

Montgomery Museum of Art and History celebrates 40th anniversary



FILE PHOTO

Wake Forest Baptist Church

Blacksburg church not soliciting for money

Leaders of a Blacksburg church are telling the public they are not actively seeking donations. Recently, individuals reported being contacted about giving money to the historic church.

Wake Forest Baptist Church Pastor Hiawatha Spraggins, Jr. says that simply is not true.

"We are not out in the public seeking money of any kind for our church," he said.

Wake Forest Baptist Church is located at 1886 McCoy Road and recently celebrated its 123rd anniversary, being one of the oldest churches in the New River Valley.

If members of the public have any questions or have received any solicitation for the church, call 540-239-3372.

-News Messenger staff report

Arch made of books welcoming public back to reading



An arch completely made out of books awaits visitors as they enter a special library section at a Christiansburg antique store.

A Christiansburg couple believes in the written word, and they are hoping to attract more people to both old and new novels in a unique way.

Ken and Heather Vaughan opened a spot in the Cambria Station Antiques location over a year ago and recently expanded their selection of hardbacks to over 1,200 sq. feet.

They have been selling and buying books for over 10 years, and both were able to quit their full-time jobs as the book business has really taken off.

Their business is known as Old New River Books, a family-owned book business ready to help with your book buying needs - any genre, topic or theme. Thousands of books line the shelves at the historic structure in the Cambria section of Christiansburg. They have been specializing in buying and selling used books since 2014.

When considering a way to separate the area from other parts of the store, they had seen unusual pieces of art that drew attention to books. That's when they come up with an arch constructed out of books.

So, they began 10 months ago, and now the arch is 80 percent complete, being made up of nothing but books. Yes, books.

They started from the outside and have been working their way to the top, placing long screws to stabilize the

See Book Arch, page 4

MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY'S GIVE LOCAL NRV GIVING INITIATIVES

Early Giving Starts June 1!

- Children's Corner
- Expanding the Definition of Arts
- Education Lab
- Educational Outreach with MCPS
- Quality of Life for our Aging Population
- Art Therapy and Wellness
- Creative Placemaking

Give Local NRV Giving Day: June 28-29

Read more about our giving initiatives and GIVE @ <https://www.givelocalnr.org/organization/Mmah>

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

Graphic courtesy of the Montgomery Museum of Art and History. The museum is committed to serve the community through their seven pillars of giving initiatives.

Montgomery Museum of Art and History is celebrating **Lori Graham** Contributing writer

their 40th anniversary in June, and one year anniversary in their new Downtown Christiansburg location.

The museum was formerly located on Pepper Street in Christiansburg and still retains the property with a beautiful garden for all to enjoy. The gardens are an educational and recreational asset and are an extension of what they do at the museum.

In the museum on 4 East Main St. in Christiansburg, visitors will see both art and history exhibits and admission is free.

The art and history exhibits showcase genres such as photography, painted art, lithography, documents, books, and other collections made available to the museum. The museum provides a rich environment for embracing both interpreting the history as well as connecting the present-day culture of the New River Valley.

"We are currently transforming the old bank of Christiansburg into a state-of-the-art, regional cultural destination that offers enriching programming and serves as an inclusive, collaborative gathering space for the New River Valley," Executive Director of the Montgomery Museum Casey Jenkins said.

Currently, the museum is also fundraising through the Give Local NRV campaign and has set a goal of \$40,000 in honor of their 40th anniversary. Donations during the early giving part of the campaign have already begun and will culminate with a 24-hour kick-on Wednesday June 28 at noon, ending on June 29 at noon. Anyone interested in donating may visit the website at www.givelocalnr.org. Monthly subscriptions are also available from the museum at their website at www.montgomerymuseum.org.

The museum is holding Giving Day Bash, an open house to kick-off their donations campaign on June 28, with a cash bar and live music. The art and history exhibits will be open during the event for everyone to enjoy.

Jenkins said the Montgomery Museum is very excited about their pillars of giving initiatives. Their focus for the museum is to meet with seven community pillars: children's corner for ages 2-10, expanding the definition of arts, an education lab, educational outreach with Montgomery County Public Schools, quality of life for our aging population, art therapy and wellness, and creative placemaking. Through these pillars, the museum hopes to "leave a positive and lasting impact on the local community," according to their website.

The museum will be hosting two more very large events in July and August. An open house and NRV Rail Exhibition, along with other art and collections, and the Passenger Rail Panel Discussion with the NRV Regional Commission, Blacksburg Partnership, and VA Passenger Rail Authority will happen on July 13, 4:30-7 p.m. on Rail Heritage. The discussion will surround the much-anticipated passenger rail coming to Montgomery County.

On August 19, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., the annual Heritage Day Festival will be held along Main Street and includes the museum's locations at East Main Street and Pepper Street. The event is geared towards family activities, providing games, special children areas, and hayrides. There will be a beer garden for adults as well, plus food, vendors, and music for all ages.

The museum is open to the public for regular admission hours Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays 1-4 p.m.

Blacksburg Boxing and Fitness goes to the mats for Alzheimer's Association



Coach Craig Hauser referees boxers Ben King (left) and Nick Carter (right) during the sparring exhibition match in support of The Longest Day fundraising event for Alzheimer's Association.

to get practice while raising funds for a good cause.

The gym was founded in 2015 by Augusta and Kevin Bowen.

"Like in a spring Virginia Tech football game, they might not be hitting as hard as in the real game. It is the same idea with sparring," said Kevin Bowen, a USA Boxing Coach and Athlete. "The idea is not to knock your sparring partner out or to beat them. It is live boxing, but the whole point is not to hurt anyone or 'win' but get some good practice in. They also want to showcase their amateur skills."

Bowen said this is not their first fundraising event but it's the first time raising money for Alzheimer's Association. Nina Kempic, a volunteer with the Alzheimers Association and committee member chair with The Longest Day event, also had first-hand experience with the disease through a close family member.

"Taking care of my grandmother who had Alzheimer's, the Alzheimer's Association provided great support and information," Kempic said. So, she approached Bowen about

See Boxing, page 6

THE LONGEST DAY

alzheimer's association

Show your love and help end Alzheimer's. Donate today.

PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM

The Longest Day occurs on June 21 each year and strives to bring awareness and support to those fighting Alzheimer's and dementia disease through participation in a variety of events.

Lori Graham Contributing writer to a sparring event on June 9 at their Blacksburg gym location to raise funds for Alzheimer's Association and The Longest Day event. Amateur athletes sparred in an open match in front of a packed room of spectators. The sparring session allowed the athletes an opportunity

Blacksburg Boxing and Fitness invited the public

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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



*Get involved! Stay informed!
Join the MCP P email list or join our monthly
Zoom meetings.
Email info@nrvcs.org to learn more!*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 14:

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.

