

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, April 22, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMORY & HENRY

Top (left to right): Dr. Lisa Earp, daughter of Jim Earp; Jim Earp, son of James E. "Buddy" Earp '51; and E&H student from Christiansburg High School Brandon McGuire '26; Bottom (left to right) E&H President John W. Wells and Evans L. King, Jr., son of Evans L. King '34.

Emory & Henry College celebrates \$50,000 scholarship to support Christiansburg student access

The King-Earp-Ross Memorial Endowed Scholarship dedicated to a legacy of three alumni educators

A signing ceremony was recently held to acknowledge the King-Earp-Ross Memorial Endowed Scholarship, established in December 2022, by the initial donor, Evans L. King, Jr., to

recognize and acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments and life of his father, Evans L. King '34, as well as those of James E. "Buddy" Earp '51 and Omar G. Ross '54.

The endowed scholarship was established with an initial gift of \$50,000 by the King family. The scholarship will help support students from Christiansburg High School (CHS) to attend

Emory & Henry College.

"The King-Earp-Ross Memorial Endowed Scholarship recognizes and honors the memories of these

See **Scholarship**, page 4

Board of Supervisors holds special meeting for citizen comment on proposed taxes, budget

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Montgomery County Board of Supervisors held a special meeting Thursday, April 13 to discuss budget items and hear public comment related to the county's advertised real estate tax rate and the proposed advertised budget for fiscal year 2023-24.

Chair Sherri Blevins opened the county's Board of Supervisors' meeting with an explanation of the current real property tax levy, which is \$0.70 per \$100 assessed property value. A proposed increase of \$0.03 would bring county real property taxes to \$0.73 per \$100 assessed value. Personal property remains at \$2.55 per \$100 of assessed value and mobile homes will increase to the proposed \$0.73 per \$100 assessed value. Additional tax levies were also listed as part of the board's agenda, and can be found on the county's website. One correction to the agenda's proposed tax rates was made at the start of the budget meeting.

"The mobile homes rate is tied to your real estate rate so the revenue neutral rate for that would still be 70, so it's a \$0.03 increase on mobile homes as well as a regular real estate", Marc Magruder, Director of Budget and Management clarified.

Public comment was opened at the meeting, with two citizens speaking to the board. Frustrations were shared that rising costs of living such as fuel prices coupled with monies allocated for the local Christiansburg High School were just some of the reasons that taxation in the county is a growing problem.

One citizen also discussed the recent decision of the Montgomery County School Board to approve collective bargaining for teachers, which he claimed brought on the need for additional attorneys' fees.

See **Hearing**, page 2

Virginia Attorney General attends Montgomery County Drug Court graduation

Mike Wade
New River Valley Community Services

Friday afternoon marked the seventh graduation for the Montgomery County Adult Drug Treatment Court Program. It was standing room only as a total of six participants were recognized during a ceremony held at the county's courthouse in

Christiansburg.

The graduates honored were Ed Sigmon, Melissa Sutphin, Ian Akers, Eva Harris, Edward Sparks and Shane Rupe.

Among the dignitaries present for the ceremony were Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, Assistant Secretary of Public Safety

See **Graduation**, page 4



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BALLPARK SIGNS

Redbud Festival celebrates 'local roots and planting new seeds'

Heather Bell
hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The inaugural Redbud Festival will be held this Saturday, April 22 at Nesselrod on the New, celebrating Earth Day with a big line-up of live music, favorite food trucks, art, plants and, of course, the Redbud tree.

Nursery Natives is holding the event, and co-organizers Jesse Kelly and Katie Mae McFall say the festival will offer

a great chance to have fun – and maybe learn a little about native plants in the process.

"The Redbud Festival celebrates local roots and plants new seeds around the blossoming community," said Kelly.

"The impetus behind the festival really boils down to creating an opportunity to showcase what makes our

communities especially unique; the people, plants and other life around us," said McFall. "The Redbud is a touchstone that opens the door to that conversation and soon, celebration, where we can come together and indulge in everything local. We're talking art, music, food, and at the heart of it, plants. Coincidentally, the Redbud has a heart-

See **Redbud**, page 3

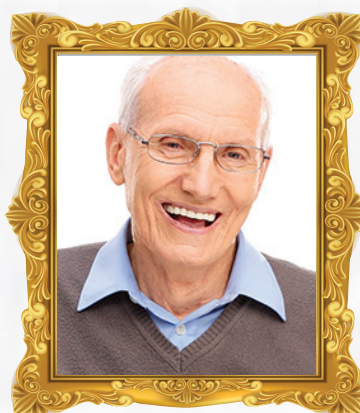


PHOTO BY MIKE WADE

Graduates of the Montgomery County Adult Drug Treatment Court Program, who were recognized Friday, April 14, 2023 during a ceremony held in Christiansburg. The graduates are (front row, from left) Ed Sigmon, Melissa Sutphin, Ian Akers, Eva Harris, Edward Sparks and Shane Rupe. Pictured with the graduates are (back row, from left) Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares and The Honorable Robert M.D. Turk, Presiding Judge.

Grandpa's Coming Off the Shelf....

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 22:

New Mount Olive fish fry

The United Methodist Men of New Mount Olive are sponsoring a fish fry, 11 a.m. – 4 pm at New Mount Olive United Methodist Church, 309 Russell Ave., in Radford. Dinners are \$12 and include two pieces of fried fish, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls and dessert. Fish sandwiches are \$6 and an extra piece of fish is \$3.50. For call-in orders, call the church at 540-639-6425. Delivery is available only in Radford.

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. 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.

Family Movie Matinee: Lightyear

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The same studio that brought you Toy Story brings you “Lightyear”. See the origin story of Buzz Lightyear alongside his robot companion Sox. Rated PG; 101 minutes.

Hahn Horticulture Garden Plant Sale:

At the Hahn Horticulture Garden, 200 Garden Lane, on the campus of Virginia Tech; Thurs., April 20 and Fri., April 21: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sat., April 22 8 a.m. - noon (or when they sell out.) This event benefits both the Garden and the Horticulture Club, so please come out and support and purchase some interesting plants for your yard. There will be a preview on Wed. April 19 at noon where we will highlight some of the plants that will be for sale. Please note that no plants will be sold or put on hold on Wednesday.

Monday, April 24:

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.

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 25:

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.

Lunch and Learn: Decompress from Stress

At the Radford Public Library; noon – 1 p.m. Join us for a presentation about how to manage stress with licensed

Humana agent Lauren Hand. This event is free and open to the community. To reserve your seat and lunch, email Elizabeth.Sensabaugh@radfordva.gov.

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.

Thursday, May 4:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post #30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6:

Book Sale

There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Along with the usual subjects, there will be many, many children's books, cookbooks and jigsaw puzzles. Come to the sale and help support the Radford Public Library.

