

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

42nd Annual Steppin' Out festival set for this weekend in Blacksburg



Steppin' Out always brings out a big crowd to Blacksburg each year. The 42nd annual festival is set for this Friday and Saturday, Aug. 4 and 5.



A full slate of entertainment, including a variety of bands and performances, will be part of the festivities.

PHOTOS BY ROGER GUPTA

BLACKSBURG - Steppin' Out, Blacksburg's summer festival, will celebrate its 42nd Anniversary on Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5.

From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on both days, streets in the core of downtown Blacksburg will be lined with crafts, sidewalk sales, food, and entertainment. Since it began in 1981, Steppin' Out has more than doubled in size and now hosts three stages of free entertainment and over 250 vendors including art, craft, nonprofit organizations, and Downtown Blacksburg merchant restaurants. The family fun zone is sponsored by Carter Bank and Trust will be in the Kent Square parking lot. Steppin' Out also features the running of the Draper Mile on Friday at 6:30 p.m. New this year, stop by the Y Comfort Station sponsored by the YMCA at VT which will include a hydration station, kid's activities, nursing mother and diaper changing sites.

The Wilson Springs Hotel band from Richmond, Va. takes the Moss Arts Center Main Stage on Friday night. They take you through a variety of genre and influences from crooner country, to rippin' honky tonk, to hard hitting folk influenced rock. Saturday night closes with The Aquaducks of Nashville, a high-energy soul band with a nostalgic brand of modern funk music.

The Acoustic Stage, sponsored by Baseline Solar and Shelter Alternatives, kicks off at noon on Friday with Stella Trudel, a Texas and SWVA native, and wraps up Saturday at 6p.m. with North Carolina duo, Blue Cactus. Rock the Blocks has organized a wide range of new

sounds and Steppin' Out favorites from near and far. The Community Stage, sponsored by National Bank of Blacksburg, showcases local organizations and entertainers from the Virginia Tech String Project to Say Yes to Science Demonstrations to the Virginia Techniques gymnasts.

A festival tradition, visitors will want to stop by the information tent on College Avenue to purchase the 2023 Steppin' Out t-shirt, designed by Blacksburg High School student, Natalie Green, and available in a variety of colors.

As always, admission to Steppin' Out is free and on-street parking is free during the festival. Blacksburg Transit is providing a free shuttle from the Chicken Hill Lot on Virginia Tech's campus. The shuttle will drop off and pick up at the corner of Washington Street and Draper Road and will run every 15 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Steppin' Out is sponsored by Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. a group of businesses dedicated to the enhancement of the downtown area. Proceeds from Steppin' Out have contributed to community projects including improvements to the Farmers' Market; operational support of the Lyric Theatre; purchase of trees, benches, and holiday lights for downtown streets; and sponsorship of annual community events. Bring your friends! Bring your family! For more information, see the Steppin' Out website: www.blackburgsteppinout.com.

See Steppin' Out, page 10

Police seeking witnesses to weekend gunshot death

Heather Bell
Editor

FAIRLAWN - A Blacksburg man was killed early Sunday morning after being shot while leaving a party in Fairlawn, according to Pulaski County Sheriff Mike Worrell.

Worrell released a statement Monday seeking witnesses to the events surrounding the shooting.

"On Sunday morning at approximately 1 a.m. the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office responded to the 7000 block of Overlook Lane located in the Fairlawn section of Pulaski County in reference to a gunshot wound victim," Worrell said. "Upon arrival, deputies found a male subject later identified as 24-year-old Matthew Cameron Carper, of Blacksburg, with a gunshot wound sitting inside a vehicle."

Medical attention was provided to Carper at the scene and he was flown to Roanoke Memorial Hospital, where he later died as a result of the gunshot wound.

"In speaking with witnesses at the scene, a large gathering was taking place at the Overlook Lane residence when a fight broke out between multiple subjects," Worrell's statement continued. "Shortly after, witnesses

described hearing a gunshot and multiple individuals began running and leaving the location."

The sheriff's department is asking anyone who was at the Overlook Lane address during the gathering, or anyone who has information regarding the events to please contact the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office at 540-980-7800 or contact the anonymous tip line at 540-980-7810.

NRV pain clinic owner pleads guilty to federal drug and health care fraud

A former mortgage broker, who, seeking a "recession proof" business model, decided to purchase pain clinics throughout the Western District of Virginia including Lynchburg, Madison Heights, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Woodlawn, pled guilty this week to a federal drug and health care fraud conspiracy.

