



News Messenger

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Angela Hill PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Angela Hill appointed as new Montgomery County Administrator

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Angela Hill, the current Deputy County Administrator and CFO of Montgomery County, has been named County Administrator, effective November 1, 2023.

Hill, who was appointed to the position by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors on June 12, will be only the second woman to serve as Montgomery County Administrator since it was established in 1776. Prior to Hill, Betty Thomas held the position from 1981 to 1997, and for a five-month period in 2009, Carol Edmonds served as Interim County Administrator.

Hill will be the successor to F. Craig Meadows, the current Montgomery County Administrator,

who announced his retirement in May 2023.

“When we learned of Craig’s planned retirement we began talking about how to proceed with his soon-to-be vacant position,” said Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Chair, Sherri Blevins.

“We quickly began looking at Angie as a strong candidate. She has been with Montgomery County for over 25 years. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities throughout her career, especially in her role as Deputy County Administrator. We are confident her skills, knowledge and ability will continue to lead Montgomery County in a strategic and innovative direction,” said Blevins.

Hill joined Montgomery County

in October 1997 as Director of Financial and Management Services. Prior to joining the county, she worked as an auditor at Brown Edwards, a regional certified public accounting firm, where she specialized in governmental audits.

“It is my honor to serve as Administrator for Montgomery County,” said Hill. “In my various roles during my 25 years of service to the citizens of Montgomery County, I have been able to build strong relationships and be a part of an extraordinary team. I welcome this opportunity to continue to lead Montgomery County in my new role.”

As Montgomery County See Hill, page 4

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approves fees for EMS transport services

Lori Graham Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - The Board of Supervisors’ regular meeting on June 12 included a public hearing on an amendment to the county code for cost reimbursement for EMS transport services.

The board later voted to approve the establishment of fees for EMS services with all seven members in agreement of the ordinance.

The county code will authorize “the County to charge reasonable fees for the use of emergency medical service vehicles, including charging insurers for ambulance services” according to information posted on the www.montva.com website.

Additionally, the resolution states “A fee of 170% of the Medicare allowable shall be charged for Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support level 1

(ALS1), Advanced Life Support Level 2 (ALS2), and per mile for ground transport mileage.”

Resident Wayman Pack, of Riner, addressed the supervisors with many questions that he presented as still unanswered in the proposed amendment. Some of several questions he shared that require clarity are concerning the County’s definition of reasonable, how the rates will be calculated, how often the rates will be adjusted, and if one department will receive more funds because of the age of the vehicles.

“This ordinance shall become effective July 1st, 2023,” said Pack. “Is this revision the consequence of the board recently approving the lowest tax rate advertised and looking for new revenue streams or is this something that’s been on the table for a longer period of time? I have to say the

See Transport, page 4



Renovations to Christiansburg High School will increase the number of classrooms, enhance safety and more.

Christiansburg High School renovation project set to begin summer of 2023

Lori Graham Contributing writer

The Christiansburg

High School project update was presented to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors by

Josh Bower, Director of Architecture at Crabtree,

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GRUCCI, INC.

Fireworks by Grucci and Pyrotechnique by Grucci has announced it will invest \$5.5 million to expand its assembly, storage, and distribution operations to Pulaski County.

Grucci to invest \$5.5 million to expand operations to Pulaski County

Fireworks by Grucci and Pyrotechnique by Grucci, the sixth-generation family business and worldwide fireworks design and performance company and manufacturer of fireworks and pyrotechnic devices for the U.S. military, will invest \$5.5 million to expand its assembly, storage, and distribution operations to Pulaski County.

The company will occupy the former Koinonia Tapes and Foams 30,000-square-foot facility in ShaeDawn Industrial Park in proximity to its manufacturing operation at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in Montgomery County. Virginia successfully competed with New York for the project, which will create 45 new jobs. “Magnificent displays

of fireworks have brought generations of families together for more than a century because of pyrotechnics leaders like the Grucci family,” said Governor Glenn Youngkin. “The Commonwealth is a strategic gateway to markets served by a robust workforce, and we thank Fireworks by Grucci and Pyrotechnique by Grucci for recognizing these

advantages and expanding their Virginia footprint into Pulaski County.”

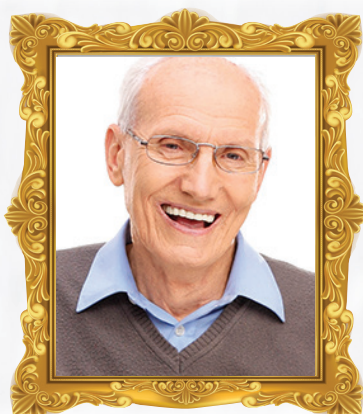
“We are proud to have this historic and world-renowned company expand its assembly, storage, and distribution operations in Pulaski County,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. “In addition to fireworks displays that captivate millions around

the globe, the Gruccis also manufacture pyrotechnic training devices for the U.S. military that prepare our troops. Virginia’s combination of connectivity, infrastructure, and talent provide the crucial elements for Fireworks by Grucci and Pyrotechnique by Grucci to thrive, and

See Fireworks, page 4

Grandpa’s Coming Off the Shelf....

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 17:

Summer Solstice Fest

Downtown Blacksburg; 1 – 11 p.m. Live music, food trucks, vendors, children's activities, petting zoo, yoga and more! For full schedule, www.downtownblacksburg.com.

Radford 2023 Summer Concert Series

Music by Cassette Rewind, 80's cover band. The monthly concerts will take place on the fields of Glencoe Mansion, located at 600 Unruh Dr., Radford. Admission is \$5 per person and children 12 and under are free. Food trucks will be available, and the Radford Chamber of Commerce will be supplying alcohol for purchase. Bring a chair and come out and enjoy the sounds of summer. Additional concerts for the series include: Saturday, July 22: Tee Tones- Doowop/Motown/Soul; Saturday, August 19: Chairman of the Board- Beach music; and Saturday, September 23: Ryan Perry- country, with opening act Sofie Lynn.

Family Movie Matinee

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. See the movie "Night at the Museum" on the big screen. A night watchman at a museum comes face-to-face with a live dinosaur, tiny soldiers and more because of a curse that brings all the exhibits to life at night! Stars Ben Stiller and Robin Williams. Rated PG; 108 minutes.

Monday, June 19:

Blacksburg town closings

The Town of Blacksburg will be operating under the following schedule in observance of the Juneteenth Holiday:

Town administrative offices will be closed. Blacksburg Transit operating on reduced service in Blacksburg. BT Offices will be closed. Blacksburg Community Center operating during regular hours. Blacksburg Aquatic Center operating during regular hours. Trash and Recycling pickup will not be affected.