Thursday, May 18:

Sons of Confederate Veterans

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 are also invited to this meeting. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864

On-going:

Glencoe Mansion announces call for art for Mary Draper Ingles Show

Glencoe Mansion is calling for art for its July-August 2023 Gallery Exhibit, “A Journey For All,” a multi-artist show themed on the life and times of Mary Draper Ingles. Accepted artwork should reflect the life and times of Mary Draper Ingles, expressions of life during the colonial period, and histories of all the peoples, from settlers to indigenous cultures to enslaved people, who called the frontier home. This includes, but is not limited to, depictions of local landmarks (for example, Ingles Farm, the Cultural and Heritage Park, Ingles Tavern and other connected sites in the region), and Colonial style art. All fine arts and fine craft media including painting, plein air, illustration, digital media, textiles, mixed media and photography will be considered. Artists may submit up to three (3) artworks for consideration. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. on June 13. Participation, which is subject to acceptance, is open to artists in and around the NRV area. Entry forms for “A Journey For All” can be found at www.glencoemansion.org or by contacting arts@glencoemansion.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF RADFORD

Members of the Woman's Club of Radford gather with Laura Beth Weaver, Executive Director of the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, to celebrate free books for children served through the Women's Resource Center.

Woman's Club of Radford expands literacy program to Women's Resource Center

RADFORD - The Woman's Club of Radford has expanded its literacy program to children served through the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley.

The Woman's Club met April 11 at the Radford Public Library. Laura Beth Weaver, Executive Director of the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley spoke about the non-profit organization's programs and services to victims of sexual and domestic abuse.

Since the Resource Center was formed in the mid-seventies it has had more than one million hours of advocacy serving women, men, and children. The Center's Immediate Crisis services

include a 24-Hour Crisis Hotline, Emergency Advocacy and Emergency Shelter. Counseling Services, Legal Advocacy, and a Transitional Housing

Program are some of the sexual assault and domestic violence programs. Children are often served in emergency shelter, which is how the Woman's Club of Radford can help Center clients.

The Woman's Club's mission is promoting children's literacy with the Reading is Fundamental program at McHarg, Snowville, and Riverlawn Elementary Schools and the Babies into Books program at Carillion New River Medical Center. The literacy program has expanded to the Women's Resource Center with free books provided for the children from infants through middle school. The children will be able to keep the book they choose.

Submitted by the Woman's Club of Radford

Montgomery Museum's Arts NRV Market set for April 28 and 29

The 2023 Arts NRV Market is back for its second year and will take place at the museum's new location in downtown Christiansburg.

The event is April 28 noon- 6:30 p.m. and April 29 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History and will feature an exciting lineup of local crafters, painters, demonstrations, food trucks, and a wine garden.

The Arts NRV Market is a celebration of creativity and community art, showcasing some of the most talented artists and crafters from the New River Valley and Roanoke Valley region. In addition to live demonstrations from en plein air painters, stone carvers, stained glass with Niki Pynn, and Fire and Sky Pottery Studio and Art Center pottery demonstrations, the Arts NRV Market will feature a wide range of handmade crafts, jewelry, pottery, and more.

This free community event will also feature food trucks including Aloha Eddie, Sam's Hot Dog Stand Blacksburg, and Cabo Fish Taco. Aloha Eddie will be vending on Friday, April 28, from 12:00 PM – 6:30 PM. Cabo Fish Taco and Sam's Hot Dogs will

join Aloha Eddie on Saturday, April 29, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Sip on wine from Vintage Cellar, take in the sights and sounds of the market, and enjoy the company of fellow art enthusiasts.

Join the museum after the market on Friday, April 28, for a Paint Night led by artists Ruth Lefko and David Ferrell. The cost is \$35, including canvas, materials, and one glass of wine. This event is for 21+, and please note this event is being held in the Museum's Community Room downstairs, which is currently not handicapped-accessible. The class will take place from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and tickets are available for purchase at <https://bit.ly/3Su8ory>.

This community event is generously sponsored by Fully-Engaged, Shelter Alternatives, Inc., Ruth Lefko Art, David Ferrell Art & Photography, Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA), and Vintage Cellar. Admission to the event is free, and all are welcome to attend. For more information on the Arts NRV Market, visit www.artsnrv.org.

Submitted by Montgomery Museum of Art and History

Hearing from page 1

“How much money have you spent on attorneys? That's our tax dollars... to bring a union into our school system,” said Bob Beard. “Tax rate should be at 70-cents and not a cent higher.”

The second public

hearing during the special budget meeting focused on the proposed FY 2023-24 budget of \$239,883,893. This budget proposal is an “increase of \$19.1 million (8.7%) over the current fiscal year” according

to a letter addressed to the Board of Supervisors dated February 27, 2023, from F. Craig Meadows, County Administrator. There were no citizen comments shared with the board on this agenda item.

MCPS awarded state CTE equipment grant

RICHMOND—Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons has announced the awarding of \$600,000 in competitive grants to 16 school divisions to upgrade equipment for career and technical education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs in schools and technical centers.

Each division will receive \$37,500 to purchase new equipment and make other improvements to enhance student learning, including Montgomery County Public Schools.

"First, I want to thank the members of the General Assembly for recognizing the importance of quality CTE programs and for their sustained support of these annual grants to school divisions," Coons said. "These grants continue to allow our school divisions to develop robust and innovative CTE programs that are up to date technologically and help prepare students for the realities and expectations of today's workforce."

Montgomery County's grant is to purchase virtual reality and mixed reality hardware and software technology for the Governor's STEM Academy's Implementing Design/Build Training through Virtual Reality program.

The General Assembly established the CTE equipment grant program in 2016, and the Virginia Department of Education awarded the first grants to schools and technical centers in 2017. Since then, the program has provided \$4.2 million to help school divisions update equipment and enhance learning and experiences for career and technical education students.

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Education

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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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Graduation from page 1

and Homeland Security Sonny Daniels, and Jake Petzold, Special Assistant to the Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin.

The Honorable Robert M.D. Turk, Presiding Judge of Montgomery County's Drug Court program since its inception in 2017, noted that the program currently has 39 participants and now has 25 graduates with the completion of Friday's ceremony. Turk went on to say the program has saved county taxpayers an estimated \$233,805 in jail costs and related expenses over the past six years.

"We're very proud of each and every one of you [graduates] - and we're especially proud of the six today," added Turk. "We're proud of everybody that's in the program. We think the program is a big success."

Miyares, a special guest at the ceremony, applauded the graduates for their willingness to

accept help, as well as their commitment to the program.

"We have a misnomer in our society of what bravery looks like, what heroes look like," Miyares said. "You're here today because you've done something incredibly brave. You've taken that first step on a journey and now you've taken many steps."

"...Asking for help is not a sign of weakness - it's one of the strongest, bravest things you can ever do," continued Miyares. "The weak thing is refusing to take that first step. Each one of you have shown incredible courage by taking that first step."

