subject to change due to customer payment prior to sale.

**PACK IT IN II**

3822 BOB WHITE BLVD  
NEWBERN ROAD  
PULASKI, VIRGINIA  
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502 EAST MAIN STREET  
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PHONE: (540) 639-9075

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NOTICE: ALL WILL BE AUCTIONED AND SOLD BY BIN ONLY, ACCORDING TO CODE SEC. 8.7-210 (PROPERTY BEING SOLD TO COVER DELINQUENT STORAGE PAYMENTS.)



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Hokie seeking to become big hitter in different sport

After a decade spent legally hitting humans with as much viciousness as possible, James Anderson has transitioned to hitting a certain object with just as much ferocity.

Anderson '05, a former Virginia Tech linebacker who spent 10 seasons in the NFL with four teams, has traded in his cleats for golf spikes, his helmet and shoulder pads for a driver, and the violent world of football for the sophisticated world of golf.

A little more than a year ago, Anderson, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in studio art and a master's degree in education, embarked on a career as a long drive competitor. To those unfamiliar with golf and with long drive competitions, the rules are simple: use a United States Golf Association-approved driver, swing as hard as possible, and try to hit a golf ball as far as possible while – and here's the difficult part – also landing it within a grid roughly 45 to 60 yards wide.

"When I was playing in the NFL, I didn't realize I was retired yet," Anderson said. "That usually happens to most guys, so I spent a year, maybe a year and a half, still training and working out [in Los Angeles], trying to figure out what was going on.

"I ended up moving to Fort Lauderdale initially and then down to Miami, and I end up playing golf here with Wes Patterson [a professional long drive competitor]. He currently is still one of the top 15 to 20 guys in the world of long drive. I hit a few balls, and he's like, 'Hey, bro, you know you drive the ball pretty well. You've got a good name, clean background, you played in the NFL. There aren't any guys on the long drive tour that have your story. Why don't you give it a shot? You can probably be competitive. You're an athlete. You can figure it out.' So that started my long drive journey."

With his wife's blessing, Anderson, who lives in Miami with his wife and two young daughters, began preparing for a career. He started in the weight room, saying that he spent six or seven months working on his body. Tight hips and shoulders from years of football training and several injuries over the years originally hindered him from making a full turn golf swing.

Once he got his body in condition, the Chesapeake, Virginia, native started working with Trevor Salzman, a noted swing instructor in Aventura, Florida, on his swing. He spent hours hitting balls during each practice session.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

**James Anderson first played football for the Hokies and later played a decade in the NFL. Now he is continuing his athletic pursuits in the world of golf as a long drive competitor.**

"Golf is one of those things where you need repetition," Anderson said. "You've got to condition your body to do it."

Anderson participated as an amateur in several Professional Long Drive Association events this past summer, and he finished in the top four in two of them. He said his longest drive was 390 yards.

Originally, Anderson wanted to win, but he quickly realized that his rookie season would be one of learning. He hopes the lessons learned translate into future success.

"When you look at long drive, it highlights this thing about golf and kind of amps it up and almost puts it on steroids," he said. "It's a driver swing, but it's to the extreme. You're trying to get back from a rotation. ... Like you take everything that's athletic about a golf swing, and you're really trying to max it out. I enjoy that intensity."

"The thing about golf is it's just you. The competition's against yourself. I like the fact that you can get in your own

See **Anderson**, page 8



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF PULASKI RIVER TURTLES

## River Turtles launch new initiative

The Pulaski River Turtles have partnered with Foresight Design Services to introduce a new community service initiative benefiting the Town of Pulaski.

Comprised of Pulaski River Turtles players, team members and front office staff, the "Pitch-In Program" will debut in June with the initial mission of roadside beautification on streets throughout the Town of Pulaski during the 2023 Appalachian League season.

The program is aimed at fostering a stronger community through service that builds character within while building relationships with others. The team's goal will be a total of 150 hours of community service by season's end.

"Community service has long been an integral part of what the Appalachian League is all about. This season we're taking our community service efforts to the next level with the creation

of this new program, and we're thankful that Foresight Design Services has embraced the idea and signed on to partner with us on the program," says Pulaski River Turtles General Manager JW Martin. "We know this will not only be impactful for the town, but it will have a positive impact on our athletes as well."