John Gregory Barnes, 57, of South Carolina, waived his right to be indicted and pled guilty this week to a one-count Information charging him with conspiring to knowingly using, in the course of dispensing and distributing a controlled substance, registration numbers issued to others; distributing and dispensing buprenorphine not for a legitimate medical purpose; and knowingly executing and attempting to execute a scheme to defraud health care benefit programs.

In addition to his personal plea of guilty, L5 Medical Holdings, the business entity controlled by Barnes, pled

guilty this week to the same charge encompassing the same conspiracies, as well as a conspiracy to distribute and dispense fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine not for a legitimate medical purpose. L5 and Barnes jointly agreed to pay almost \$4 million in restitution to Medicare and Virginia Medicaid and to forfeit \$250,000 to the United States.

"The conduct here is beyond the pale. We have a record-high number of Virginians fighting opioid addiction while this defendant intentionally prioritized profit over genuine patient care," United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. "I am grateful to those who investigated this matter and brought this case to justice, and we will continue to leverage federal charges against those who commit such brazen crimes."

"Our fight against addiction and the opioid epidemic isn't just with the drugs or major pharmaceutical companies, but also with the individuals who take advantage of addiction, of others'

pain, for their personal gain. Monetizing addiction is immoral and illegal," said Attorney General Miyares. "I'm proud of my office and our federal partners for working together to deliver justice."

"Our investigation into Barnes' illegal business activities of highly addictive pain medication at the height of the opioid epidemic emphasizes his criminal indifference to human life," said Special Agent in Charge Jared Forget of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Washington Division. "Today's guilty plea highlights our commitment to the tireless work of investigating the diversion of controlled substances and prosecuting those responsible for fueling opioid addiction and deadly poisonings in our area—saving lives in our communities."

See Fraud, page 10

Launch Christiansburg! met with unanimous approval by Christiansburg Town Council

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Small Business Solutions Manager Amanda Hebert's presentation of Launch Christiansburg! was met with overwhelming approval during Christiansburg Town Council's regular Tuesday meeting.

The communitywide business launch program seeks to encourage entrepreneurship and business growth in the Christiansburg metropolitan area.

Rebecca Rowe, Associate Director of the Community Vitality Office for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, shared with Hebert and others about an educational training business program that provides for an expansion of opportunities in commercial locations struggling to fill those vacancies.

"We have two downtown areas and many commercial zones associated with our community," Hebert said.

This diversity of business zoning will require some adaptations to the business launch program to meet with the needs of the town of Christiansburg.

The presentation included some introductory information and study statistics from Main Street America, funding needs and sponsorship opportunities, a launch timeline, and a summary of the program. Data presented by Hebert referred to the website www.mainstreet.org, an organization working to help "revitalize older and historic commercial districts."

Hebert referenced specifically an article titled: Jump off the Business

Recruitment Train: The Real Returns are in Cultivating Local Entrepreneurship, by Dr. Matthew Wagner. In the article, based on a study conducted by Main Street America, community businesses are started by 70% of residents, 74% in historical districts. Other results of the study show large employers are more likely to have come from within a community and businesses are typically more sustainable that have been started by residents versus the result of outside recruitment.

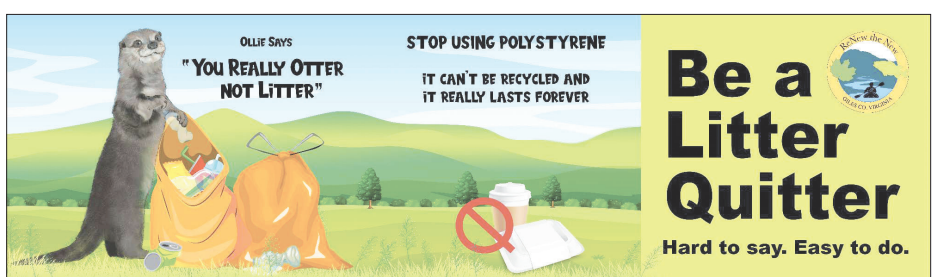
Phase II of the project required the task of Hebert inventorying commercial properties in the area.

"In the process of doing that, I learned that 338 commercial properties are underutilized within our community and that is roughly 15.5% of our commercial area," Hebert said. "That number excludes the residential properties within our business districts."

Launch Christiansburg! consists of a 10-week business development educational program with the conclusion of the program providing the opportunity for entrepreneurs to compete for cash investments up to \$5,000 in grant money. The business that receives the money must be in Christiansburg. Other benefits for local business support will also be provided, for example the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will provide three free memberships.