Leroy Robinson, a graduate of the Pulaski County Drug Court program and current supervisor of the 401 Peer Center - a program operated by New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) - reminded graduates of the challenges they will likely encounter along their journeys of continued recovery.

"Don't take the setbacks as minute," explained Robinson, who noted that he lost his brother to addiction in 2020. "...Instead of saying 'setbacks' or 'stumbles,' we say we make 'death decisions' whenever we relapse or we go back into that life."

"Don't hesitate to reach out - if you struggle, don't hesitate to pick the phone up," added Robinson. Be "grateful for these moments... but don't fall victim to that disease. It's tricked us before and it will continue to chip away at our sanity if we don't sustain our recovery."

Lori Trail, Drug Treatment Court Coordinator for NRVCS, pointed out that this was the first time the Montgomery County program had recognized six graduates in the same ceremony.

"A lot of people think that this is an easy alternative to incarceration and it is not," Trail remarked. "What they have had to

do to get here today is a very long journey."

She noted that it takes the average participant two years to complete the program, and that one participant had been with the program for nearly four years.

Trail shared that each of the graduates have actively participated in intensive treatment for their substance use disorder, along with judicial oversight and various recovery-based activities. Along with complying with requirements of the program, Trail explained that participants also work to secure full-time employment or re-enter the workforce, regain custody of children, and re-establish family relationships.

"We know that we are not curing anyone's addiction today," Trail told the graduates. "We know that this was a process getting to where you were and it's been a journey to recovery. And you've done that and you've proven that recovery is possible."

Scholarship from page 1

three exceptional Emory & Henry graduates who worked for many years in the Montgomery County (Virginia) School System, each serving faithfully as principal of Christiansburg High School at some point in their careers," said Emory & Henry College President John W. Wells. "This scholarship also acknowledges the loyalty and steadfast commitment over the years of these three outstanding individuals to their beloved alma mater and recognizes the hundreds of students' lives touched and transformed by the extraordinary love and devotion of these gentlemen. It is the hope that this scholarship will memorialize the remarkable human qualities of these men and their unwavering spirit as community leaders, educators, coaches, and mentors."

This endowed scholarship is to be awarded to a graduating senior each year from CHS who has been accepted as a full-time student at Emory & Henry College, has a validated financial need, and has demonstrated leadership and integrity through school and volunteer opportunities. The award shall continue with the student selected for four years of matriculation if the recipient maintains at least a 3.00 overall GPA.

"We are honored to have this new opportunity to share these

funds with a future student to attend Emory & Henry," said Jennifer Pearce, Vice President for Enrollment and External Affairs. "This is a touching and meaningful gift that will impact generations of students from Christiansburg. We look forward to the talent these future students will bring to our campus as well as the impact from their experiences during their time with us to take out into the world like these three amazing gentlemen."

The lives of King, Earp and Ross overlapped and intersected in many ways. They had in common their love for and gratitude to Emory & Henry College, their patriotism and service in the United States military, strong Christian faith, high moral values, and commitment to their community.

The three were strongly connected through CHS, which was not only the launching point of their careers in education, but also perhaps the most cherished institution of their working lives. King was an alumnus, teacher, and principal at CHS, serving as principal when Earp was hired as teacher and head football coach after his decorated service in Korea. King later served as county superintendent when Ross was hired as assistant football coach, eventually replacing Earp as head football coach when Earp moved into school administration. Both

Earp and Ross went on to serve as principal of CHS during the period when King was superintendent of schools.

For many a school year, from the 1930s through the 1970s, one or more of these three great men turned the lights on and off at CHS and positively impacted many a young person's life.

Among the legacies left by these three men at CHS are the many Emory & Henry alumni who have coached and taught at CHS, such as Ken Stickle, Tom Spraker, Curtis Campbell, Joe Rusek, Carlis Altizer, Dave White, Mike Griffith, Dean Rowe, Rufus "Buddy" Shull, and Phil Robbins; and the many Blue Demon students who later attended Emory & Henry, including Tommy Barber, Mike Basham, Patty Phillips Robbins, James Pharis, Ryan Pharis, Shannon Pharis, Reginald Rose, Betty Lynn Lawrence, Walter Thompson, Tommy Reed, June Graybeal, Bonnie McCoy, Bruce McCoy, Steve Miller, Larry Epperly, Robert "Butch" Phillips, Ronnie Phillips, and Keith Neeley.

Currently, there are five students attending Emory & Henry from Christiansburg High School and two students who have made deposits to attend starting this fall.

Submitted by Emory & Henry

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Tenor; 5. Panthers' signal caller; 8. Systems, doctrines, theories; 12. Rulers; 14. Indonesian coastal town; 15. Type of cuisine; 16. Kids; 18. Single Lens Reflex; 19. Extra seed-covering; 20. Force out; 21. Feline; 22. ___ & Stitch; 23. Semantic relations; 26. A larval frog or toad; 30. Sport for speedsters; 31. One who is learning; 32. Request; 33. Famed WWII conference; 34. Relieved; 39. English broadcaster; 42. Car signal; 44. Grass part; 46. Trivially; 47. Serve as a warning; 49. Centers of activity; 50. An electrically charged atom; 51. Small swelling of cells; 56. Irritates; 57. "___ your i's", cross; 58. Removed; 59. "Death in the Family" author; 60. When you hope to arrive; 61. German district; 62. Turner and Kennedy; 63. Midway between south and southeast; 64. Emerald Isle
- CLUES DOWN: 1. Mathematical optimization search method; 2. Country along the Arabian peninsula; 3. Pointed parts of pens; 4. Lake ___, one of the Great; 5. Peruvian region; 6. State capital of Georgia; 7. Those killed for their beliefs; 8. Typeface; 9. Shri! cry; 10. Sends via the Postal Service; 11. Holds grain; 13. Occurring at a fitting time; 17. Vogue; 24. Born of; 25. Get the job done; 26. Teletype (Computers); 27. Small southern constellation; 28. Decaliters; 29. Area near the concert stage; 35. Social insect living in organized colonies; 36. Winter activity; 37. Snakelike fish; 38. Not wet; 40. In addition to; 41. In league; 42. Barrels per day (abbr.); 43. Monetary unit; 44. Marked; 45. Emerges; 47. Shape by heating; 48. Early Slavic society; 49. Italian automaker; 52. Racing legend Earnhardt; 53. A type of name; 54. ___ Strauss, jeans maker; 55. Famed garden



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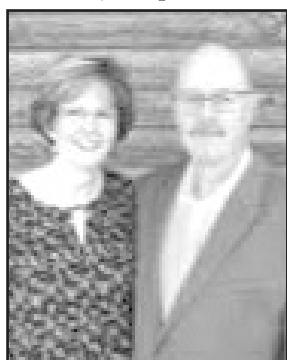
OBITUARIES

Akers, Larry Wendell

Larry Wendell Akers, 57, of McCoy, special cousin, Link Sheppard; many went to be with Jesus, Sunday, April 16, 2023.