Thursday, June 15:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend this meeting. Mr. Chris McCloud, Third Brigade Commander, will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Virtual Author Talk with Jamie Beck
At the Radford Public Library; 2 – 3 p.m. You're invited to join us for an hour online with New York Times bestselling author and award-winning photographer Jamie Beck as she talks about her book "An American in Provence: Art, Life, and Photography." An American in Provence is a beautiful collection of exquisite portrait, scenic, and still-life photography. Looking to slow down from her fast-paced life in New York City, Beck embarked on a one-year getaway to Provence. One year, turning into five, Beck moved to the French countryside, documenting her life as "An American in Provence." Equal parts art book, travel diary, memoir, and cookbook, An American in Provence transports you to the South of France. Register now! <https://libraryc.org/radfordlibrary>.

Radford Photo Club - Nature Photography
At the Radford Public Library; 6 – 7 p.m. Aileen Fletcher, professional photographer and retired New River Community College teacher of photography, will present on Nature Photography, and will give participants an assignment for the July meeting.

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. in 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.

Tuesday, June 21:

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.

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.

Community Health Center of the New River Valley welcomes new dentist

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley (CHCNRV) is pleased to announce that Dr. S. Alexander Wood will join our staff in our Dublin office as Lead Dentist. In addition to seeing patients, Dr. Wood will also oversee our groundbreaking new dental residency program.

Dr. Wood earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, where he achieved academic excellence while demonstrating exceptional leadership skills. His skill set includes a wide range of dental procedures, including restorative treatments, extractions, endodontic procedures, and prosthodontic treatments. Dr. Wood also



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHCNRV
Dr. S. Alexander Wood

brings a strong background in community service. He has participated in dental mission trips to provide free dental care to underserved populations. "We are excited to welcome Dr. Wood to our team at the Community Health Center of the New

River Valley," said Michelle Brauns, MS, APR, CEO of The Community Health Center of the New River Valley. "His exceptional academic achievements, clinical skills, and commitment to community well-being perfectly align with our mission."

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley provides affordable and high-quality family medical, dental, behavioral, and preventive health care services to people of all ages, regardless of ability to pay. For more information about the Community Health Center's services and programs in Dublin, Christiansburg, and Pearisburg, visit our website at www.chcnrv.org or call 540-381-0820.

-Submitted by CHCNRV



PHOTO BY AILEEN FLETCHER
Canada geese go out on a family stroll down the photographer's driveway.

Veteran photographer to lead presentation on nature photography

Aileen Fletcher, who has exhibited her work throughout the region for several decades, will present information about nature photography at the next meeting of the Radford Photo Club on Thursday, June 15, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library.

Fletcher taught art at New River Community College since 1966, and photography since 1972. She will issue a challenge to those willing at the June Photo Club meeting

and judge the results at the July meeting.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. The photo challenge for June is flowers. There is also an open category and a table for photos that members would like to discuss.

If you love photography, the club has an outstanding

show at the Fine Arts Gallery for the New River Valley in Pulaski June 16 through August 5, including works by international artists and favorite local artists, as well as first timers to show, although not new to photography.

If you have questions about the Radford Photo Club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucygilmore@gmail.com or Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com.

-Submitted by the Radford Photo Club

In honor of
4th of July

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

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July 6th papers need to
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OPINION

Kids these days can learn from the art of lawn mowing

Evans "Buddy" King
Columnist

I enjoy listening to sports talk radio. It's much less depressing than the regular news and I am a sports nerd to boot. I also find that I hear enough "non-sports" filler to keep up on some trends in our society and to educate me on how much the world has changed since my childhood.

For instance, on the one sports talk show I try to catch several times a week, at least on podcast, "Full Ride" on Sirius XM with Rick Neuheisel and Chris Childers, I recently heard a short discussion that seemed like a good subject for a column on how different things are for kids growing up now.

A little background. Neuheisel was head football coach at Colorado, Washington, and UCLA during a successful college coaching career after playing quarterback at UCLA and in the USFL. He also has a law degree and coached in the NFL and is a fanatical amateur golfer, guitar player and singer/songwriter, and general renaissance man. He also has a sense of decorum and taste that is totally missing (perhaps by design) in his on air sidekick Childers. Rick is 61 and Childers is 40, possibly accounting for the dynamic, along with ratings.

Chris is the classic modern day "Joe Fan", with a different world view and wildly different mores than Coach Neuheisel. He frequently punctuates his comments with references to bodily functions and how wonderful it is that marijuana is now legal. The Coach tries to get him back on the "decorum reservation", usually reminding him that Gonzaga basketball coach Mark Few often listens to the program while driving his young children to school. Every time I get to the point of turning the program off because of Childers' obnoxiousness, however, he makes a good point or shows a sensitive side. It's great entertainment in my opinion.

Last week they were discussing one of their favorite topics, Jim Harbaugh, head football coach at the University of Michigan and admittedly NOT one of Neuheisel's closest friends in the fraternity. Childers was going off on one of the interesting comments that Harbaugh frequently makes. Coach Jim had said recently that one of the problems in the country today is that "kids no longer mow lawns".

Childers reacted to this in one of his sputtering, volatile diatribes, saying how much he (Childers) hated mowing the lawn and why would anyone think it was a good thing? What a stupid comment by Harbaugh, Coach Rick took the other side (hard as it was since it

was Harbaugh's quote) and talked about how he had mowed yards when he was growing up.

The debate reminded me of how you rarely saw an adult mowing a yard when I was a kid (other than one of the mothers on the street, Libby, a sight which was worth watching as a teenage boy). Many kids earned good spending money in the summers, and at the very least you mowed your parents' yard. I remember how proud I was to take this chore over from my Dad when I was about 12 years old. He worked long hours and had lots of church and civic meetings, and he had a bunch of pals at Round Meadow Country Club (RIP) he loved to play golf with on Saturdays. (One of my favorite memories is that his regular foursome for awhile was himself and three guys named Ray!) I wanted desperately to take this job off of him, and, even though I had a mother more protective than most, all that was said by her when I went out to mow was "don't cut your foot off when you're on the bank". I guess it was okay to cut my foot off if I wasn't on the bank!

So, as a kid in the summers, my goal was to mow our yard (we didn't call them lawns back then) on Friday afternoons before my dad got home from work.

See **Lawn Mowing**, page 5

Financial Focus: What should you expect from your investments?

To help achieve your financial goals, you may need to invest in the financial markets throughout your life. However, at times your investment expectations may differ from actual returns, triggering a variety of emotions. So, what are reasonable expectations to have about your investments?

Ideally, you hope that your investment portfolio will

eventually help you meet your goals, both your short-term ones, such as a cross-country vacation, and the long-term ones, such as a comfortable retirement. But your expectations may be affected by several factors, including the following:

Misunderstanding – Various factors in the economy and the financial markets trigger different reactions in different types of investments — so you should expect different results. When you own stocks, you can generally expect greater price volatility in the short term. Over time, though, the "up" and "down" years tend to average out. When you own bonds, you can expect less volatility than individual stocks, but that's not to say that bond prices never change. Generally, when interest rates rise, you can anticipate that the value of your existing, lower-paying bonds may decrease, and when rates fall, the value of your bonds may increase.