Radford Library closed

The Radford Public Library is closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Town of Christiansburg closures

Town of Christiansburg facilities, including the Aquatic Center, will be closed. The Recreation Center will be open regular hours with administrative offices closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Mondays will be collected on Tuesday, June 20, along with Tuesday's regular collection.

MFRL closures

All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will be closed in observance of Juneteenth

Tuesday, June 20:

American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network Luncheon Meeting

At the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Dr., Christiansburg; 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.- cost \$16. Presentation of the American Business Women's Association NRV Express Network's 2023 Woman of the Year Awards. One member and one community member will be named as Woman of the Year. Katie

Edson of Edson Family Practice and Edson Aesthetics is the Speaker Sponsor for this meeting. RSVP by June 19. Contact: Terri Welch at paintnfunceramics@gmail.com or Paige Godwin at godwinpaige@gmail.com.

Tuesday Night Book Club

At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to chat with Dave about whatever they happen to be reading or watching at the moment. Snacks and coffee provided.

Mill Mountain Theater presents: Mad Libs Live!

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 – 3 p.m. This program will be outside in the amphitheater space, so bring a blanket or chair! In case of inclement weather, it will be in the library community room. Ideal for ages 7 and up.

Summer Backpack Program

At the Meadowbrook Library; 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. The Summer Backpack Program is intended to help families with children and teens stretch their grocery budget. The bags are filled with nutritious food. This is a drop-in program open to residents of Eastern Montgomery County only. Each week there will be crafts for the kids in addition to the bag of food. If you missed picking up food for the week, call and make an appointment. For more information call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Wednesday, June 22:

Mingle at the Market

Join the Blacksburg Farmer's Market for the first 2023 Mingle at the Market, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Market Square Park. This event will feature live music, locally brewed beverages, local food and more.

Waffles Club! A Young Writer's Group

At the Radford Public Library; 4- 5 p.m. Join us for a gently guided writing club for kids, aka the Waffles Club (Writing Association for Fun Loving Enthusiastic Students)! Together, we will work on responding to writing prompts, have some quiet writing time, and the opportunity to share work! Geared toward 8-12 year olds. Contact Morgan for more information at morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov. Please bring your favorite writing materials!

English Conversation for Adults

At the Blacksburg Library; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. We are pleased to host adult English conversation in partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of the NRV. Sign up at www.lvnrv.org/classes.

Monday, June 26:

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, June 27:

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 the 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.

On-going:

Entries sought for July 4th Parade

Participants are needed for Blacksburg's July 4th parade, which is organized by the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club. The parade starts at 2 p.m. from Eheart Street, runs through downtown on Main Street, and ends at Alumni Mall. Entries can be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, fire engines, scouts, bands, sports teams, etc. Information is available on the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club's Facebook page, or by texting 540-449-6178.

Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

Radford Farmers Market

Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

Juneteenth should drive Americans to action, says local expert

It's been two years since the United States designated Juneteenth a federal holiday.

But America still has a long way to go to recognize and correct racial injustice on a wider scale, says a Virginia Tech expert.

Onwubiko Agozino is a professor of sociology at Virginia Tech. His scholarly work is focused on people of African descent and other marginalized groups globally. He believes that the

commemoration of Juneteenth should drive people to recognize and stop racism that still exists in society. The June 19 holiday marks the day two months after the Civil War that enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, learned that they were free.

"Misguided administrations around the country are busy banning the teaching of critical race theory and restricting the teaching of African American history in schools," Agozino said. "But Juneteenth

should serve as a reminder that racism-sexism-poverty are joined together and should be resisted in solidarity and in coalitions in the interest of all."

Many in the African American community will celebrate the day with picnics, parties, and remembrance events. Agozino said he believes that Juneteenth should be marked by reading relevant history books. Agozino himself plans to attend the Christiansburg Institute's Juneteenth event this Saturday, June 17.

"What needs to be learned from the Juneteenth commemoration is that racism is a threat to the entire society and not only against people of African

descent or people of color alone," he said. "We are to be united as human beings the way Martin Luther King, Jr. put it."

Onwubiko Agozino is a professor of sociology and a scholar-activist who values inclusive excellence and diversity with critical attention focused on people of African descent and other marginalized groups around the world. He emphasizes race, class, and gender issues in his contributions to learning, discovery, and community engagement beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Onwubiko Agozino is a professor of sociology at Virginia Tech whose scholarly work is focused on people of African descent and other marginalized groups globally.

*In honor of
4th of July*

**OUR NEWSPAPER
offices will be closed on
Tuesday, July 4th, 2023
And will reopen on
Wed., July 5th
@ 8:30 a.m.**

**All ads for July 5th and
July 6th papers need to
be in our office by
Friday, June 30
at 12:00 Noon.**

Summer Solstice Fest set for today in downtown Blacksburg

The 15th Annual Summer Solstice Fest returns to Downtown Blacksburg, today, Saturday, June 17, 1 – 11 p.m.

Enjoy live music, food, arts, crafts, performances, and more.

Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy will be performing in the Family Fun Zone. You will find Hilby on top of unicycles of all shapes and sizes, juggling objects ranging from bowling balls to hedge trimmers. He has superb technical

skills and wacky comedy in the tradition of vaudeville. You will be sure to laugh out loud! In addition to Hilby, the Family Fun Zone will feature a petting zoo, pony rides, and an obstacle course.

The PanJammers will kick off the music on the Freedom First Credit Union stage leading a fun-filled line up including The Breakfast Club, The Red Ferns, Off Our Rockers, Ripejive, and Appalachian Space Train. Visit the

website for the full schedule.

The festival will also feature performances by The Mystical Witches of Floyd, and Blacksburg's Summer Musical Enterprise with songs from their upcoming performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Summer Solstice Fest will be happening on Main Street and LeeStreet with a fantastic line up of family fun and entertainment for all, rain or shine. From

festival foods, live music, the Cabo Fish Taco Beach, yoga by In Balance Yoga, to the Downtown Sundown 5K Run, there will be something fun for everyone!

For more information and the full schedule for the day, please visit: downtownblacksburg.com/events/summer-solstice-fest.

Submitted by Downtown Blacksburg, Inc.

Americans walk less frequently and less safely compared to other countries

A stroll through international statistics about walking reveals the grim reality of foot travel in the United States.

"People walk less in the United States because it's more dangerous to walk here and walking conditions are worse compared to other countries," said Ralph Buehler, professor of urban affairs and planning at Virginia Tech. "So we're caught in a bit of a spiral that discourages walking and encourages driving in the U.S."