He was born in Montgomery Co. on March 30, 1966. He was preceded in death by his father, Sidney Edward Akers; brother-in-law, Bobby Agee, for whom he cared for 20 years; and aunts, Frances Sheppard and Linda Parmelee. Larry attended Harbor of Hope Pentecostal Church, where he served on the security team. He served as a deputy for 25 years with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and 37 years as a fireman with the Longshop-McCoy Fire Department.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Ruth Ann Akers; sons and daughters-in-law, Justin and Whitney Akers, and Nicholas and Michaela Akers; grandchildren, Connor Akers, and Sawyer Akers; mother, Eunice Jones; brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Shirley Akers; sister, Lynette Akers; sister-in-law, Peggy Winters; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Billy and Donna Agee; special uncle, Aubrey Sheppard;



County Sheriff's Office, all of the first responders of Montgomery County, as well as the Doctors and Nurses at New River Valley Medical Center and Blue Ridge Cancer Center.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, April 19, 2023 in the Harbor of Hope Pentecostal Church with his friend, Pastor Craig Reed officiating. Interment followed in the Sunset Cemetery. The family received friends Wednesday prior to the service at Harbor of Hope Pentecostal Church. Flowers will be appreciated or donations may be made to Longshop-McCoy Fire and Rescue. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Camacho, Donna "Kay"

Donna "Kay" Camacho, 67, passed Timmy Quesenberry, and Chelsea away Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at her home in Fairlawn. She was a social worker. Kay was an avid reader and loved camping with her family. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Dorothy Sexton.

Survivors include her husband of 26 years, Richard D. Camacho; daughters, Miranda Smith (Dennis) and Christy Camacho; sons, Garrett Smith, Timmy Smith, and David (Dawn) Camacho; grandchildren, Coy (Samantha) Smith, Sheree Helm, Zach and Braxton Camacho, Cayden Quesenberry,



(Tristan) Tate; three great grandchildren; brother, Frankie (Janet) Sexton; sister, Debbie (Dale) Smith; special friends, Steve Hill, Julie East, and Shirley Parks; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services followed at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

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: fbradford.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 BRETHERN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafrank, 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.meet-up.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences * Group* or call 540-535-5365 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

DEPRESSED SAINTS

Read 1 Kings 19:1 through 20:43

Sometimes Christians get depressed. The cause might be a chemical imbalance, sin, an attack from Satan, or the stress of life, but depression can happen to all of us. Prayer is in order, and in some cases medications might also be needed. Depression is a serious problem, especially for those diagnosed with clinical depression. However, we can always count on the Holy Spirit to gently lead us through the dark days, if we let Him.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you" (1 Kings 19:7).

Godly Elijah, who had just won an incredible victory for the Lord, was hit so hard by depression that he wanted to die. God did not scold him or beat him when he was down. Instead, God sent His angel to gently remind Elijah to eat the food He provided. We, too, must daily eat the Word of God, the Bread of Life, for the "journey is too much" for us to travel in our own might.

Prayer for Today: Lord, encourage the depressed ones today. Draw them to Your Word, where they can find food for the journey.

Quicklook: 1 Kings 19:1-9

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@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christian Growth Center, 1850 Eletic 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.

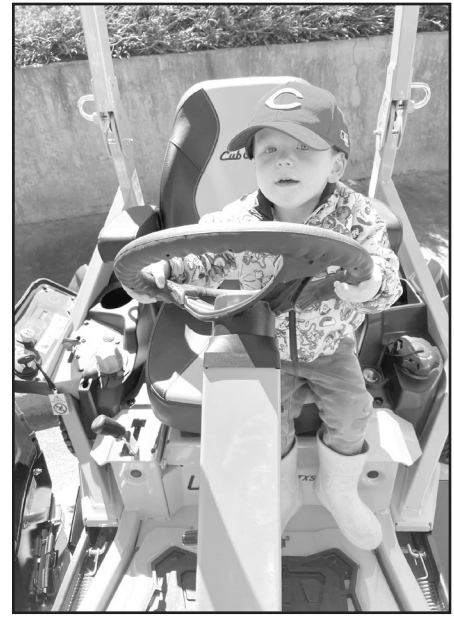
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc **Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 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

Kids celebrate Week of the Young Child

Heart n Hand Early Learning Center in Christiansburg recently celebrated Week of the Young Child, a nationwide week geared towards celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. The week was capped off with a "Touch a Truck" event during which the children got the chance to see a police car, fire truck, dump truck, tractor, and a few other vehicles. Center director Chelsea Naughton Sharlow said the children were excited to see the trucks and have their families join in the fun.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHELSEA NAUGHTON SHARLOW

Obituaries from page 1

Hull, Angeletta (Angel) Sawyers

Angeletta (Angel) Sawyers Hull, Quesenberry; maternal grandmother, Mildred Barnett; and special aunts, uncles and cousins.



She was born in Radford on January 29, 1972. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Ed and Edith Sawyers, and her maternal grandfather, Frank Barnett, Jr.

She was a member of Shawsville Congregational Holiness Church, where she used her vocal and musical talents, served as a youth leader, Secretary and Treasurer of the youth dept. Angel was the sales manager at Sawyers, Inc. Bus Sales. She was blessed as an accomplished singer and musician having played on the Grand Ole Opry.

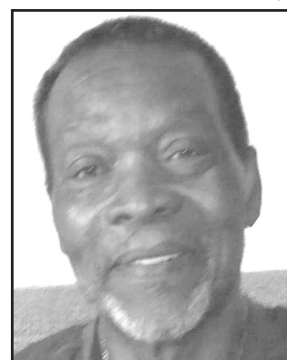
She is survived by her husband, Darin Hull; son, Ezekiel Zion Sawyers (Pasha); parents, Howard and Donna Sawyers; step children, Julia Hull and Cody Hull; step grandchild, Ryder Lee

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 3 p.m. in the Shawsville Congregational Holiness Church Gym, 674 Alleghany Springs Rd., Shawsville, with the Pastor Wes Connor and Pastor

Mark Spencer officiating. Interment will follow in the Shawsville Congregational Holiness Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends Saturday from 1-3 p.m. prior to the service at the church gym. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Shawsville Congregational Holiness Church Youth Department, P.O. Box 610 Shawsville, VA 24162.

Morman Sr., Carthen Eugene (Gene)

Carthen Eugene (Gene) Morman Sr., Willis, Jaylynn Hamlin, Connor McRoberts, Madison McRoberts, Jezhiah Murphy, Kaye Liana Murphy, and JayVian Eugene Pack; and great grandchildren, Zara Morman, Zion Morman, Genesis Morman, Jamoree Gibbs, Nadia Morman, D'Mari Morman, Jayce Morman, and Sai'Mon Trent.