Recency bias – Investors exhibit "recency bias" when they place too much emphasis on recent events in the financial markets, expecting that those same events will happen again. But these expectations can lead to negative behavior. For example, in 2018, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell almost 6% — so investors subject to recency bias might have concluded it was best to stay out of the markets for a while. But the Dow jumped more than 22% the very next year. Of course, the reverse can also be true: In 2021, the Dow rose almost 19%, so investors who might have been susceptible to

recency bias may have thought they were in for more big gains right away — but in 2022, the Dow fell almost 9%. Here's the bottom line: Recency bias may cloud your expectations about your investments' performance — and it's essentially impossible to predict accurately what will happen to the financial markets in any given year.

Anchoring – Another type of investment behavior is known as "anchoring" — an excessive reliance on your original conviction in an investment. So, for instance, if you bought stock in a company you thought had great prospects, you might want to keep your shares year after year, even after evidence emerges that the company has real risks — for example, poor management, or its products could become outdated, or it could be part of an industry that's in decline. But if you stick with your initial belief that the company will inevitably do well, and you're not open to new sources of information about this investment, your expectations may never be met.

In many areas of life, reality may differ from our expectations — and that can certainly be true for our investments. Being familiar with the factors that can shape your expectations can help you maintain a realistic outlook about your investments.

This article was written by Edward, Member SIPC and submitted by local Edward Jones financial advisor Meghan Kuczumski (540)552-1241.

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Help stop elder financial abuse

More than 369,000 incidents of financial abuse targeting older adults are reported to authorities in the U.S. each year, causing an estimated \$4.8 billion in losses.

And those numbers likely understate the problem considerably. However, as we approach World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, it's good to remember that there are things we can do to stop elder financial exploitation.

Encourage your loved one to designate someone they trust to help them with financial decisions. The federal government's Eldercare Locator can help you find free or low-cost legal assistance. Suggest they add a trusted contact for their financial institutions if they are unreachable or if questionable activity is detected. A trusted contact is not able to make transactions,

but the financial institution can disclose some account information to them.

Also, watch out for someone — even someone you thought you or your loved one could trust — who discourages contact with family and friends, exerts pressure on financial decisions or asks for large sums of money.

Most importantly, financial exploitation is a crime and should be reported to your local police or Sheriff or even to 911.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

-Submitted by AARP

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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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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Formed by burning tobacco
 - 4. Luxury automaker
 - 7. Religious residences
 - 12. Crusaders
 - 14. Puzzled
 - 15. In a curt way
 - 18. Selling tool
 - 19. Solid material
 - 20. Gold
 - 21. Thick piece of something
 - 24. Pouch
 - 27. "Wonder Years" actor Fred
 - 30. Strong and healthy
 - 31. Waste matter
 - 33. Apply lightly
 - 34. Type of squad
 - 35. Secret political faction
 - 37. Mock
 - 39. Immoral act
 - 41. Early Syrian kingdom
 - 42. Neutralizes alkalis
 - 44. Loud, confused noise
 - 47. Sweet potato
 - 48. Yemen's largest city
 - 49. Farm state
 - 50. Bird's beak
 - 52. Measures distance
 - 53. Pacify
 - 56. Spanish noble
 - 61. Lodging supplied for public convenience
 - 63. Womanized
 - 64. Not divisible by two
 - 65. Monetary unit
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Used in perfumery
 - 2. Arabic man's name
 - 3. Assess
 - 4. Prickly plants
 - 5. Falsely assess
 - 6. "___ the whistle"
 - 7. Mama
 - 8. Rocker ___ Vicious
 - 9. Toward
 - 10. Prefix meaning within
 - 11. Midway between south and southeast
 - 12. Cause to be embarrassed
 - 13. Pandemonium
 - 16. Fall behind
 - 17. Cantonese
 - 22. Shad
 - 23. A way to make dark
 - 24. Specialized systems consultant
 - 25. Wings
 - 26. Taxi driver
 - 28. Linear units
 - 29. Large Philippine plant
 - 32. Celebration
 - 36. Fugitives are on this
 - 38. Chinese tree
 - 40. Not sour
 - 43. "Bourne" actor Matt
 - 44. Former OSS
 - 45. Runners run this
 - 46. Offered again
 - 51. Sanctuary
 - 54. Food suitable for babies
 - 55. Caused by a reflection of sound
 - 56. Mortar trough
 - 57. Days in mid-month
 - 58. Exhibit the courage to do
 - 59. Disk of the sun in Egyptian mythology
 - 60. Protects from weather
 - 62. Manganese



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Boxing from page 1

registering the gym for an event to raise funds for the organization.

“We said heck yeah, why not, and 100% of the proceeds go to the Alzheimer’s Association,” Bowen said.

The event also allowed for several amateur boxing athletes to step into the ring and practice their boxing skills in front of spectators.

Boxing and sparring require a lot of conditioning and fitness before engaging in a boxing match, Coaches Craig Hauser and Jimmy Ivory discussed at the sparring event on Friday.

“You have to be in tremendous shape to start,” said Hauser. “You will come to different classes we have here and work up to skills classes. Then when in good enough shape you can do the Fighter Fit classes. USA Boxing has a program that they need to join. They have to take the physical and maintain that every year.”

Months and even years of a continuous training and fitness regime is necessary for those wishing to become a boxing athlete. The direction of a registered coach is also a requirement.

“Any training session, people have to be not just like all-registered athletes but in the presence of a registered coach for their safety,” Ivory said. “Even contact training is highly regulated.”

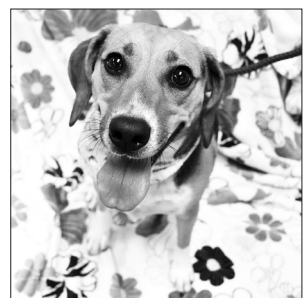
Blacksburg Boxing and Fitness offers a variety of classes to become fit and healthy while having fun learning boxing techniques as well. On the first floor of their gym is housed the boxing ring, punching bags, weightlifting equipment, cardio machines, and a variety of other facilities that allow for workouts at your own pace. Beginner classes allow participants to learn appropriate boxing techniques to get the most out of their workout. Higher intensity classes are also available such as the Fighter Fit or Core Shred that will give everyone the chance to meet their full workout potential. Additional class options are also available, including children’s camps.

The gym is currently open Monday-Thursday 6 a.m.- 9 p.m., Friday 6 a.m.- 7 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., and is closed on Sunday. The first week is free! Additional information can be found on their website at www.blacksburgboxingandfitness.com.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Chamomile



Luna

Say hello to Luna! She’s a shy hound who is looking for pawsome humans to show her all the things the world has to offer. She can be a little nervous at times and she would benefit from socialization. Overall her personality is friendly and sweet. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her.

Chamomile is a lovable, friendly gal who can’t wait to find her forever home. She loves attention and affection from people but she may not care for other dogs. From plushies with squeakers to bouncing balls, she does enjoy playing with toys!

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Book Arch from page 1

books, so it will not fall.

“We just love the arch and think it will be one of those attractions that stand out from other places,” said Ken.

He hopes to have the arch completed by July 1. Several special books are not locked into the artwork, instead visitors are able to pull the books out and open to find candy inside.