For over a decade, Buehler and his co-authors have analyzed walking rates, pedestrian safety, and government policies across multiple industrialized nations, cities within the same nation, and multiple sections of the same city. A recent article published in Sustainability, an international, peer-reviewed, open-access academic journal, updates the findings from prior peer-reviewed work published in Transport Reviews, the American Journal of Public Health, and TRNews. The findings show that overall Americans walk less than individuals in many other countries while also having a higher walking fatality rate per kilometer walked.

"We were interested in figuring out how more people can walk while increasing pedestrian safety," said Buehler, who completed the project with John Pucher of Rutgers University. "Walking doesn't have to be a means of transport of last resort. There are tools and policies

out there to make it safer and more attractive."

The researchers utilized a variety of government statistics, including travel surveys, national censuses, and traffic study databases, throughout their research. Their study also examines a variety of measures to increase pedestrian safety and the impact of those measures on walking rates.

According to the study, Americans make fewer than half of the walking trips per day compared to Britons, yet are about six times more likely to be killed while walking per mile traveled. Those disparities remain relatively consistent on both fronts when the U.S. is compared to several other European nations, including Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

The 11 countries studied from 1990-2020 all saw pedestrian fatalities per capita decrease over that span, but the numbers dropped substantially less in the U.S. Americans had a 26 percent decrease compared to 78 percent in the U.K., for example. More troubling, while other countries continued to improve pedestrian safety from 2010-20, the U.S. was the only country to have a rise — up 25 percent — in pedestrian fatalities.

"It's not only that walking is less safe in the U.S., the trends in walking safety are going in the wrong direction," Buehler said.

Other findings of the study include walking rates

being highest for short trips, women having a higher walking rate than men, and walking rates generally decreasing as income levels increase. The U.S. is also an outlier in the latter category. Americans are the only group where the highest income bracket walked more than the middle class. The researchers say this is likely due to the gentrification of many central city areas since 2000, where walking is safe and convenient.

Buehler said the U.S. has a long history of creating policies that promote driving while restricting pedestrians.

"The U.S. invented the term, 'jaywalking,' it doesn't exist in most other languages," Buehler said. "The history is really fascinating because in the late 1890s and early 1900s, pedestrians were everywhere in the streets, but cars needed that space, so they sort of get pedestrians out of the streets with all these campaigns. And they were successful of course because no one today would say the street is a safe place for pedestrians."

And that mindset has guided much of the country's infrastructure planning as it has grown during the past century.

"We have designed our communities around the automobile, and a lot of our engineering guidelines for roads have been built to facilitate car movement," he said "Roadway designers don't want to delay vehicles,

See **Walking**, page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Pictured (left to right) are New River Community College's 2023-2024 NRCC Nursing Scholars: Melanie Gallimore, Madelyn Hedge, Tiffany Jackson, Claire Fender, and Elaina McCoy (not pictured: Michaela Robertson).

NRCC recognizes second-year of nursing scholars recipients

New River Community College recently recognized the recipients of the second class of NRCC Nursing Scholars, a scholarship program that fosters opportunity and success for outstanding high school junior and senior students who show interest and ability in NRCC's Nursing Associate of Applied Science degree.

This year's Level One scholars include Claire Fender (Radford High School), Madelyn Hedge (Pulaski County High School), Tiffany Jackson (Eastern Montgomery High School), and Michaela Robertson (Floyd County High School).

Level Two scholars include Melanie Gallimore (Floyd County High School) and Elaina McCoy (Blacksburg High School).

The six students were awarded scholarships and certificates at a ceremony held at NRCC on May 24.

Scholarship students and their families were greeted by NRCC's President Dr. Pat Huber, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services Dr. Peter Anderson, Dean of Arts and Sciences Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz, and NRCC Educational Foundation Executive Director Angie Covey. Interim Coordinator of Nursing Helen Wolfe, nursing faculty Misty Rice, Caitlin Reed, Heather Umberger,

Wendy Hay, and Michelle Goodwin along with advisors Katie Pruett and Fran Scartelli assisted in presenting students with scholarship certificates.

Nursing Scholars receive support from advisors who are charged with helping scholars make the best possible transition from high school through completion of NRCC's Nursing AAS degree. The scholarship consists of level one and level two awards. High school (public, private and homeschool) juniors and seniors who reside in NRCC's service region (Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties and Radford City) may apply for level one scholarships.

Nursing Scholars must demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and citizenship. Applicants must have a 3.75 high school grade point average or better and demonstrate superior levels of leadership and citizenship in the application essays.

Detailed information about the program can be found on NRCC's website at www.nr.edu/nursing/scholars. For more information about the Nursing Scholars Program at NRCC, contact Lynn Taylor at (540)674-3631 or ltaylor@nr.edu.

- NRCC



PHOTO BY RAY MEESE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Foot traffic is common on the Blacksburg campus, but as a whole, people in the United States walk less than people in many other countries.

CHS from page 1

Rohrbaugh & Associates, during their regular June 12 meeting on Monday night.

The presentation included a virtual look at the school's planned design that takes viewers through the school's future proposed interior and exterior spaces. One of the priorities with the space would provide for future increases in students attending the high school.

"In the addition we're creating 22 classrooms, which will help us not only from the standpoint of getting additional capacity for the growing student body but also allow us to have a little bit better flow from a phasing standpoint," Bower said.

Bower went on to discuss the importance of providing a safe school environment and their firm has worked alongside Christiansburg and Blacksburg police departments as well as the sheriff's department to receive feedback on their efforts.

"I believe that we received a glowing assurance that what we're doing is as safe and secure of a building as we could probably make it," Bower said.

Two points of entry will allow students to enter the building more easily. Car riders will be dropped off at the back

of the school and the bus loop will be established at the front-left parking lot.

One of the biggest improvements to the school will allow for a larger performing arts area for instruction and performance, according to Bower. Additionally, separate lab and instruction areas have been established for science courses.

An improvement that will provide less opportunities for bullying with the goal of creating a safer space for restroom facilities are enclosed bathroom stalls and open sink areas.

The construction will be divided into phases with the first part of the process beginning this year in July or August. Students, staff, and teachers can expect to see fencing in place when the Fall 2023 school semester begins. Completion of the project is expected to conclude by December 2025.

Currently, the project has started to receive bids and the drawings are available to contractors.

Dr. Annie Whittaker, Deputy Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools also provided an update on the CHS project funding sources as well as other ongoing MCPS

projects.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds are federally provided to schools because of the pandemic and its impact on elementary and secondary schools according to the Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's website at www.oese.ed.gov.

"We were looking to identify projects that we could use those ESSER funds on so that we could free up those local funds for Christiansburg High School," Whittaker said. "You were going to give us '2.259' and we were actually very thankful to receive about ninety thousand dollars more than that from the real estate taxes, so thank you very much for making sure that the school's got that funding."

Priorities in the county's schools were considered as well in funding projects for local public schools. Eastern Montgomery Elementary School remains on a fire watch while work continues to address the fire sprinkler system repairs needed.