Carthen was preceded in death by his mother, Viola Morman; father, Floyd Morman; three brothers, Russel Morman, Chev-Riddell Morman, and Floyd Morman; and bonus daughter, Regina Hamlin.

He is survived by his common law wife of 21 years, Teresa Hall; two brothers, Calvin Morman (Rose), and Daniel Morman; sister, Erenestine Morman; daughter, Shirley D. Jackson (Rodney); three sons, Carthen E. Morman Jr., Andre D. Morman (Cheryl), and Derrick Gray (Hope); his bonus children, Valorie Bentley, Stacy Opincar (John), Tylor Musselman (Stephen), Samantha Pack (Michael), and Erika Hall; grandchildren, Devin Morman, RayJean Morman, Deshaun Morman, Monique Morman, Rodney L. Jackson Jr., Morgan Gray, Xavier Gray, Briana Hynes, Nataysia Roper; bonus grandchildren, Destiny Beran (Cody), Mackenzie Opincar, Nickolys

Gene will be remembered for all the years he put in hard work as a maintenance man at Fairfax Village Apartments and Cambridge Square Apartments.

The family would like to give a big thank you to two of his nurses, Tammy and Colby, who helped him throughout his fight with cancer.

The family would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to Linda, Heather, and Dennis for being dear friends to Gene for many years.

There will be a private cremation and the family will set a later date for a celebration of life.

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

Lancaster, Lois Grace Long

Lois Grace Long Lancaster passed away on April 16, 2023.



She was born to Eb and Lizzie Long (Elbert and Lucy) on April 15, 1934, in Pulaski County, Virginia. Five years later, she was joined by her younger sister, Ruth. The two girls were raised alongside their older cousin, James, by their uncle and aunt, Glen and Susie Long.

Lois grew up in the country with many cousins to play with and aunts and uncles to look after her. Lois graduated high school from Draper High School in 1951 and then began an 18-year career buying clothes for a large retail store. She enjoyed this time very much and was proud of her accomplishments there.

Lois met and married the love of her life, David Lancaster in 1966. They had a short courtship, then married soon after as David had military orders to Germany. They enjoyed their 56th wedding anniversary this past February 22.

In February of 1970, Lois and David welcomed daughter Julia to their world. Twenty years later, Lois was thrilled to welcome a son-in-law, Mark, and then four grandsons whom she adored.

Lois lived a life of faith with strong

values and beliefs. She loved to be in the presence of her friends and family and supported, cared for and comforted many as they ended their own life journeys.

Lois was predeceased by her sister, Ruth Kelsoe, and her cousin, James Long, as well as many of her extended family. She left behind her devoted husband, David; daughter and son in law, Julia and Mark Schrader; grandsons, Jake, Jared, Joseph, and Jeremiah; nephews, Charles and Steve Kelsoe; and niece, Debra Kelsoe Rhinehardt.

Funeral service will be held at Chandler Funeral Home in Bridgton, Maine.

The family will also receive friends beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, 2023, in the Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin. Graveside services will follow at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to <https://androscoggin.org/giving/gifts-of-remembrance/> or a hospice close to you.

The Lancaster family is in the care of Chandler Funeral Home in Maine and Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory.

Sublett, Alfred (Al) Lee

Alfred (Al) Lee Sublett, 86, of McCoy, he worked at the Radford Ammunition Plant, he received a certificate of achievement award from Hercules Incorporated for the completion of a course in maintenance mechanics, and Dale Carnegie for completion of a personnel development course, in June 1983. While at the plant, Al also took a course from New River Community College for business and for business and industrial supervision. He earned a 3.308 GPA, cum laude, in 1991.



Al was born on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1936, in Parrott, the only child to the late Claude E. and Francie Hungate Sublett. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Trenece Renee Sublett; a brother and sister-in-law, Duane and Patricia Kline; a nephew, James (Jim) Kline; a sister-in-law, Linda Clayton; all his aunts and uncles on the Sublett and Hungate side; and several cousins.

Al is survived by his wife Kathryn (Kay) Merrell Sublett of 63-and-a-half years of marriage, of McCoy; two sons and wives, Chris D. and Sandra (Sandy) Sublett of Newport, and Michael R. and Kimberlee (Kim) Sublett of Springfield, Mo.; a son-in-law, Michael Check, of Hellertown, Pa.; nine grandchildren, Brandon and wife, Erin Sublett, Tyler and wife, Ashley Sublett, Amanda Rowley, Wesley Rowley, Ashley Sublett Wertz and husband Robby, Jade Johnson Orange and husband, Thomas Orange, Jasmine Johnson Ruppert and husband Spenser Ruppert, Nicholas Check; and eight great-grandchildren; a former son-in-law, Wes Rowley of Springfield, Mo.; four nephews, and eight nieces.

Al graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1954. He played shortstop with the Blacksburg Indians baseball team. The team went undefeated that year. Al also attended three years of interior and exterior decorating school in Detroit, Al met his wife, Kay, while in Michigan and they were married on June 29, 1957. They moved to Al's home place, McCoy, in 1967. Al retired from Radford Army Ammunition Plant in January 1993 after 25 years. While

Al learned to play golf at the age of 31 and never lost his desire for the game. He enjoyed the outdoors; whether in the woods, working in the yard, or on the golf course. Al and Kay loved to sit on the back porch in the summer early in the mornings, listen to the birds, and drink their morning coffee. They also liked to travel to visit family and places of historical interest.

Al was a member of Centennial Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in McCoy where he was a former deacon and a former member of the choir. Al had a gift of song that he shared with several churches in the area and his home church.

Funeral services were conducted at Centennial Church in McCoy, Thursday, April 20, 2023, with the Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Centennial Christian Church Cemetery Fund P.O. Box 427 McCoy, VA. 24111. Interment followed in Centennial Church Cemetery. The family would like to thank the "Good Samaritans" for all the comfort they gave to Al and the support they gave to Kay. May God bless them.

NRCC offering free computer tune up

New River Community College will hold a Cyber Day event on Saturday, April 29.

Cyber Day is an event where anyone can bring their laptops, desktops, tablets and phones for a free tune up and virus scan. The NRCC Computer Club is hosting the event from 9 a.m. to noon in room 127 at the

Christiansburg college's site located in Uptown Christiansburg.

There will be several students and Dr. David Filer, NRCC information systems technology professor and club advisor, working on the systems at the event. Any Windows or Android device is welcome.

The NRCC Computer

Club focuses on the skills of repairing and creating computers for campus and community use.

For more information about Cyber Day, contact Filer at dfiler@nr.edu or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4272.

Submitted by NRCC

On the Go from page 3

special guests for all ages, including Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo, author Daniel Thorp, tours of the Meadowbrook Museum, and MFRL's Mobile Library, along with information from Christiansburg Institute. With genealogy help, reference tutorials, library card registration, oral history recordings, and children's activities, there will be something available for everyone.