In addition to the team's efforts, fans of the Pulaski River Turtles can participate in the "Pitch-In Program" by volunteering at local nonprofits. Beginning in April, fans that complete two hours of community service will be eligible to receive a free Pitch-In shirt and two General Admission Flex tickets to any Appalachian League home game at Calfee Park in 2023. Participants will be required to show a work receipt from the nonprofit or community service organizer in order to obtain the giveaways. Fans interested in learning more about the "Pitch-In Program" are encouraged

to call the Calfee Park Main Office at 540-980-1070.

Foresight Design Services is a Civil Engineering and Surveying land development design firm in Christiansburg, Va. Foresight Design Services works with clients in both the public and private sectors to design land development projects that will impact communities in the New River Valley in a positive way.

Calfee Park opened in 1935 and was renovated for the organization's first season under the ownership of the Shelor Motor Mile in 2015. The organization is celebrating its 57th season in the Appalachian League in 2023. Pulaski teams have a combined all-time record of 252-207 (248-199 regular season) in the Appalachian League, and boast five league championships: 1948, 1969, 1986, 1991 and 2013.

Submitted by the Pulaski River Turtles

## Hokie Club drive exceeds 25,000 donors for second year

BLACKSBURG - Virginia Tech Athletics and the Hokie Club are pleased to announce the fundraising drive year came to a successful close on March 1, 2023, and Hokie Club membership exceeded 25,000 for the second consecutive year, once again putting Virginia Tech athletics amongst the ACC programs with the largest donor bases.

The Hokie Scholarship Fund accumulated over \$17 million in annual fundraising for the second straight year. Sport-specific fundraising exceeded \$2 million for the needs of the university's 22 varsity sports. The Reach for Excellence campaign progressing well past its halfway mark of \$200 million since its inception in 2020.

"Our donors once again displayed

their passion in ensuring the best possible future for our student-athletes in Blacksburg," Director of Athletics Whit Babcock said. "This was another impressive showing for our department, but an even more impressive effort from the greatest fans in collegiate athletics."

"The idea of reaching 25,000 donors was almost unthinkable in 2016, and we just reached that mark for the second year in a row," Babcock said. "We have a bright future ahead of us in Blacksburg. Our fans have bought into the idea that we are stronger together than we are apart. We can all drive in the same direction and 'Reach for Excellence' together."

Virginia Tech Athletics

## Dehart racquetball tourney winners announced



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD PARKS AND RECREATION

The Radford Department of Parks and Recreation recently held the Dave Dehart Racquetball Tournament. Pictured are: (from left) Dave Deisel and Lew Davis, second place, and Houston Teethers and Sean Gayner, first place.

## Achievements from page 6

graduate students to be presented Georgia Tech degrees during the Institute's 263rd Commencement exercises Dec. 16 - 17, 2022, at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

**John Taft named to Baylor University Dean's List**

John Taft, of Christiansburg, was named to the Baylor University Dean's List for the Fall semester in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students honored on the Dean's List earned a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.70 with no grade lower than a

"C" while enrolled in at least 12 graded semester hours. Baylor University is a private Christian university located in Waco, Texas.

**The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi inducts new members**

The following Radford University students were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

James Arpee of Radford, Austin Kinder, Serenity Mitchell, Katherine Owens, Hadrian Reeves, Abigail

Ridpath, Jayla Robinson, Kallum Rouse, and Barbara Valentine. They are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.

**Owen Embree named to Fall 2022 Dean's List**

IRVING, Texas - Owen Embree of Blacksburg, was one of more than 450 University of Dallas

undergraduate students named to the fall 2022 Dean's List for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. Embree is a Junior majoring in Mathematics.