Christiansburg Middle School, Falling Branch Elementary School, Montgomery Central Operations Center, Shawsville Middle School and Auburn Elementary

School projects were approved for ESSER funding as well, according to Whittaker. Safety measures for the county's schools are also being addressed with allocated funds.

According to Whittaker, the current student body is just over 1,000 with the current school capacity of 1,200 students. The new CHS school design will allow for 1,600 students.

An additional action taken by the supervisors during the meeting was in support of the ACCE, or Access to Community College Education program, which allows for county high school graduates to attend community college without any cost. The Board of Supervisors voted 7-0 in approval of continuing to fund this educational program.

Deputy County Administrator Angela Hill was also recognized during the meeting as the recipient of the Marcia Mashaw Outstanding Assistant Award. The award was established in honor of Marcia Mashaw who previously served as Assistant Town Manager for the Town of Blacksburg and passed away in 1986. More information about this prestigious award can be found on the www.montva.com website.

www.montcova.com

Fireworks

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we look forward to supporting the company's continued success in the Commonwealth."

"Virginia offers our family and employees great incentives of viability, stability, and a path to expand and grow our business that is second to none," said Felix Grucci, CEO of Fireworks by Grucci and Pyrotechnique by Grucci Inc. "This long-term investment and expansion to Pulaski is a testament to our continued commitment to the state of Virginia, the counties of Pulaski and Montgomery, and our employees. My son, Christopher, and his wife, LEMONIA, both working within the family business representing the sixth generation, made a similar commitment by moving from New York to become residents of Virginia."

"We love that Grucci is a sixth-generation family-oriented company, and we are very excited and honored to have them officially join our family of businesses here in Pulaski County," said Laura Walters, Chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. "This project took a tremendous amount of effort to compete for and win, and I couldn't be more grateful to

our economic development team, our board, the EDA, VEDP, our state representatives, and Governor Youngkin for helping bring this world-renowned name in pyrotechnics to our community."

"Grucci is an industry leader that is thriving as part of the advanced manufacturing sector in Virginia's New River Valley," said Katie Boswell, Executive Director of Onward New River Valley. "We are pleased that they have decided to continue their growth in our region with this exciting announcement in Pulaski County."

"I'm thrilled to announce more investment in our region by a great multi-generational family company such as Grucci," said Senator Travis Hackworth. "Working with Governor Youngkin, we have been able to make our region more attractive to new business and job investments. I look forward to welcoming Grucci to our region and am excited about the jobs they will create for Pulaski!"

Fireworks by Grucci is a sixth-generation, family owned-and-operated Fireworks Performance Company with its primary corporate studio in Bellport,

New York. Known as "America's First Family of Fireworks", the Gruccis have transformed the night skies to the delight of millions across the globe since 1850. The company is world-renowned for pyrotechnic artistry, scientific innovation, and old-fashioned values. The company's signature performances include the official celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the National Anthem "Star Spangled Spectacular" in Baltimore, eight U.S. Presidential Inaugurations, the Olympic Games in Beijing, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, and Lake Placid, and commemorations such as the Centennial of the Statue of Liberty. Fireworks by Grucci is also an 11-time Guinness World Record Holder.

Phil Grucci, fifth generation and current CEO, diversified their family business in 1989 by participating in a solicited competition and receiving an award to manufacture a series of Department of Defense pyrotechnic simulators. These simulators are designed as training devices that simulate the distinctive whistle and bang of an incoming mortar round, or the pull, throw, and bang of a

hand grenade. Due to the expanded success of this military venture, the family officially founded a training device manufacturing business in 1997 based in Montgomery County, where it leases 400 acres at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Pulaski County and Onward New River Valley to secure the project for Virginia. Youngkin approved a \$212,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund to assist Pulaski County with the project. Fireworks by Grucci is eligible to receive state benefits from the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program, administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Funding and services to support the company's employee training activities will be provided through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program.

From the Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin

Transport

from page 1

timing is suspicious."

Craig Meadows, County Administrator, responded early in the meeting that the item would be placed in the agenda's new

business, and they would address those questions at that time.

Bradley St. Clair, Assistant County Administrator, then addressed the board during the new business discussion of the meeting. Supervisor Todd King inquired about the billing process with insurance companies.

"When that bill is sent to the insurance company, it is going to look at that and determine, you know, was it a necessity? Did you have a paramedic respond to something and did it warrant this bill," St. Clair said. "Kind of what's been deemed is the standard practice, most everyone is billing at a percentage of the Medicare rate."

Furthermore, the board agreed that the amendment to the code states that if any insurance company determines that the ambulance ride was not necessary after two attempts at payment, and a waiver of fees was also attempted with the

insurance company, then the county citizen would not owe any payment for the emergency service transport.

"We will not be seeking those charges from citizens," St. Clair said.

Citizen questions were responded to as well during the meeting. One of which is how the insurance information would be shared with the EMS services. Rescue Chief David English approached the board to answer these concerns.

"We didn't want to show up and ask for your insurance card. I think that's in poor taste and that's not what the patient needs at that time and so our goal would be that we provide the care. We get you to the hospital," English said. "Our goal would be to get that information through the hospital and through the electronic report system."

During the meeting, Virginia Department of Transportation Residency

Administrator David Clarke, also provided an update to the board on road projects in Montgomery County. Prior to mentioning ongoing maintenance projects, Clarke spoke to some safety projects that have been in the works.

"We used some of the safety money and built a small, but I think going to be very effective, right-turn lane on 460 westbound at Craig Creek Road," Clarke said.

Additional safety projects Clarke commented on were on 460 business near Jennelle Road, as the result of a pipe failure causing the necessity of a large excavation, and Catawba Road, near Mossy Springs, to deal with a steep slope area.

Many other areas of the county were discussed that involved smoothing graveled roads, deepening ditches along roadsides, and preventive measures along roads prone to flooding.

A traffic concern brought to the attention of the board by a citizen was also discussed by the supervisors and VDOT representative Clarke. Tractor trailers traveling through Glade Road have difficulty making a left turn on to Tower Road but are unaware until they are already in the location. Clarke and Chair Sherri Blevins discussed the possibility of signage to alert drivers of the difficult turn.

"We could do a formal no-through trucks sign that would require a public hearing and several things, which it can be done," Clarke said. "There's a process, a legal process to prohibit a certain type of vehicle."

Blevins suggested a temporary caution sign that it is not recommended for drivers to attempt the turn may help while other options are considered.

The next Montgomery Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26.