During the event, visitors can view and engage with valuable resources like Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative database and VirginiaChronicle.com, which provides access to over a million newspaper pages.

At noon, Virginia Tech Associate Professor Daniel Thorp will discuss the history of Black communities in Eastern

Montgomery County. Daniel Thorp is Associate Professor of History at Virginia Tech and author of Facing Freedom: An African American Community in Virginia from Reconstruction to Jim Crow, and In the True Blue's Wake: Slavery and Freedom among the Families of Smithfield Plantation. After his talk, Daniel Thorp will have books available for purchase and signing.

Scheduled events include:
10:30- 11 a.m.: Genealogy 101
10:30- 11 a.m.: Children's Story Time
11 - 11:30 a.m.: Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Precious Valley Farms Petting Zoo
11:30 a.m. - noon: LVA Digital Resources

Noon - 1 p.m.: Guest Speaker, Author Daniel Thorp

Noon - 12:30 p.m.: Newspaper Research

12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m.: Children's Story Time

12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m.: Genealogy 101

1 - 1:30 p.m.: Find it VA resources Drop in to the Meadowbrook Museum, the Mobile Library, and stop by the Christiansburg Institute booth anytime between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. There will be drawings for door prizes happening every hour, including autographed books by Cece Bell.

The Library of Virginia was founded by the General Assembly on Jan. 24, 1823, to organize, care for and

manage the state's growing collection of books and official records. Since then, the collection has grown to 2 million books, newspapers, maps, prints and photographs, as well as 130 million manuscript items, making the Library the most comprehensive resource in the world for the study of Virginia history, culture and government.

The Meadowbrook Library is located at 267 Alleghany Spring Rd., Shawsville. For more information about the program, please call Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library at (540) 382-6969 ext. 215 or email kcopus@mfrl.org.

Submitted by the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

MONTGOMERY SPORTS



Morgan Mundy



Elijah Kelly



Lilly Underwood

FILE PHOTOS

Kelly, Mundy, Underwood players of the year

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The three 2022-2023 all-county, all-city player of the year honorees have at least one thing in common—they love to play basketball.

Elijah Kelly of Radford is the boys' player of the year, while Eastern Montgomery's Lilly Underwood and Auburn's Morgan Mundy took co-honors on the girls' side of the list.

Kelly was dominant for most of the season and stood out as Radford marched through the state competition. He was named Three Rivers and Region C player of the year before being named to the all-state first-team.

Mundy broke the steals in a single season Auburn record with 179 and was

two away from tying the career steals mark. Her career total was 338 and the record is 340.

Underwood also claimed all-district, all-region and all-state honors, averaging 18 points per game and hitting 34 of 101 from behind the arc with 123 steals.

The boys' team included: Auburn's Nick Millirons who was the Mt. Empire District player of the year while collecting first-team all-region C and first-team Class 1 all-state. Blacksburg's Wade Bland, who is only a sophomore, was named to the all-county, all-city squad after receiving first-team All-River Ridge and All-Region 4D honors. He averaged 16.7 points per game this past season with 6.1 rebounds.

Sophomore Kaleb Robinson of

Christiansburg also crashed the party after averaging 12.2 points and 9.4 rebounds per game.

Gavin Cormany joined his Radford teammate after helping to lead the Bobcats to the state playoffs for a record sixth straight time. Cormany averaged 14.4 points for a team that finished 23-5 this past season.

On the girls' side of the all-county, all-city list, Auburn's Rhyland Rorrer was joined by Blacksburg's Byrnn Ferguson and Christiansburg's Katy Hoover.

Ferguson, who is a sophomore, gives Blacksburg a lot of optimism for the future as she consistently scored in double-figures in over half of the school's games this past season. She was named to the River Ridge and Region D second-

teams. Hoover averaged 15.7 points per game on a team that surprised lots of opponents in Jacob Underwood's first season at the helm and was named to the River Ridge first-team.

Rorrer, who produced 12 points per game, was also named first-team Mt. Empire District and second-team all-region.

The all-county, all-city coaches of the year were state playoff appearers. Radford's Rick Cormany was the boy's coach of the year after leading the Bobcats to another state championship game where they fell to John Marshall, while Kelley Sutphin of Eastern Montgomery took the team to the state playoffs and is the girls' coach of the year.

Bruce to Shenandoah for soccer



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

Eastern Montgomery's Maddie Bruce (third from left in center) will continue her soccer career at Shenandoah University after signing a letter of intent earlier this week. Also pictured are: (from left) Talan Bruce, father Josh Bruce, mother Dee Ann Bruce and Courtney Long.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

One of the cornerstones of the Eastern Montgomery High School girls' soccer program has announced plans to continue her playing career at Shenandoah University in Winchester.

Senior Maddie Bruce signed a letter of intent Tuesday in front of family, friends, coaches and fellow players.

Bruce was the state's Class 1 player of the year after leading the Mustangs in two straight state soccer titles in 2021 and 2022. The Eastern Montgomery program is still in its infancy after just six seasons, and Bruce has been a big part of its success.

She capped her junior season with two goals in the Mustangs' 4-0 win over Auburn in the state championship game. She finished 2022 with 27 goals and 36 assists and has 61 career goals and 59

career assists in just two seasons (COVID canceled her freshman season in 2020). Also, in basketball, Bruce was named second team all Class 1 in basketball, First team in all-region and all Pioneer District.

Mustangs' two-year dominance on the soccer field included not allowing a goal in the semifinals (2-0 vs. West Point) and

finals (4-0 vs. Auburn). 18-0 last spring, the Mustangs have now won 32 straight games.

Shenandoah University is a private university and has an enrollment of approximately 4,000 students. The university is a member of the Division III of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), primarily competing in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) since the 2012-13 academic year. The Hornets previously competed in the USA South Athletic Conference (USA South) from 1992-93 to 2011-12.

This past season, the Shenandoah University women's soccer team saw its season come to an end with a 1-0 loss to the University of Lynchburg in the ODAC Tournament semi-finals. Shenandoah finished 11-7-3.

In 16 seasons as the Hornets head coach, Elizabeth Pike has led the Hornets to 157 overall victories and has one league title, the 2011 USA South crown, to her credit. In 11 seasons of Old Dominion Athletics Conference play, SU has won 89 matches and has qualified for the ODAC Tournament in every season.

At Shenandoah, Bruce hopes to work toward a degree in physical therapy.



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

The table was extra-long Wednesday in the Christiansburg High School gymnasium as 14 student-athletes signed national letters of intent to play sports in college.

Student-athletes sign at CHS

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

CHRISTIANSBURG - Fourteen student-athletes signed letters of intent Wednesday at Christiansburg High School to continue their playing career in college.

Madelyn Grace Moles signed to run track and field at James Madison University. Moles competed in track and field all four years at Christiansburg High School. She won two indoor and one outdoor state championships. She was the Female Field Event Indoor athlete of the year at the State meet in 2023. She will be graduating CHS with an associate degree from New River Community College and is on the President's list at New River. At James Madison, Moles plans to major in Nursing.