"We have a budget need for this program of \$19,200 and that includes the curriculum being the bulk of that dollar

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GRAPHICS COURTESY OF RENEW THE NEW

Join in the fun and community spirit with ReNew the New

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

ReNew the New brings community members together to clean up and beautify the area's natural water resources.

The event originated in Giles County but has since spread to neighboring towns and counties, including the City of Radford, and Pulaski, Montgomery and Floyd counties.

This year, event coordinators are adding something new.

"We got a team together that wants to join in on the event out of West Virginia. We are expanding to clean up past the Giles County line into West Virginia," said Kathleen Armstrong, Regional Planner and Community Designer for the New River Valley Regional Commission. "There are three counties that share the border of Virginia: Monroe, Summer's and Mercer County. Citizens will be involved on the same day as well and Giles County will be supporting them with water vessels."

Armstrong also helps to coordinate the region-wide event.

"Last year, we had 600 participants, and picked up 20+ tons of trash," said Armstrong. "It's amazing the amount of debris and material being pulled out of our waterways and around our boat launches."

This year the event will happen on August 26 and is coordinated by individual localities, but there are also different people that lend their support to the event. For example, Floyd County utilizes their Boy Scout troops to clean up the tributaries and waterways in their region.

According to Armstrong, registration is required, and bringing your own boat is always good; allowing more people on the water. If participants want to be in a boat and do not have one, registration will be capped so sign up as soon as possible. Shuttles will be provided for all those

See ReNew, page 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 3:

Get Ready for Kindergarten with a Kindergarten Teacher!

At the Radford Public Library; 11-11:30 a.m. Is your child about to start kindergarten? A Radford City Public Schools Kindergarten teacher will be at the library to host a storytime and talk to children (and parents!) about all things Kindergarten! Learn about a typical day in a kindergarten classroom and practice some school skills! This special event will take place in the children's section.

Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series

The Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series takes place in the heart of Wildwood Park at the Outdoor Classroom (pavilion). To get to the site, attendees can park at the Sundell Drive parking lot for Wildwood Park and take the walkway into the center of the park. The talks start at 7:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine unless there are thunderstorms. August 3: Geology (Liz McClellan, Radford University).

American Legion meeting

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

Friday, August 4:

Back To School Supply Swap

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bring your excess school supplies and take items that you can use for the new school year! Items categories include: school and art supplies, backpacks, lunch gear, sports gear, homeschool curriculum and supplies, and books!

Friday, August 4 and Saturday, August 5:

Lamplighters BIG Book Sale

At the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Come shop the Lamplighters BIG Book Sale and support the Lamplighters while getting great deals on books at the same time. Hardbacks and DVDs are only \$1, and paperbacks are \$0.50. There

are books for all ages, so bring your young readers to shop too. Other formats such as audiobooks, movies, coffee table (oversized) books, music albums and other collections are often found.

Steppin' Out

Downtown Blacksburg; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on both days. Streets in the core of downtown Blacksburg will be lined with crafts, sidewalk sales, food, and entertainment. Three stages of free entertainment and over 250 vendors including art, craft, nonprofit organizations, and Downtown Blacksburg merchant restaurants. Family fun zone sponsored by Carter Bank and Trust in the Kent Square parking lot. The Y Comfort Station sponsored by the YMCA at VT will include a hydration station, kid's activities, nursing mother and diaper changing sites.

Saturday, August 5:

Genealogy Saturdays

At the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation, first Saturday of each month, 1-4 p.m. Ancestry experts will be on hand to assist you as you explore your family tree. Come with questions about research and discovering your roots.

Grownup Board Game Club

At the Radford Public Library; 2 – 4:30 p.m. Bring a game, bring a friend, or just bring yourself to play board games at the library. Pick a game from our collection or bring something from home to share.

An American in Every Sense of the Word

At Meadowbrook Library; 1- 2:30 p.m. Captain D. H. Barger and the History of Walnut Grove: Learn about the man who built Walnut Grove, his family history, and his legacy in our community. This will be a slide presentation by his great granddaughter, Sarah Orrick, who lives in Elliston on one of many properties he left to his descendants.

Tuesday, August 8:

Trivia Night at the Library

At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to compete

against each other in a friendly round of Jeopardy style trivia.

Wednesday, August 9:

Pre-K Yoga with "The Whole You"

At the Radford Public Library; 11- 11:30 a.m. Join us for a session of Pre-K Yoga with Kelly McCoy of "The Whole You"! There is no registration necessary for this event.