“We were thinking about children when we added the secret books,” Ken said.

In their online description, the couple asks: “Is there anything prettier than turn of the century bindings?”

“We just love books and having something in your hand that you can feel and read,” Heather said.

Again, the archway of books should be completed by the first of next months, and if you have any extra hardback, novel sized books in smoke free and mildew free condition that you would like to donate to our goal, Old New River Books would appreciate them to help finish the arch.

-News Messenger staff report



STAFF PHOTOS

Ken and Heather Vaughan stand in front of their vast collection of books at Cambria Station Antiques.

Lawn Mowing from page 4

He loved having a freshly mown front yard for the weekend, although we rarely had visitors other than family. I think it was a point of pride for the fathers on the street, to have their yards look nice. A sign of success, 60’s style.

When he got home from the office, my dad usually would inspect the Japanese cherry tree (the source of the name of our street) for “skinning”. There were not a lot of things that made my dad angry but knocking a piece of bark off that tree (or others in the backyard) was grounds for severe reprimand. While I was responsible for our yard, other kids on the block were taking care of theirs. And entrepreneurial kids expanded into other markets, usually seen pushing their mowing machines (in typical southwest Virginia fashion, we didn’t call them lawn mowers) up or down streets while carrying red gas cans and hand clippers.

I guess because we Baby Boomers became overly protective as parents, making things too easy and soft for our own children, it seems you rarely see a kid pushing a lawn mower anymore. Likewise, you never see a kid “carrying the papers” like in my day (full disclosure, I was only a substitute). And grocery stores don’t seem to use after school “bag boys” these days, another common way kids earned “gas money”. I think the chain grocery stores took that one away, unnecessary wages.

There are several deleterious consequences from this disappearance of these after school (or before school for some paper boys) and summertime jobs. Certainly, it has affected the old-fashioned American work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit. It has also taken a toll, even before the day that shoulders became hunched and eyes glued to small computer screens, on the opportunity for kids to learn to converse with adults, either while collecting their pay for mowing or delivering papers or while carrying bags of groceries to cars in grocery store parking lots. I see people passing each other in the parking lot at my Krogers now who are afraid to make eye contact. I startle them when I speak and they often hurry up, not understanding why a stranger would say “how are you?” None of my business, I guess. But bag boys and shopping mothers usually had a special connection in the day.

I think it was in “Gran Torino” that Clint Eastwood coined the phrase “get off my lawn”. On Full Ride and other sports talk shows the term has become frequently used to describe older folks who don’t accept modern ideas, like electronic strike zones or hockey and basketball playoffs that last till the 4th of July. I guess I sound like a “get off my YARD” guy in this piece. So, criticize me if you think kids staring at screens during all waking hours is better than mowing yards or carrying papers.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Local students on Shenandoah University dean’s list

Students who earned Dean’s List honors include: Katie Forbes of Blacksburg, and Nicklas Bissey of Christiansburg. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs must complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher. Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered in Winchester, Virginia, with additional educational sites in Clarke, Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

James Madison University announces spring 2023 president’s list

HARRISONBURG - James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the president’s list for the spring 2023 semester.

Shellie Cook of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.

Alexander Dunn of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

Miranda Lattimer of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BA.

Megan Newcomb of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

Sarah Parsons of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

Allison Payne of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Individualized Study - BS.

Hettie Roberson of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BA.

Emily Triplett of Riner, who is majoring in General Psychology - BA.

Tali Vidal of Radford, who is majoring in Dietetics - BS.

Julie Walsh of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Dietetics - BS.

Katherine Widner of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

Students who earn president’s list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above.

Abigail Barnes of Radford named to Provost’s List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, NY - Abigail Barnes of Radford achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the Spring 2023 semester, earning a spot on the Provost’s List at Hofstra University. Abigail’s major is Speech-Language Hearing Sciences.

Hofstra University is an internationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y.

Lucas Michalisin earns dean’s list honors at The College of Saint Rose

ALBANY, NY - Congratulations to Lucas Michalisin, of Christiansburg, VA, for earning a spot on the Dean’s List for the Spring 2023 semester at The College of Saint

Rose in Albany, New York. Michalisin is majoring in Communications at Saint Rose.

Full-time undergraduate students, who complete a minimum of 12 graded credit hours and who achieve a semester average of 3.5.

James Madison University announces spring 2023 graduates

HARRISONBURG - James Madison University is pleased to announce the following students who graduated during the May 2023 commencement exercises.

Julia Lattimer of Blacksburg graduated with a degree in Communication Studies - BS.

Marissa Adams of Blacksburg graduated with a degree in Music - BM.

Gjergji Ngjala of Blacksburg graduated with a degree in Sport and Recreation Leadership - MS.

Rebecca Cistulli of Christiansburg graduated with a degree in Biology - MS.

Katelyn Tanaka of Christiansburg graduated with a degree in Biotechnology - BS.

Allison Payne of Christiansburg graduated with a degree in Individualized Study - BS.

Amanda Keyton of Copper Hill graduated with a degree in Communication Studies - BS.

Kayleigh Bishop of Riner graduated with a degree in

See **Student Achievements**, page 7

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OBITUARIES

Dillon, Esley N.

Esley N. Dillon, of McCoy, 87, passed away on June 8, 2023, in a Richmond hospital after a long illness.

He was born in McCoy on January 31, 1936, to the late Hampton and Ruth (Dolly) Albert Dillon. He proudly served his country during the Korean Conflict and faithfully served Centennial Christian Church since his childhood. He was also a member of the Longshop-McCoy Fire & Rescue Squad for 50 years and retired from the Information Services Department at Virginia Tech after 53 years of dedication.

death by his parents; two brothers, Elmer and Eugene Dillon; and a sister, Jewel Croy.



He is survived by his sister, Marie Dillon Bland, and his sister-in-law, June Hollandsworth.

His love for the McCoy community was shown through his many acts of kindness to others. He will be missed greatly.

At his request, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Centennial Christian Church Cemetery Fund or the Longshop-McCoy Fire & Rescue Squad.

Visitation was Monday, June 12 at the McCoy Funeral Home. The service was held Tuesday, June 13 at Centennial Christian Church in McCoy with Rev. Todd Millsaps, Rev. Gary McCoy, and Rev. Neal Turner officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Lacy, Aurelia Dance

Aurelia Dance Lacy, of Blacksburg, passed away on June 9, 2023. She was 98.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Micajah Pennington Lacy; brother, Elbert Dance and sisters, Janye Powell, Marion Henderson and Evelyn Snead.

She is survived by three sons, Michael (Linda), Frank (Janice) and Walter (Iris); eight grandchildren, Elizabeth Lacy Heffner (David), Adrienne Lacy Morales (Drew), Brittany Lacy (Thomas Donegan), Thomas Lacy, Danielle Lacy Hillenbrand (Brent), Micajah Lacy (Alica), Carmen Lacy, Renee Lacy; and eight great grandchildren, James, Amelia and Isaac Heffner, Bennett and Aurelia Hillenbrand, Michael Morales, Dean and Olive Lacy.