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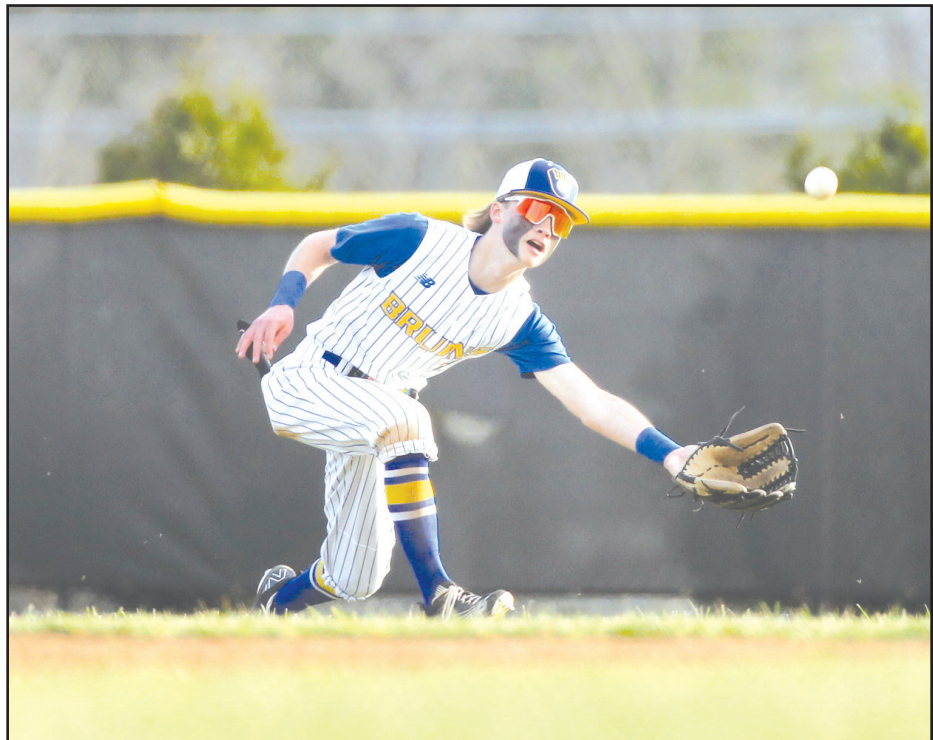
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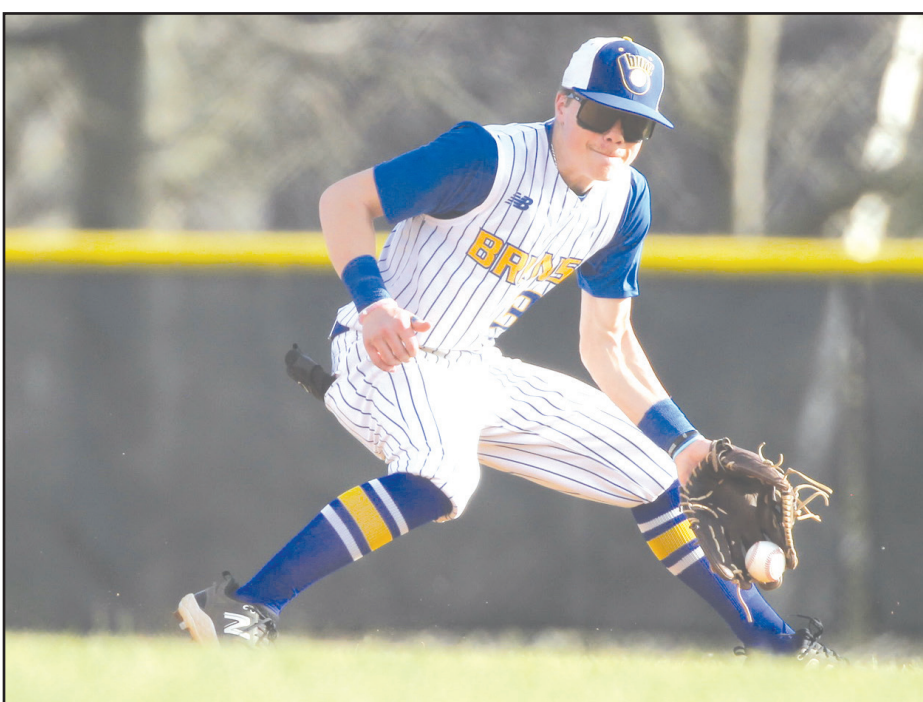
# Blacksburg falls to Lord Botetourt