News Messenger

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

hbelle@mainstreetnewspapers

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

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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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Hill

from page 1

Administrator for the past 14 years, Meadows led the County through significant growth and even a few tragic events with grace and strength. He has facilitated over 20 new construction and renovation projects in Montgomery County to address education, public safety, recreation

and key infrastructure needs. He also focused on economic development opportunities, growing and expanding existing businesses in our community.

"My choice to retire this year was something I've thought about for some time," said Meadows. "With the County on

sound financial footing, strategic initiatives underway that reflect our focus on the future, and growth projections that indicate we're on the right track, now seemed to be the perfect time to pass on the leadership reins. Montgomery County is in a great position to continue to move forward

with Angie as County Administrator."

A search will be conducted to fill the open Deputy County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer position.

News messenger staff report

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-64 indicating starting points for clues.

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Baby's first words, 5. Expression of creative skill, 8. Reddish-brown coating, 12. Spanish province, 14. Stinging insect, 15. Greek temple pillars, 16. Refurbish, 18. Cave-dwelling amphibian, 19. Millisecond, 20. Removes something, 21. Trendy, 22. The Buckeye State, 23. "Taken" actor, 26. Of the skull, 30. Made a mistake, 31. Malignant tumor, 32. Not night, 33. German heavyweight boxer, 34. Indicates weight, 39. Businessman, 42. Charged negatively, 44. Indian instrument, 46. Helps you know where you're going, 47. Written works, 49. Kate and Rooney's last name, 50. Fast, flightless Aussie bird, 51. Jerry, George, Kramer and, 56. Dodger great Hersher, 57. Where wine ferments (abbr.), 58. Supreme Allied Cmdr. Europe, 59. Vedic god of fire, 60. Not well, 61. They grow into plants, 62. Variety of pear, 63. Where golfers start, 64. Posterior, CLUES DOWN: 1. Challenge, 2. Assert, 3. A female operatic star, 4. Expression of sorrow or pity, 5. Resistance unit, 6. Attached a new backing canvas, 7. Method painting, 8. Branched, 9. Barefooted, 10. Beer mug, 11. Beloved Mexican dish, 13. Make better, 17. One-time king of Troy, 24. Pie mode, 25. St. Anthony's fire, 26. Reciprocal of a sine, 27. -rah skirt, 28. Notre Dame coach Parseghian, 29. Computer hardware company, 35. Policeman, 36. Black tropical American cuckoo, 37. Popular basketball player Jeremy, 38. Electrocardiogram, 40. Cheese dish, 41. Prickly shrub, 42. Atomic mass unit, 43. Nostrils, 44. Enchantresses, 45. Emphatic typeface, 47. One of the Florida Keys, 48. Soft, fine material, 49. Moutainous tract in Jordan, 52. Breezes through, 53. Professional assn. for tech pros, 54. Class of comb jellies, 55. Formerly (archaic)



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OBITUARIES

Dalton, Ashley Ann

Ashley Ann Dalton, 34, of Radford, brother, Ricky Lawrence; cousin, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 8, 2023. She was a bus driver with Radford Transit.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rick Lawrence and Belinda Ann Hahn.

Survivors include her husband, Erich T. Dalton; daughter Emilia Dalton; son, Peter Dalton; sister and brother-in-law, Heather Collins and Richard; Home & Crematory in Radford.



brother, Ricky Lawrence; cousin, Ginny Sculla; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the American Autism Association.

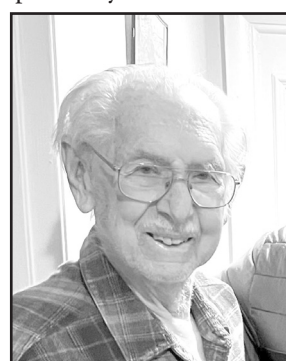
The Dalton family is in the care of Mullins Funeral

Eiss Jr., Norman Smith

Norman Smith Eiss Jr. died peacefully in 1953 and began work at DuPont's rayon plant in Buffalo at home June 12, 2023, at the age of 92 after a three-year battle with cancer.

Norm is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Nancy Jean (Siegrist) Eiss; his children Martin Eiss (Jeanne), Christine Wyckoff (John), Jennifer Voland (Doug); stepchildren of Jeffrey (Jeff) Schmidt and Pamela Klustner (Gary Johnson); grandchildren Lauren Bridgers, Madison Drysdyn, Sydney Eiss, Nicole Fiscus, Ally Voland, Jay Klustner, Jordan Klustner, and Kaleyanna Schmidt; great grandchildren Theo Bridgers, Violet Bridgers, Zoe Drysdyn, Amelie Drysdyn and Hudson Fiscus; and siblings Valerie Koch, Mary Andrus, Martie Preg and Dorothy Maritme.

Norm was born in Buffalo, N.Y., March 13, 1931 and has been a resident of Blacksburg since 1966. He retired as a member of the Mechanical Engineering Department in 1998. Norm graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



rayon plant in Buffalo as a mechanical process engineer. He left the company a year later to become an officer in the U.S. Air Force, specializing in radar maintenance. In 1956, he joined the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory where he worked as a mechanical engineer for seven years. He took time off to earn M.S. and Ph.D degrees from Cornell University where he also taught as an instructor in mechanics. As a member of the Mechanical Engineering Department at VT, he authored numerous papers related to polymer wear mechanisms and surface topography characterization and participated actively in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Educations and the

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 12 Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. 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

Watch Out For Pride

Read 2 Chronicles 24:1 through 26:23

After Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense (2 Chronicles 26:16).

Uzziah became king in Judah at sixteen years of age. During his reign, he fortified towers, dug wells, increased agriculture, invented weapons, and raised an impressive army. However, after forty blessed and prosperous years as king, he made a monumental mistake in judgment. He let pride settle in.

He entered into the sanctuary to offer incense on the golden altar, a ministry rite belong-

ing to the consecrated temple priests, not him. When the high priest, along with a band of eighty priests, withstood him, Uzziah became furious. While screaming back at the priests, leprosy broke out on Uzziah's forehead. Sadly, he remained a leper, living in an isolated home until the day he died.

Pride can slip into a believer's life almost unnoticed. The consequences are never good. If pride ever raises its ugly head, deal with it immediately. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

Thought for Today: Humility is our best defense against pride.

Quicklook: 2 Chronicles 26:16-23

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 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

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American Society of Testing Materials. He had a long record of service to these societies, including chairing numerous technical and planning committees and national and international conferences. He was also a director of STLE and in 1988 he was elevated to the membership grade of Fellow in this society. In 1989 he was named the George R. Goodson, Jr. Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

In addition to an active career, Norm had numerous hobbies and interests. He especially enjoyed family gatherings like trips to the beach. He enjoyed traveling,

gardening, the arts, hiking canoeing, white water rafting and tennis. He was also active in community organizations, including the Community Foundation of the NRV, Life Long Living Institute, Habitat for Humanity, YMCA at VT, the Moss Center. AARP and Warm Hearth Foundation.