Aurelia was born in Halifax County, Va. on May 9, 1925 to Frank and Janie Dance and grew up on a small family farm

there. During WWII, she moved to Washington, DC and worked in the Military Intelligence Division of the US War Department. She married Micajah in 1946 and moved to Blacksburg soon after. Aurelia worked to help support Micajah's



pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degrees following which he served as a faculty member and administrator at Virginia Tech.

Aurelia was a loving wife and mother remembered for her strong will, work ethic, grace and hospitality. She was highly competitive

and loved playing (and usually winning) bridge and other card games with friends and family.

She was a member of the Blacksburg Baptist Church where she directed the nursery for many years. Always involved in the community, she was an active member of the PTA, served many years as a Cub Scout Den Mother, was elected president of the Town and Country Garden Club and was a member of the Smithfield Guild. In later years she became interested in family genealogies resulting in her serving as Regent of the Allegheny Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a member of the National Society of Magna Carter Dames, Colonial Dames, Daughters of Colonial Wars, Jamestown Society and numerous other genealogical societies.

The family asks in lieu of flowers, memorials be directed to the Micajah P. Lacy Scholarship at Virginia Tech.

Hicks, Jr., Henry Howard

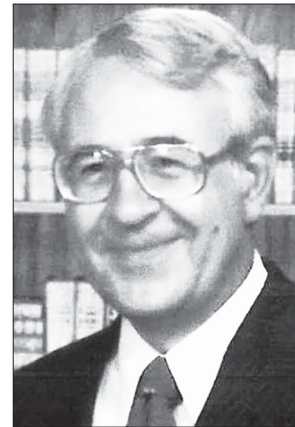
Henry Howard Hicks, Jr., "Howard", 87, of Daleville, passed away at home following a brief illness.

Howard was born August 13, 1935 in Charlotte Court House, Va. and lived in Daleville for 33 years. He was the son of the late Henry H. Hicks Sr. and Martha M. Coates Hicks.

Howard retired as Senior Vice-President of Operations for First Virginia Bank after 47 years of experience, retiring in 2000. He enjoyed playing golf when he was younger, played a mean game of poker, and travelled all over the world. Howard was active in Kiwanis locally and

Rotary in Radford. He was an avid football fan, especially the Redskins.

In addition to his



parents, Howard was preceded in death by his brother, Robert William Hicks. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Karen

Mobley Hicks; son, Henry Howard "Chip" Hicks, III (Anne) of Dunwoody, Ga.; daughter, Martha Louise "Marti" Hicks (Charles) Atkins of Fincastle; grandchildren: Ryan Hicks and Katie Hicks; and his sister, Mary (Fred) Helder of Elizabethtown, Pa. A celebration of Howard's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Fincastle Rescue Squad and Fire Department, PO Box 432, Fincastle, VA 24090; or to a charity of one's choice. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.rader-funeralhome.com/tributes/Henry-Hicks.

Nicely, Dr. James Edward

Dr. James Edward Nicely, 85, of Radford, died on May 26, 2023.

He was a gentleman who cherished his family and dedicated his life to serving others. He was born December 31, 1937, in Seymour, Ind., to Oris and Mary Evelyn Nicely Walp. He grew up in North Vernon, Ind., and due to WWII, was adopted by his grandmother, Zula Eaton Nicely.

Dr. Nicely is survived by his beloved wife, Sonya Jones Nicely, of 59 years; two children, James Eric (Karen Schauer) Nicely, and Kathleen "Katie" Clare Nicely; and two grandchildren, Victoria Britt and Spencer Evan. Family times spent together were treasured by him, as well as their daily phone calls, texts, and e-mails in later life.

Dr. Nicely was a graduate of Indiana University, Bloomington, where he earned the B.S. and M.S. degrees, which were followed by the Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, in Speech and Language Pathology. He was a speech and hearing therapist in the South Bend, Ind. public schools, an instructor at Saint Mary's College, Director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, and an Associate Professor at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

He came to Radford University in 1979, as chair of the new Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He oversaw the national accreditation of their graduate programs, and the building of two campus buildings to house the academic and clinical portions of both curricula. During his tenure, he served as the Acting Dean of the Graduate College and for five years as the Interim Dean of the Waldron

College of Nursing and Health Services. In 2001, he was awarded the Radford University Foundation Award for Service to the University and attained Professor Emeritus status in 2002.

In other professional activities, Dr. Nicely served as President of the Indiana Speech and Hearing Association, and President of the Speech and Hearing Association of Virginia where he was named a Fellow. He was a founding member of the Communication Disorders Foundation of Virginia and served on its Board of Directors. He was an academic site



visitor for the American Speech and Hearing Association. Following his retirement, he was an advisory board member for the Communication Disorders Program at Longwood University.

Wherever he lived, Dr. Nicely was involved in community life. During the college summers, he was a music instructor at a state school for the intellectually disabled and acted in a summer theater. He was president of his college housing unit, chauffeured for the Wesley Foundation, and directed the project to provide activities on weekends for children living in the Exchange House (a residential facility for children who had severe speech and hearing problems.), and his senior year, co-chaired the Metropolitan Opera After-Opera Antics event during their annual visit to IU. In South Bend, he was involved with founding a new church,

Clay United Methodist, and was instrumental in arranging for the congregation to meet on Sundays in the Engineering Building on the Notre Dame Campus until the church was completed. In Radford his community involvement included offices in the Radford Noon Rotary Club and the Radford Elf Shelf Board.

He sang in the Grove United Methodist Church choir for over 30 years and was the chair of the church's trustees. He loved music and played woodwind instruments in different ensembles including the I.U. Marching One Hundred. Spending time with his family attending concerts, the theater and musical performances and trips to the beach were among his favorite pastimes. Dr. Nicely enjoyed helping those less fortunate and rewarding people's accomplishments. He was a peaceful, caring person who was instrumental in helping his profession grow to provide services to the residents of Southwest Virginia and far beyond.

A celebration of his life will be held at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, in Radford, on Saturday, June 17 at 2 p.m., with the Reverend Dr. Jan Nicholson Angle presiding. A visitation reception in the fellowship hall will follow. Private interment will be at Earlham Cemetery in Richmond, Ind. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the James E. Nicely Scholarship for Graduate Studies in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Radford University Foundation, P.O. Box 6893, Radford, Virginia 24142.

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

Shanholtz, Mary McGuire

Mary McGuire Shanholtz, 79, went to be with her heavenly father on June 7, 2023.

She was born in 1943 to Okie and Charlie McGuire and raised in Fairlawn.

She married Vernon Shanholtz at Easter in 1965, in Radford, and they have two daughters. They celebrated 49 years together. They frequently spent time working on projects together from canning, wedding flowers, gardening and more.

Mary held a Masters degree in biology from Radford University. She retired after teaching high school math and biology for 34 years. She expected rigorous study and effort while she provided patience, support, and guidance for learning. She was gifted at helping others learn and cared deeply about her students. She invested countless hours with others - encouraging, counseling, and teaching. She was interested in their hopes and future, compassionate and understanding with their challenges. Many remember her use of quirky humor to engage students.