Cadence Spaulding has committed to playing lacrosse at Emory and Henry College. She was named captain of the lacrosse team her junior and senior year. She is also a member of the National Honor Society,

BETA, on the Dean's and President's list at NRCC and has her Certified Nursing Assistant License. At Emory and Henry, Cadence plans to major in Nursing.

Mckenna Spaulding committed to run Cross Country and Track at Carson-Newman University. During her time running at CHS, she is a four-year Varsity Cross Country and Indoor/Outdoor Track team member while winning the 4x800 Region Championship and being a four time All Region Runner. Carson-Newman, Mckenna plans to major in Exercise Science.

Marshall Basham will play baseball at Concord University. During his time playing baseball at CHS, he was named First Team All-Region 3D catcher and Second Team All-Class 3 Catcher in 2022 and was the Junior Varsity Defensive Player of the Year in 2019 as an eighth grader. At Concord College, Marshall plans to major

in Health Sciences with an emphasis in Physical Therapy.

Thaxton Henley is headed to Alfred State College to play baseball where he plans to major in Construction Management.

Mason Self will play baseball at Radford University. During his time playing baseball at CHS, He has been named First Team All-River Ridge District First Base, River Ridge District Player of the Year, First Team All-Region 3D First Base, Second Team All-Region 3D Pitcher and First Team All-Class 3 First Base. He was named the 2022 all-county/all-city baseball player of the year, is a Ray Bellamy Memorial Award

See CHS, page 8

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

T	O	N	E	C	A	M	I	S	M	S
A	M	I	R	S	U	T	A	T	H	A
B	A	B	I	E	S	S	L	R	A	R
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	F	O	R	E	S	H	A	D	O	W
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A	G	E	E		E	T	A		K	L
T	E	D	S		S	S	E		E	R

Blacksburg boys for the win



Blacksburg goalkeeper D.J. Garza deflects a shot by Christiansburg's Luca Pickeral during the first half as the Blue Demons tested the Blacksburg defense. In the Battle of the Burgs, Blacksburg takes a 7-1 win over Christiansburg.



Christiansburg's Hayden Yopp defends Blacksburg's Craig Huxtable during the first half. Huxtable would score twice in the win as the Bruins move to 9-0 on the season. Christiansburg falls to 7-2.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Revenue sharing introduced at Motor Mile

Motor Mile Speedway officials met with several race teams earlier this month to discuss a new revenue share and decided to move forward with a new driver council and revenue platform.

This new revenue share will pay weekly competitors 90 percent of revenue after track expenses.

"We are extremely excited we were able to come to this agreement with our race teams," said Track president Mark Ebert. "We are hopeful this new platform will bring teams and the racetrack together in a new level of partnership. In a time that is challenging for all short tracks, this agreement is a clear indication to our sponsors and racing teams that they are at the forefront for us as we move forward together. We have already seen many sponsors step forward with new interest as they are guaranteed that 90 percent of Saturday's revenue goes back to the racers who put on our NASCAR Weekly Racing Series."

Longtime loyal sponsor Price's Body Shop immediately saw the tremendous benefit and has stepped forward to sponsor April 29th Southern Ground Pounders Night.

"This advanced thinking behind this new agreement insures us and all sponsors, our support goes to the teams that come out and put on a great show for us," said William Price said. "This has us looking forward to Southern Ground Pounders Night on April 29."

The track has been working on this

dynamic structure for quite some time, it will take the support of a newly formed driver council and all the race teams to make this new revenue share program work. The next meeting to continue to evolve this plan is the morning of April 29, more details to be released by the track.

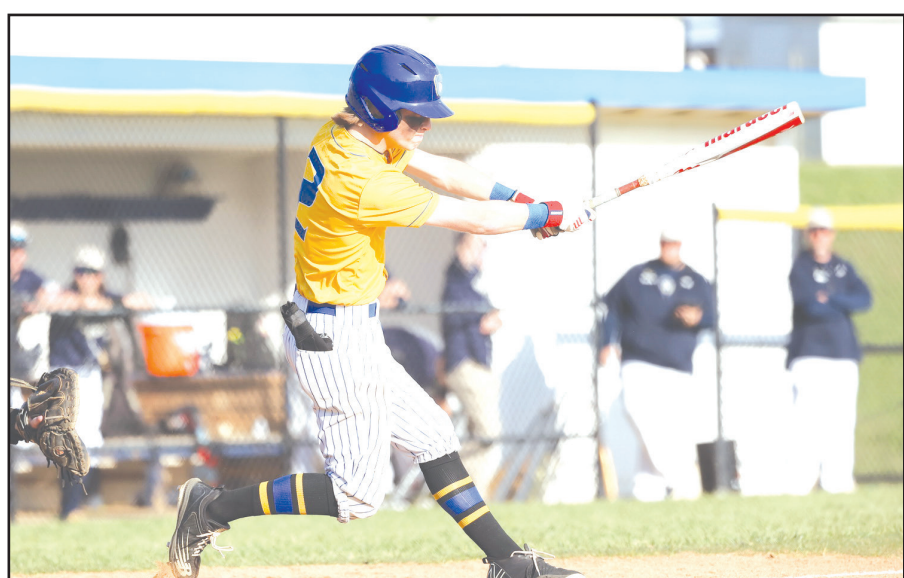
"It is tremendously important that the racetrack offers a fair opportunity for the racers to compete, it is equally important that we offer full transparency on our purse structure and help the racers financially as much as possible to bring them out to our events," said Ebert. "The support from Price's Body Shop will allow us to guarantee our posted purses for the race on April 29; however with their support and the anticipated support from our sponsors and race teams, we are hopeful that our purse structure will go up for this race and all the races that follow. It will take time and cooperation to come up with a partnership that works perfectly, but we believe that this new agreement between racers and the racetrack has the potential to elevate our purses and Saturday night racing. There's no one who loves short track racing more than those in the pits on Saturday night, this new partnership shows our commitment to them to grow the sport together."

- Motor Mile Speedway



Christiansburg's Jeremiah Thompson is greeted at home plate by his Blue Demon teammates after a two-run home run to give his team a 3-0 lead over Blacksburg. Christiansburg would eventually take a 5-1 win over the Bruins.

Christiansburg wins on the diamond



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Reese Tysor hits a double and would score later on an RBI hit by Alex Rudolph for the Bruins' only run in a 5-1 loss to Christiansburg.

CHS from page 7

winner and first CHS athlete to be inducted into the High School Hall of Fame. He is also a member of SGA, HOSA, BETA and the National Honor Society. At Radford University, Mason plans to major in Health and Allied Sciences.