The family would like to thank friends and neighbors, the Good Samaritan Hospice team, doctors, nurses and aides for their love and support during this difficult time. A celebration of Norm's life will be announced at a later date.

Hammond, Margaret Marie Hughes Berry

Margaret Marie Hughes Berry of Fredericksburg; grandchildren, Hammond, 96, of Radford, passed away comfortably in her home on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.



Margaret is preceded in death by her parents William B. Hughes and Dorothy Camper Hughes; grandson, Elliott Michael Horton; and sister, Barbara A. Baker.

She is survived by her sister Geraldine (Teny) Morris; sons and daughters-in-law, Gregory (Bobbie) Berry of Standardsville, Va., and Bradley (Donna) Berry of Conyers, Ga.; daughters and sons-in-law, Vickie Heil (Brad Williams) of Steamboat Springs, Colo., Barbara Horton (Mike) of Radford, and Margaret Ann Berry

of Fredericksburg; grandchildren, Sarah Heil Goodwin, Paul Berry, Susan Berry Duckworth, Jessica Horton Price, Jonathan Berry, and Leslie Berry; great-grandchildren, Alex, Emma, Katie, Ben, Owen, Colton, Charlee, and Claire; and many other relatives and friends.

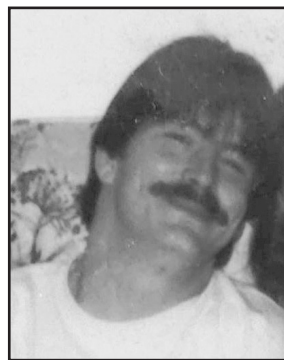
The family would like to thank Intrepid Hospice for the loving care they gave Margaret. Services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Radford Animal Shelter.

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

Hefley, Evan Eugene

Evan Eugene Hefley, 58, of Evelyn Hefley, and Elizabeth Belspring, passed away on Sunday, June 11, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Eva Hefley; and his sister, Ellen Hefley.



Survivors include daughters, Alexis Hefley (Brandon Moren), and Kara Hefley; sons, Jacob Hefley, Evan Hefley, and Ricky Hefley; granddaughter, Aubree Hefley; brothers, Ed Hefley, Eric Hefley, and Ernie Hefley; sisters, Radford.

Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Vest, William

William ("Bill") Vest, of Dublin, passed away on Monday, June 12, 2023 at the Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center.



He was preceded in death by his parents, William M. Vest and Myrtle Bandy Vest; his first wife, Joyce Robertson Vest; his sister, Sarah Lou Vest Parsell; and brother, Tommy Vest.

Also, Bill was preceded in death by Jackson and Myrtle Morris Vest, who reared him after his parents died when he was a young boy.

Bill was a Vietnam Veteran, having served in the United States Air Force for five years in the early sixties. He then began a long career in construction. Bill retired from Branch and Associates where he worked as a construction superintendent on large building projects at Virginia Tech, Radford University, VMI, and many other college campuses. Bill loved bass fishing, gardening, and visiting with his family and friends.

Bill is survived by his wife, Debra K. Bond; his daughter and son-in-law, Casey and Tim Delph, Dublin; his step-daughters and husbands, Amy and Dustin Nester, Hillsville and Sharon and Richard McDougal, Pulaski; his granddaughters and husbands, Kelsey and Alan Lang and Samantha and Coy Smith, all of Dublin; his step-grandchildren, Anna Nester and Katherine Marshall and Jace and Ryleigh McDougal; and his

great-grandchildren, Colton and Cora Smith.

Surviving siblings include Freda Wright, John Doug Vest, and Rachel and Jerry Davis, all of Dublin. Surviving sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law include Brenda Nester, Roanoke, Julian Bond, Christiansburg, Alan and Jennifer Gardner, Dugspur, Phyllis and Harold Kirk, Dublin, Bud and Jean Robertson, Pearisburg, Geraldine Croy, Christiansburg, Carol Speer and Sue and Doug Mullins, all of North Carolina.

Also surviving are many nieces and nephews, who dearly loved their "Uncle Bill."

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at the Pulaski Church of God with Pastor Donald Jones officiating.

Graveside services were held Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery, Dublin, with military honors provided by the Langley Air Force Honor Guard, the Dublin American Legion Post # 58 and the Pulaski VFW Post # 1184.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made in Bill's honor to the American Heart Association, www.heart.org/donate, 1715 Pratt Dr, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

The Vest family is in the care of A. Vest & Sons Funeral Home, White Gate, avestandsons.com, (540) 921-2985.

Young actor's plum role in 'Nightmare' moves her closer to her cinematic dreams

Sun, surf and sand, darkened by betrayal and deception.

A fun-filled vacation gone horribly awry.

An extraordinarily driven mother, determined to save her daughter, Kayla, from the clutches of brutal kidnapers.

Those are the broad strokes of "Spring Break Nightmare," a feature film that debuted on the Lifetime Movie Network in March and which is periodically available on Hulu.

Right in the middle of it all is Lauren Faulkner '15, a Radford University theater graduate and an actor on the rise who has a key role in "Nightmare."

She plays Becky, Kayla's sensible best friend and the center of the movie's first big dramatic twist.

"I loved the balance of work and fun," Faulkner recently said of making the movie, which was shot across two weeks in Florida locations that included Clearwater and St. Pete Beach. "It's hard not to have fun when you're in a place where there are so many creative people, all working

at once."

"Nightmare" is actually her second turn in a recent Lifetime melodrama — she was also in 2021's "Party Gone Wrong," which was partially filmed at The Hotel Roanoke — and those roles mark a steady progression for the former Bland County resident.

Early on, Faulkner performed on Southwest Virginia stages in Pulaski and Wytheville, and while studying at Radford, she starred in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Clybourne Park" and the legendary musical "Cabaret," among other productions.

Not long after she got her degree, the Rocky Gap, Virginia, native headed to Los Angeles to find a place in the entertainment industry, and she quickly turned up in such short films as "The Bizarre Act of Samantha" in 2017, and 2019's "Caroline."

"I think anyone would tell you it's a difficult city to thrive in," Faulkner recently said of LA. "The cost of living is high, and there are so many people trying to do the exact same thing that you are.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

"You just have to have this mentality of 'I'm going to stick with it in order to make things work.'"

Her tenacity succeeded. She will soon mark her eighth anniversary of living and working there.

"It never really gets any easier, I would say, but I now have a community. I've met so many wonderful people who are in my corner, and I have people I can rely on who are going through the same things as me," she said. "That definitely makes it all the more worthwhile."