Mary loved God and everything she did was to honor Him. She loved

and gave generously. She gardened, painted, baked, and was an avid photographer and expert seamstress. She and her husband shared a passion for gardening and being with their six grandsons. Her legacy is strong because she made a positive impact on so many lives. Mary Shanholtz will be remembered for a life of love, generosity,



Godly inspired wisdom, and excellence. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, and friend. Her immediate family and friends feel privileged to have been a part of her life.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Okie and Charlie McGuire; her husband, Vernon Shanholtz; her brother-in-law, Thomas Owen; and her nephew, Jonathan H. Cox.

She is survived by her

daughters and sons-in-law, Diane Shanholtz Hartt (William IV) and Dawn Shanholtz Hooper (Mark); grandchildren, Grayson Hooper, Caleb Hooper, Quent Hartt, Samuel Hooper, Zachary Hooper, and Cole Hooper; sisters and brother-in-law, Eva McGuire Owen (Tom (dec.)), and Catherine Cox White (Jesse); as well as many nieces and nephews.


A special thanks to the nurses and staff at Kroontje Healthcare Center at Warm Hearth Village for their care and kindness during these last few months. The family also thanks her many friends and neighbors for their love and support.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with Pastor Cameron Mitchell and Pastor Dan Agee officiating. Interment followed in the Sunrise Burial Park in Fairlawn. The family received friends prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Chosen People Ministries or Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church.

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

Be sure to 'Like' the News Messenger on Facebook.

DOWN-EAST WOOD DUCKS VS SALEM RED SOX

	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">JUNE 20TH 7:05PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GAME 1 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM</p>
	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">JUNE 21ST 7:05PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GAME 2 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM</p>
	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">JUNE 22ND 7:05PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GAME 3 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM</p>
	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">JUNE 23RD 7:05PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">PRIDE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM</p>
	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">JUNE 24TH 6:05PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">MARVEL'S DEFENDERS OF THE DIAMOND - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM</p>
	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">JUNE 25TH 3:05PM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM</p>

Buckner, Mary Pratt

Mary Pratt Buckner, 88, of Radford, passed away Friday, June 9, 2023.

She was a member of New Hope Church of God. Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Luther H. Buckner; parents, Mullins and Nora Pratt; son-in-law, Ernest B. Clatterbuck;

and many brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her daughter, Brenda Buckner Clatterbuck; grandson, James Larry Henry, Jr.; sister, Pauline Poff; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at the New

Hope Church of God. Funeral services followed with Rev. T. Michael Bond officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

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

Student Achievements from page 5

English - MA.
James Madison University announces spring 2023 honors graduates

HARRISONBURG - James Madison University is pleased to announce the following students who graduated with honors during the May 2023 commencement exercises.

Julie Walsh of Blacksburg graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Dietetics - BS.

Alexander Dunn of Blacksburg graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Nursing - BSN.

Rachel Lloyd of Christiansburg graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders - BA.

Sarah Parsons of Blacksburg graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Nursing - BSN.

Spencer Amacher named to dean's list at Ohio Wesleyan University

DELAWARE, OH - Spencer Amacher of Blacksburg, has been named to the 2023 spring semester Dean's List at Ohio Wesleyan University. To earn Dean's List recognition, Ohio Wesleyan students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in all applicable classes.

Abby Hinckley of Christiansburg named to Harding University dean's list

SEARCY, Ark. - Abby Hinckley, a Senior, studying social work, is among more than 1,100 Harding University students included on the dean's list for grades

achieved during the spring 2023 semester. The dean's list is published each semester by Dr. Marty Spears, University provost, honoring those who have achieved high scholarship. To be eligible, a student must be carrying 12 or more hours with a 3.65 or higher grade-point average and no incompletes.

Hinckley is also one of more than 600 students who received diplomas and were recognized as Harding University graduates for Spring 2023 during a commencement ceremony on May 6, 2023. Hinckley received a Bachelor of Social Work.

Colby Hinckley of Christiansburg graduates from Harding University

SEARCY, Ark. - Colby Hinckley of Christiansburg is one of more than 600 students who received diplomas and were recognized as Harding University graduates for Spring 2023 during a commencement ceremony on May 6, 2023.

Hinckley received a Bachelor of Science in psychology. Udipta Bohara inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La.- Udipta Bohara of Blacksburg was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Bohara was initiated at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. Bohara is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Local student named to Bucknell University dean's list

LEWISBURG, Pa. - Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the Spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition. Anna Kender, 2023, Economics, of Blacksburg, has been named to the dean's list.

James Madison University announces spring 2023 dean's list

HARRISONBURG, Va. - James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester. Emily Clark of Fairlawn, who is majoring in Dance - BA. Emma McMurray of Radford, who is majoring in Individualized Study - BS. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899.

Freed-Hardeman University announces May graduates

HENDERSON, Tenn. - Freed-Hardeman University held its spring commencement exercises in mid-May where approximately 286 students received degrees. Graduates received baccalaureate, graduate and certificates, licensures and associate's degrees.


Jess Musselman, of Riner, graduated Summa Cum Laude and Alpha Chi with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry: Biochemistry Emphasis.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Auburn claims another softball championship



The Auburn Eagles hoist the state championship trophy for the fourth straight time on Saturday after a 1-0 win over Rye Cove.

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Dynasty is defined as “a powerful group or family that maintains its position for a considerable time.” Thus, that could include the Auburn High School softball program.

Saturday, Auburn claimed the Class 1 for the fourth straight year. But the latest one didn't come easy as it took a Avery Zuckerwar single in the top of seventh inning, Auburn's only real hit of the day, to drive in the only run of the day for a 1-0 win.

Pitcher Kristen Fleet led Auburn to be the first softball program in the state to win four straight titles, while tossing a one-hitter in the nail-biter. Fleet, who is a JMU signee, is now 3-0 in state title games. She threw a two-hitter in 2021 and no-hitter last year.

In addition to hoisting the trophy, Auburn had run off 25 straight wins en route to the special day. Rye Cove entered the contest unbeaten but could not get to Fleet as she struck out nine batters.

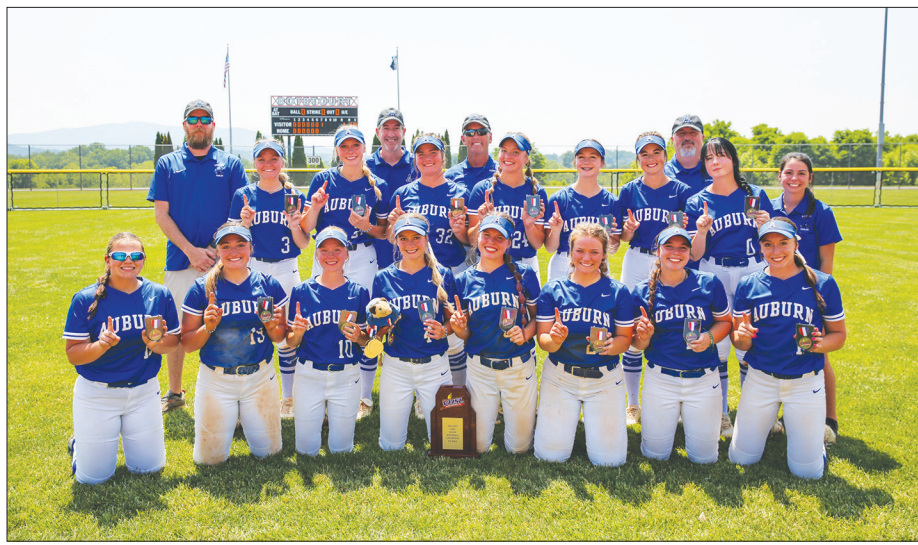
Auburn's run began in 2019 and probably would have included another in 2020 if not for the

season being shutdown because of the Coronavirus pandemic, meaning five straight for the little school from Riner.