Lawson Mecom will run Cross Country and Track at Western Carolina University. He was a member of the 2019-20 VHSL Class 3 Cross Country Team State Runner-up. He holds the Cross Country school record for the 5K at 15:32. Lawson is also the school record holder for the Indoor Track 3200 with a time of 9:25. He was all state Cross country in 20, 21 and 22, All state in indoor track and outdoor track

in 2021 in the 3200, All state in indoor and outdoor track in 2022 in the 3200 and in 2022 in the 1600 and all state in indoor track in 2023 in the 1600. At Western Carolina, he plans to major in Biology.

Alexander Turner will attend Campbell University where he will compete in cross country and track. He ran in the state cross country meet his junior and senior year and ran in the state outdoor track meet his senior year. At Campbell, Alexander plans to study Kinesiology.

Joshua Starr has committed to run Cross Country and Track at Milligan University. Joshua is also a member of the Beta Club and National Honor Society. At Milligan University, he

plans to study Mechanical Engineering.

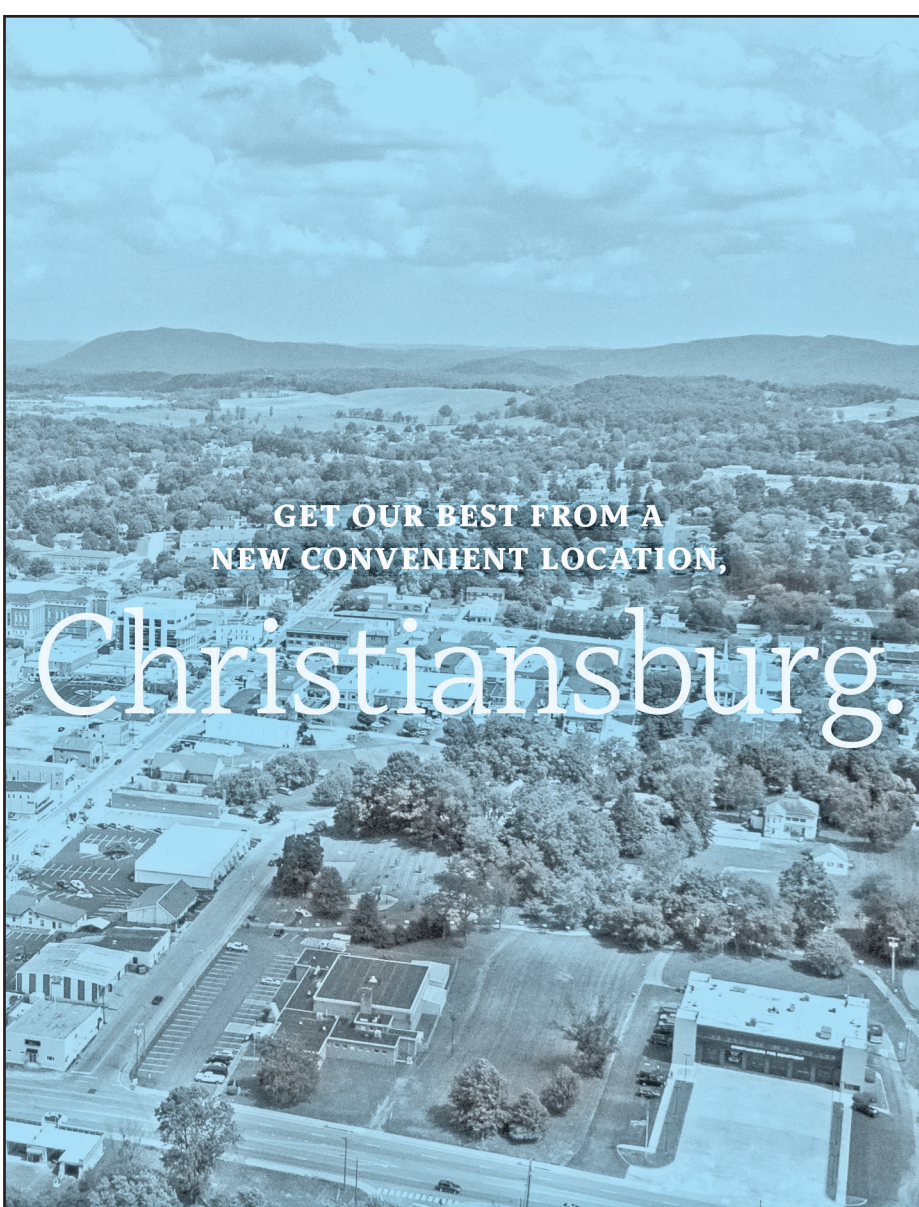
Curtis Altizer will attend Bluefield University where he plans to play football. He was 1st Team All District and 1st Team All-Region Linebacker and Fullback in 2021 and 2022, River Ridge District and Region 3D Defensive player of the year in 2022, All County Defensive Player of the Year in 2021 and 2022 and was 2nd Team All State Linebacker in 2022. At Bluefield, Curtis plans to major in Physical Therapy.

Kendric Long is headed to Averett University to play football. He received the Effort Award for Varsity Football in 2022. At Averett, Kendric plans to major in Mathematics.

Caleb Yopp has committed to play soccer at Pfeiffer University. He was named Captain of the CHS varsity soccer team and is a member of the VBR Soccer Club and their USL Academy. At Pfeiffer, Caleb plans to major in Exercise Science.

J J Posicask will wrestle at King University. He has wrestled all four years at Christiansburg High School, is a three-time region placer, two-time state qualifier placing fourth in 2022 and making the top eight in 2023, 2022 Titan Toughman Runner-up, 2022 Take Down the New Year Champion and a 2023 WSAZ placer.

Aiden Conley has committed to play football at Marshall University. He has played football for four years at CHS and was first team all-state offensive and defensive lineman in 2022 and was named the all-county/all-city lineman of the year for the past two seasons. He was also first-team all-region and all-district in 2021 and 2022.



GET OUR BEST FROM A NEW CONVENIENT LOCATION,

Christiansburg.

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.

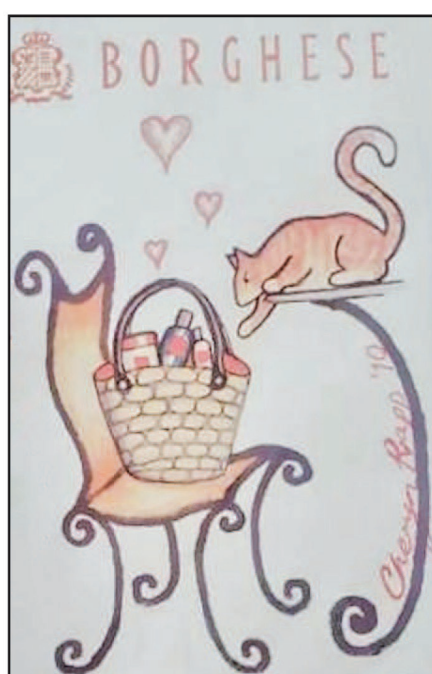
In other words, let's bring out your best—together.

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