Faulkner's primary focus remains film work — she

estimates she goes on as many as five auditions each week — but she said she's still interested in the theater and the challenges and excitement of performing in front of an audience. Just over a year ago, she began trying her hand at comedy as well.

"I'm doing stand-up as kind of a means to scratch the live theater itch," she said. "I've performed at a handful of places, but I would love to keep

branching out. At some point, I'm hopefully going to come back to Southwest Virginia to do a comedy set. I want to bring my comedy back to where I came from."

And, speaking of her roots, Faulkner said she has fond memories of her work and her time at Radford.

"A lot of people will tell you that because acting is subjective, you don't need training. And I don't know if you do or not; I can't speak for everybody, but I enjoyed

mine. I feel well-equipped to tackle various roles and understand scenes and find a character's arc ... based on my theater training."

"I'm very thankful for all the training I received from my professors at Radford," she added. "They really, really do want everyone that they educate to succeed, and you feel that, and I'm very grateful for that."

Neil Harvey for Radford University

Walking

from page 3

and, guess what, pedestrian-friendly amenities like crosswalks delay cars. It's not so much that the guidelines are purposefully anti-walking, they are pro-driving, but they do at the same time making walking less attractive."

Based on the successes of other countries, the study suggests steps governments could take to promote safe walking.

Steps toward better designs

A cultural shift that better prioritizes pedestrians during the roadway planning process is needed.

This could include the incorporation of networks of clearly-marked, well-lit sidewalks and crosswalks and safety islands built into intersection corners and medians, as well as rethinking road placement and deemphasizing designing for speed.

"We in the U.S. walk less even though there are a large number of trips that would be short enough," Buehler said. "For example, Northern New Jersey has roughly the population density of the Netherlands, but it's been planned for cars. So across the street you

can see your destination, but because in between there is a six-lane roadway with no crosswalk, it's very dangerous or impossible to get there."

Steps toward better land use

Along with more pedestrian-friendly street designs, thinking through the creation of more walkable communities should include revamping zoning laws and regulations to allow for more mixed-use spaces.

"The land use really matters," Buehler said. "If we keep defining

neighborhoods as places without corner stores, day cares, doctors' offices, and things of daily necessity, we're forcing people to drive because distance will be long and there really will not be a choice."

Steps toward better driving habits

Lower speed limits, enforced by both police and traffic cameras, as well as tightened laws related to drunk and distracted driving could greatly benefit safety for both drivers and walkers. Also needed is the revision of laws and their enforcement to put more

responsibly on drivers.

"If a pedestrian gets hit, we often sort of blame the victim," Buehler said. "We have to put the responsibility of avoiding that on the people who operate the two-ton machines rather than the people who are walking and have no physical protection around them."

Steps toward better transportation education

Many countries with safer walking rates also have more restrictive driving regulations. Similar efforts, compounded with more proactive education

programs related to both walking and driving for youth, could greatly increase the overall safety of both activities.

"One of the most dangerous jobs in the US is that of a crossing guard," Buehler said. "So it's very dangerous, even around schools, for kids to walk to schools. As a result, parents decide to drive them to school and then there are even more cars driving around those schools."

What steps can you take?

As the warmer weather makes walking more attractive, it also provides an opportunity to play a critical role in making communities safer for foot travel.

"People who are out and walk daily, they know about dangerous situations, they know about the sidewalk missing links, they know about the traffic signals that don't work," Buehler said. "They have to talk to their local politicians, their town and city engineers, because what we're finding again and again is those folks don't really know what's out there."

Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech

DOWN EAST WOOD

DUCKS VS SALEM RED SOX

JUNE 20TH 7:05PM
GAME 1 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 21ST 7:05PM
GAME 2 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 22ND 7:05PM
GAME 3 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 23RD 7:05PM
PRIDE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 24TH 6:05PM
MARVEL'S DEFENDERS OF THE DIAMOND - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JUNE 25TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Lady Bobcat wrestling reaching for brass ring

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Women's wrestling is one of the fastest-growing sports at the scholastic and collegiate level, and this past year, the Virginia High School League issued a mandate to create a whole separate level for female wrestlers.

According to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, opportunities for girls and women to wrestling began in the late

1980's, when the international wrestling federation United World Wrestling began hosting competitions. But only recently has the sport really taken off.

As of January, 32 states including Virginia have some form of female wrestling. In September, the VHSL Executive Committee voted to designate girls wrestling as an "emerging sport" starting with the 2022-23 season.

Separate tournaments specifically for girls, like the Virginia Girls Wrestling

Championship, exist and are sanctioned by the Virginia High School League.

The exact number of females that participated in VHSL wrestling this past season is not known, but Radford High School had two girls wrestle and several others inquire about joining the team.

In anticipation of this increase, the RHS wrestling program has launched a fundraising effort for monies to buy wrestling singlets for the girls.

Radford athletic director Greg Wade points to the fact it is an emerging sport here in southwest Virginia.

"We are hoping to expand the sport. We had two girls this past year, and in the future, we hope to have two teams," he said.

The exact amount of the fundraising goal is not known, but Radford is hoping to gather enough to serve as the foundation for the separate sports team.

Blue Ridge Golf Tour starts season

Young golfers gathered at the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech on Tuesday June 13 to compete in the June Oblinger Shott Foundation Junior Classic. The event was part of the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour and marked the first tournament of the 2023 season for junior players up to age 18. It's the 25th year for the familiar and celebrated regional golf tour, one that has enjoyed the cooperation of golf courses in southern West Virginia and southwest Virginia throughout the years.

Here is a recap of the action.

17-18 Age Group

Clayton Gilmore of Moneta claimed the age-group title in his very first start on the Tour. Gilmore played steadily on the inward nine collecting five pars enroute to an 18-hole score of 82. Lucas Beeler of Radford and Radford University recruit McKenzie Weddle of Floyd tied for second with scores of 84.

15-16 Age Group

Peyton Mason of Willis defeated Andrew McCoy of Glasgow in a sudden-death playoff to claim the age group title after both players had posted impressive scores of two over par 74.

Mason made the turn at one under par and then made six pars on the second nine holes to force the playoff. McCoy also was off to a good start, making the turn at even par. He continued the trend through the first seven holes on the inward nine before a double bogey on the difficult par 3-17th derailed his hope of the victory.

The playoff occurred on the par 4-11th hole where Mason made a par to defeat McCoy. Harris Camp of

Roanoke was third just one stroke back at 75. Hunter Crist of Radford and Rocky Frye of Bramwell, WV tied for fourth with scores of 77.

Ryan Highfield of Blacksburg shot 78 and Josh Cummings of Christiansburg shot 79 to finish sixth and seventh respectively in the deeply talented age division.

13-14 Age Group

Another playoff was needed to settle this age group as Carter Dudash of Christiansburg defeated Evan Singleton of Pulaski on the first hole of the additional play.