This one was in a little doubt until Zuckerwar's hit as Rye Cove pitcher Eden Muncy had her own doozie of a game, striking out 13 Auburn batters.

The winning run came after a Rye Cove error that placed Rachel Brotheron on base. She advanced to second base after a wild pitch and moved to third on a sacrifice bunt. Zuckerwar then came up with a bloop single to drive in the run.

Auburn is the 2023 Class 1 state champs.



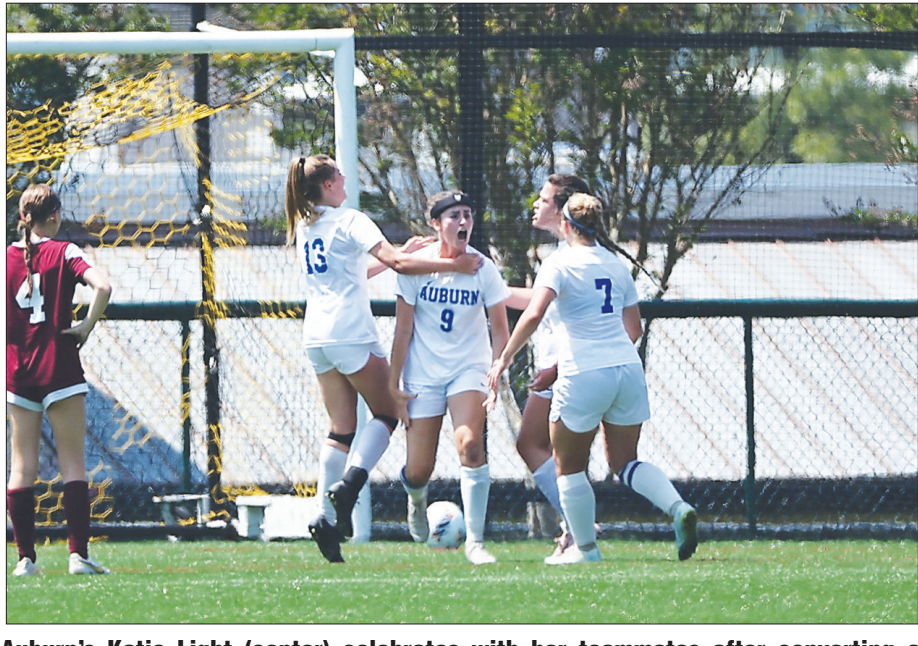
PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Auburn (26-1) is the 2023 Class 1 State softball Champions. This will be their fourth in a row and a new VHSL state record. No softball team at any level has ever done this.

Eastern Montgomery girls win third straight state title



Auburn's Katie Light challenges Eastern Montgomery's Madison Bruce during the second half of a tense state championship match at Salem High School on Saturday. Eastern Montgomery survived an overtime battle against Auburn to win a third straight state title on Saturday at Salem High School.



Auburn's Katie Light (center) celebrates with her teammates after converting a second half penalty kick to tie the score at 1-1 against Eastern Montgomery.



Eastern Montgomery's Aija McHone reacts after scoring the tie-breaking goal in the third overtime period to give the Mustangs a Class 1 state title with a 2-1 overtime win over Auburn.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Eastern Montgomery keeper Logan Boone gives the VHSL state championship trophy a kiss after the Mustangs win a third straight title with a 2-1 overtime win against Auburn.

Hokies, Hawkeyes in Tipoff contest

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team is set to play national runner-up Iowa at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte on November 9 in the Ally Tipoff, the Charlotte Sports Foundation announced Wednesday.

The event will pit two conference champions and 2023 NCAA Final Four teams against each other and will be available on ESPN platforms with specific details announced at a later date.

“I'm extremely excited to be a part of the Ally Tipoff playing against the University of Iowa,” Virginia Tech head coach Kenny Brooks said. “This game will feature high level talent that will showcase two teams that experienced the Final Four last year. This premier matchup will be great not only for our prestigious conferences but will be a great display for women's basketball.”

Tickets will go on sale later in the summer and fans can sign up for more information and presale opportunities at AllyTipoff.com. Don't miss any

of the latest news, events and ticket info regarding Virginia Tech Women's Basketball. Join the women's basketball interest list.

Tech and Iowa have met just three times previously in women's basketball, with the Hawkeyes winning twice, including the last matchup in 2011 in Iowa City.

Iowa is led by point guard Caitlin Clark, the 2023 AP National Player of the Year. She scored over 1,000 points last season and was the national leader in assists at 8.6 per game. Clark also led the nation in triple-doubles with five and 3-pointers made at 140 for the season. Her total of 32 made threes during the 2023 NCAA Tournament set a tournament record.

The backcourt matchup promises to be an exciting one as Clark will likely guard Tech's All-American point guard Georgia Amoore who made the second-most threes in the country a season ago (118). Amoore, who was named the MVP of the ACC Tournament and the Seattle 3 Region's Most

Outstanding Player, connected on 24 threes in the NCAA Tournament and set an ACC Tournament record with 14 in Greensboro en route to lifting the program's first ACC Championship trophy.

Tech also returns center Elizabeth Kitley, a Second Team All-American and two-time ACC Player of the Year. Last season she averaged 18.2 points per game and 10.7 rebounds, collecting 23 double-doubles and helping the Hokies to their best season in program history. She recorded national top 10s in blocks, double-doubles, field goals and rebounds. For her career, she tops the Virginia Tech record book in numerous categories: points, double-doubles, 30-point games, field goals, field goal percentage and blocks.

Cayla King is Tech's third returning starter in 2023-24. She ranks fourth all-time at Tech with 225 threes and owns the record for threes in a game with nine.

-Virginia Tech Athletics

visit www.ourvalley.org

Tennis playoff action



Christiansburg's Lucas Beasley hits a backhand return against Tabb's Nicolas Crespo in a Class 3 singles semifinal match. Beasley would win 6-3, 6-2 to advance to the finals against Goochland's Evan Bernstine.



Radford's Lydia Pratt defeated Ellen Waag of East Rockingham in a Class 2 singles semifinal match, 6-1, 6-1 on Friday at Virginia Tech.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Fixsen wins national pole vault title for Hokies

Julia Fixsen captured Virginia Tech's 22nd individual national championship in school history Thursday night, winning the women's pole vault with a personal-best 14' 7.25" (4.45m) clearance on her first attempt.