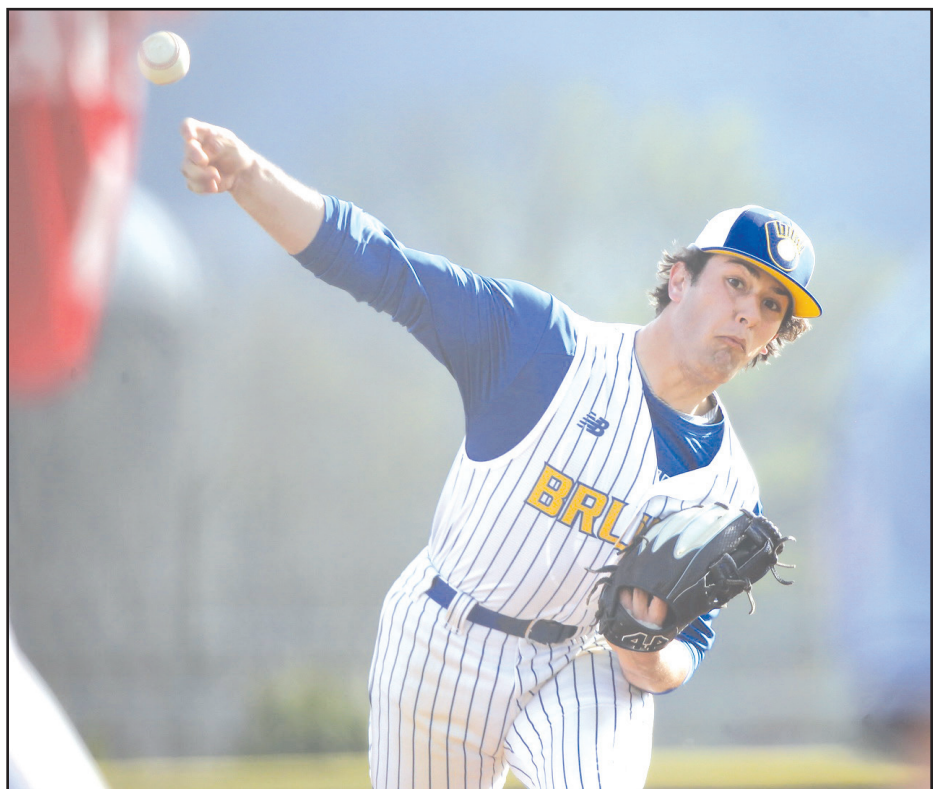
Blacksburg's Brice Abbott hits a double in the first inning and would eventually score for the Bruins against Lord Botetourt. With the game tied 2-2 headed into the seventh inning, Lord Botetourt would score six runs to come away with an 8-2 win at Blacksburg.



Blacksburg centerfielder Reese Tysor races in to catch a pop fly against Lord Botetourt.



Blacksburg shortstop J.M. Szeffc tracks down a ground ball against Lord Botetourt.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Alex Rudolph pitches against Lord Botetourt during a Tuesday evening game. The right-hander went six and a third innings, allowing seven runs on 10 hits and striking and out five.



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## Anderson from page 7

head and be competitive with yourself to figure out who you are on the course because the game of golf will show you who you are."

Anderson, though, is more than just a golfer these days. He also serves as the vice president of a creative agency, putting his degree in studio art from Virginia Tech to good use, and he's working with a tech start-up attempting to create artificial intelligence software for use by schools, churches, and businesses to identify weapons on people. As a girl dad, he jumped at the opportunity to get involved in this project.

In addition, Anderson is pursuing another

passion. Shortly after moving to South Florida, Anderson enrolled at the University of Miami, and in 2020, he earned an MBA.

While doing so, Anderson became involved with a research project that served as his final thesis. The project called for developing a research institute and educational curriculum for children and their fathers. The name of the program is The Intentional Dad.

"If you look at resources that are made available, there are a lot of things for moms, help books and seminars and all this kind of stuff," Anderson said. "On the father's side,

there are two issues. There aren't as many resources made available, and a lot of fathers aren't present for whatever scenario. Then, a lot of times how men are raised from an emotional standpoint — the whole mantra of men don't cry, you got to be tough, you got to do all these kinds of things.

"Sometimes that doesn't allow us to be emotionally available for our children. We haven't historically done a good job at conflict resolution. ... From that standpoint, offering men resources to help them deal with those things as well as conflict, I think is key, and it's missing."

So many varying interests keep Anderson's schedule full, but despite the demands, he remains committed to becoming a success in his ventures, including on the long drive tour. The competitions, held throughout the United States, start later this spring. Being retired from football does not mean being retired as an athlete for him, and those competitive urges leave him anxiously awaiting.

"I wanted to give myself a chance to be competitive," Anderson said. "If I didn't give myself an honest chance to be competitive, then did I really do it? ... If I'm going to invest this kind of money and invest in this kind of time, then I better be committed to win and try to really be competitive, or at this point, there's no point in really doing it."

*Jimmy Robertson, Virginia Tech Athletics*

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