Both had posted scores of 88 to tie for the lead. Mike Bateman of Salem and Jack Herbert of Blacksburg tied for third two shots back at 90. Campbell Sayers of Marion was a stroke back at 91 and finished fifth.

10-12 Age Group

J.J. Robertson of Blacksburg shot 43 to win the age group playing nine holes. Robertson's score was four better than Liam Smith of Elliston, who finished second. Seth Alba of Blacksburg finished third with a score of 51.

9 and Under Age Group

Colton Caudill of Wytheville shot 51 over nine holes and won the age group. Silas Edmonds, also of Wytheville shot 55 and finished second. Michael Brown of Blacksburg shot 59 and finished third.

The Tour continues next week with a tournament at Draper Valley scheduled for Tuesday June 20.

News Messenger staff report

OUTDOOR REPORT

Pathogen found farm-raised rainbow trout

An emerging strain of harmful bacteria has been found for the first time in farm-raised rainbow trout in Virginia.

"Other people that are culturing trout in the state need to know about it, and individuals in states around our state need to know about it," said Stephen A. Smith, professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathology and director of the Aquatic Medicine Program at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. "Because they're going to be seeing it probably in North Carolina soon and probably some other places with the transportation of fingerlings between states. I wouldn't be surprised if it's already spread to other states."

The discovery was published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Aquatic Animal Health, entitled "First isolation of Carnobacterium maltamaticum from farmed Rainbow Trout in Virginia."

"This was one of my diagnostic cases that was submitted to our college," Smith said. "The fish came in with skin lesions that were not typical of more common trout diseases we have in the United States."

"We were able to isolate this bacterium that had never been reported by our lab, and I've been doing diagnostics here for 30 years. I've never seen that particular genus and species of bacteria isolated from those fish."

Smith said colleagues at Michigan State were able to point him toward cases they had found previously, and analyses determined it was the same strain of bacteria they had seen in the Great Lakes region.

Courtney E. Harrison and Thomas Loch of



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHEN SMITH

Some Farm-raised rainbow trout from Virginia have been found to have a bacterial pathogen that outdoorsman must watch for.

Michigan State University are co-authors with Smith, as is Shelley J. Newman of Newman Specialty VetPath in Hicksville, New York.

Smith said *C. maltamaticum* can cause skin lesions and kidney and liver problems in trout. If left untreated, large-scale fish die-offs are possible. Treatment with antibacterial agents have proven effective, he said.

"This is an emerging disease, we've got it in Michigan, we've got it in a number of different places around the Great Lakes, we have it now in Virginia," Smith said. "It's an emerging disease that people should know about. That's why we did such a thorough workup of the phenotypic characterization and then we also did some molecular sequencing of it to make sure it was exactly the same."

While some previous studies found female fish more susceptible to the *C. maltamaticum*, the Virginia discovery of the bacterium was in an

"all-male rainbow trout broodstock population, suggesting that pseudo-kidney disease can ensue if conditions are favorable, regardless of sex," Smith's paper states.

The site of the Virginia discovery is described in the paper as "a commercial aquaculture facility with spring-fed, flow-through raceways" that "experienced morbidity and mortality of production-sized rainbow trout over a two-week period in January 2018."

Water quality and oxygen levels were found within acceptable ranges, ruling those out as factors. Affected fish displayed anorexia, wasting, skin lesions, and abnormal floating.

Smith has been on the veterinary college's faculty since 1991, performing diagnostics and research on aquatic animals and teaching courses on wildlife and exotic animals.

Kevin Myatt for Virginia Tech

RU women add four for 2023-24 season

Radford Women's Basketball Head Coach Mike McGuire has announced an exciting addition of young talent in four freshmen to the roster for the 2023-24 season.

Adelyn Traylor-Walker, a 5'7 guard coming from Bella Vista Preparatory School and Terissa Lavoile-Brice, a 6'0 forward from Saint-Laurent, Quebec, Canada join the team as incoming freshmen. Joi Williams, a 5'8 guard from Ashburn, Va. and Arshae Jackson, a 5-10 guard coming from James River High School round out the quartet of new Highlanders who will be making their collegiate debuts next season.

Adelyn Traylor-Walker Guard | 5-7 | Franklin, Ind. | Bella Vista Preparatory School

During her senior season at Bella Vista Prep, Adelyn averaged 14.2 ppg, 5.4 spg, 5.8 apg and 10.1 rpg

Was a varsity letter all four years

Voted MidState all-conference twice and Defensive Player of the Year once

Scored 1,287 career points

Indiana State championship runner-up her junior season and a world champion at Grind Session her senior year

Was named MVP at the 2021 Memorial Weekend Tournament in Ohio

Played for the AAU Team Blaze coached by Derrick Cross and Ron McClennon

Terissa Lavoile-Brice Forward | 6-0 | Saint-Laurent, Quebec, Canada | Winston-Salem Christian School

Most recently played at Winston-Salem Christian School but also played at Ecole Secondaire Saint-Laurent in her high school career

Averaged six points, eight rebounds and three assists

In 2018 she helped her team towards a Provincial Championship and placing third-place in the Canada Games

In 2019 she helped lead the team towards another Provincial Championship and a first-place finish in the Canada Games

Named first team all-star in 2019

Earned academic merits for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons

Played AAU with

the Phoenix Elite and Bluehounds coached by Delaney Rudd and Trevor Williams

Joi Williams Guard | 5-7 | Ashburn, Va. | Virginia Academy

While at Virginia Academy, Williams averaged 23 ppg, 5.2 rpg and 3.1 apg

Finished with 1,903 points in her high school career

Was a three-time state champion for the season 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23

Named the Virginia State Player of the Year three times for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons

Named an All-MET Selection by the Washington Post

Was a member of the AAU Fairfax Stars EYBL in 2021 and 2022 coached by Aggie McCormick

Arshae Jackson Guard | 5-10 | Church Hill, Va. | James River High School

Averaged 7.8 rebounds, 4.1 assists, 4.9 field goals and 11.9 points per game at James River High School

Was a 1,000-point career scorer

Team captain for three years with her high school team

Named to the all-metro and all-state teams all four seasons played

Made the senior all-star game

Finished her high school career as the second highest all-time scorer at James River

Played AAU on the team FBC Havoc coached by Jackie Edmonds

Radford University Athletics

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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C	R	A	N	I	A	L	E	R	R	E	O	
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Small Children Are Being Poisoned by THC

The number of children under the age of 5 accidentally poisoned by cannabis edibles has soared 1,375% since 2017.

Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Jan. 2023



JustSayKNOW.org

This message is brought to you by the Montgomery County Prevention Partners & New River Valley Community Services



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Zoom meetings.
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