"It was a great night," said assistant coach Bob Phillips. "All four girls were extremely focused and it showed in the results. I am especially happy for Julia. She finished the indoor season fighting through some pain, so to see her pain-free at the end of the outdoor season and to watch her hard work and patience pay off with both the conference and national titles was outstanding."

The junior entered the NCAAs ranked 10th in the nation but saved her best performance of the season for the national stage. She led a quartet of Hokies that finished in the top 15 of the event. Kenna Stimmel, the ACC indoor champion in the pole vault, placed eighth on Thursday after clearing 14' 1.25" (4.30m). Journey Gurley (tied for 13th) and Hayley Horvath (15th) rounded out the Tech contingent competing in the event clearing 13' 7.25" (4.15m).

Fixsen's national title gives the Hokies two in 2023, as Youssef Ramadan of men's swimming and diving won gold in the 100-yard butterfly in

March.

In the women's hammer throw, Tech first-year Barbora Stejfova secured All-America honorable mention with her 23rd-place showing. She unleashed a 195' 8" (59.65m) mark on her second attempt.

Essence Henderson placed 22nd in the women's shot put with a mark of 50' 10.25" (15.50m).

On the track, Lindsey Butler finished 17th in the 800-meters earning honorable mention All-America honors as she crossed the line with a time of 2:04.44.

-Virginia Tech Athletics

RU releases women's soccer slate

Radford University Head women's soccer coach Ben Sohrabi revealed Wednesday morning the program's loaded schedule for the 2023 season.

The campaign features nine home matches and eight Big South matches as the squad looks to defend its 2022 conference tournament title.

Before the regular season kicks off, Radford will play a pair of exhibition matches. The team first travels to William & Mary on August 6 before returning home to face Concord on August 13, both in exhibition play.

Radford's regular season opener comes on August 17 where the team will play host to Emory & Henry, kicking off their 21 season at Cupp Stadium. The Highlanders then hit the road for a big-time opponent in Virginia on August 20. The Highlanders and Cavaliers last met in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament. Virginia is coming off another great season that included reaching the NCAA Elite 8 in last year's tournament.

The Highlanders' next road match features

a former Big South foe in Campbell as the two squads face off as non-conference foes for the first time on August 23. Radford then returns to the home front for a game against Mount St. Mary's on August 27. The Highlanders and the Mountaineers will meet for the third straight season, including six of the last seven seasons.

Radford's back on the road to close out the month of August against another quality Commonwealth foe in Richmond on August 31. To open the month of September, Radford and Hampton square off September 3rd at Cupp Stadium for the first time since 2019.

Two of the Highlanders final three non-conference meetings will come on the road. The final stretch before Big South play gets started September 7th against another tough foe in Tennessee who was a participant in the 2022 NCAA Tournament. Radford will host Appalachian State on September 10th as the two teams rematch an exciting 2-2 tie in the 2022 season. To close out non-conference play,

Radford plays at Wofford on September 15.

After a brief break, Big South play begins on September 23rd when Radford plays host to Presbyterian. Two straight conference road matches await the Highlanders after that as they visit High Point on September 27th and Charleston Southern on September 30th to end the month of September.

As postseason play starts to loom, three of Radford's final five conference matches come in the friendly confines of Cupp Stadium. The Highlanders will host UNC Asheville on October 4 before traveling to face USC Upstate on October 7th in a rematch of last season's Big South Semifinals.

Radford hosts Winthrop on October 14th and visits Longwood on October 18th in the waning weeks of conference play. October 21st features the regular season finale in what's sure to be a thrilling Big South Championship rematch with Gardner-Webb on the home turf.

-Radford University Athletics

DMV issues three million REAL IDs

Milestone reached for issuance of important credential enabling domestic travel, access to secure federal facilities

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has issued more than three million REAL ID compliant driver's licenses and identification cards.

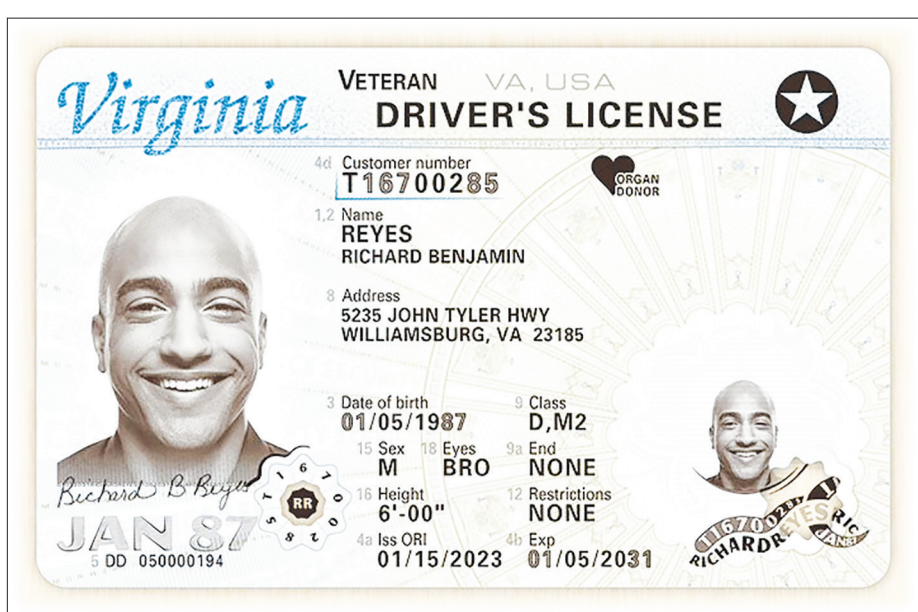
Beginning May 7, 2025, Virginians who want to board a domestic flight using their driver's license will have to present a REAL ID compliant version of the credential, displaying a

star in the right corner. Several other forms of ID, including a U.S. Passport, a Passport Card, and some military IDs, will also be accepted for federal identification.

"Many Virginians rely on their state-issued credentials for air travel," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "If you still need to upgrade to a REAL ID, prepare for your visit now by

applying online and gathering the necessary documents. When you arrive at DMV, we will do everything we can to deliver a personalized, positive experience that exceeds your expectations."

In addition to domestic air travel, a REAL ID will also be required for access to secure federal facilities, including military bases. Virginians who want a REAL ID are



GRAPHOC COURTESY OF DMV

The REAL ID will provide the necessary federal compliance for boarding domestic air flights, which goes into effect in May 2025.

encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as DMV expects a rush of customers as 2025 nears. Completing

your application online at dmv.virginia.gov/REALID will also walk you through the documents needed for service.

Since REAL ID is optional, many Virginians may decide they don't want or need one. Those Virginians may continue to use

their driver's license or ID as they always have. The next time they renew their credential, they will receive a license or ID that displays "Federal Limits Apply." Should they need to board a domestic flight after May 7, 2025, they may use another federally approved form of ID. Visit dmv.virginia.gov/REALID for more information.

visit

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