Saturday, August 12:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry; 5 - 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, (under 3)-free, carry-outs-\$12. This month we will be entertained by The Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra. The fish fry is a fundraiser for the Ruritan Club's community service projects and scholarships. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Reptiles at the Library

At Meadowbrook Library; 11 a.m. – noon. Virginia Master Naturalist and State Park volunteer, Judith McCord will bring a ball python, a blue-tongued skink, a Russian tortoise and an Eastern box turtle for folks to learn about and interact with. Learn about reptiles commonly found in our state parks. All ages

Monday, August 14:

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, August 15:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The 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.

Thursday, August 17:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

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

On-going:

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.

Registration open for Potter in the Park race

Calling all wizards of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin! Have you signed up for the TriWizard TriMile Potter in the Park Race yet? Annual family-fun event s ion Saturday, August 26 at 8:30 a.m. Register at www.lvnrv.org.

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Wednesday, August 23rd at 4 PM
Multi-Use Barn for Sale at Auction in Pulaski County!
4241 Lee Highway, Dublin, VA 24301

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



We present a remarkable opportunity for investors, entrepreneurs, and nature enthusiasts alike! This multi-use barn style structure sits on 10 acres of pristine land in Pulaski County.

This extraordinary property, built in 1960 and in good condition, offers endless possibilities and holds immense potential for various purposes. The barn would be perfect for conversion into an auditorium, event center, barndominium residence, or even a mini farm. The main structure has 7,824 square feet with gathering areas and an office. The exterior is brick and metal roof. Property has public water and private septic. Mini-split units for heating and cooling. The interior is wood and concrete. There is also a machine shed and a brick building with a kitchen and restroom.

The barn, with its rustic charm and sturdy construction, invites creative minds to explore the vast potential within. With ample space and a versatile layout, you can customize this structure to suit your specific needs. Transform it into an auditorium or event center, hosting memorable gatherings and celebrations. Alternatively, convert it into a cozy barndominium residence, embracing the unique blend of rural aesthetics and modern comfort. For those seeking a slice of country living, this property is ideal for establishing a mini-farm or a family retreat, surrounded by nature's beauty.

Sprawling across 10 acres of picturesque landscape, while being situated in a highly desirable area. This property offers great potential for commercial use, benefiting from a strategic and accessible location. Whether you're envisioning a commercial establishment or a tranquil family retreat, this property is suitable for a range of ventures. The property is currently under agriculture zoning. Bidders are expected to research and verify what uses are permitted by Pulaski County.

Investors will appreciate the commercial prospects that this property holds, thanks to its prime location. With high visibility and easy access, you can tap into the growing demand for commercial spaces in Pulaski County, making it an excellent opportunity for various business ventures.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before October 9th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

CONTACT – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Jason Underwood at 540-230-9516 or underwoodlandman@gmail.com

102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
VAAuctionPro.com
Lic# 2907004059



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, August 17th at 4 PM
Commercial Land for Sale in Wythe County VA!
TBD E Lee Highway, Max Meadows, VA 24360

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Looking for a great investment property in Wythe County VA? This property for sale features +/- 4.609 acres of industrial-zoned land off I81/I77 Exit 80. Property is cleared and level, making for a great building site for a business. The great road frontage makes for high visibility from the interstate. This is the perfect location for your newest investment! Whether it's a restaurant, hotel, storefront, gas station, etc., don't miss out on it! This commercial property for sale is being offered through an online auction.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per required on day of sale (August 17th, 2023). Close on or before October 2nd, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on August 17th, 2023. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Chad Eversole at 540-808-7804 or email ceversolerealtor@gmail.com.

102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
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Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

LAND TRANSFERS

Zero Dollar Considerations:
Joel May to Robert Ramey, 0.144 Acre Parcel
Fandb Land LP to R Fralin Construction Inc., 0.149 Acre Lot 36 Kensington PH X Riner Magisterial District
Samir Rizk to Samir N Rizk Trust, Lot 28 Block 5A1 Pheasant Run Townhomes Town of Blacksburg
Komal Dobaria to Bhavani Real Estate LLC, Lot 2 Town of Christiansburg
Carl E Polan to Gregory C Polan, Two Tracts See Legal Town of Blacksburg
Carl E Polan to Leanne R Reynolds, 0.5 Acre Lot 1-B Prices Fork Magisterial District
404 Harrell LLC to Charlotte Phillips Herndon, Lot 1 Block B New River Addition Town of Blacksburg
Karl Precoda to Brandy Renee McCann, Lot 12 Dundas Heights
Gina Lombardi to Lorna Eldred, Lot 162 New River Village PH VI Town of Christiansburg
Shah Development LLC to Shah Development LLC, 2023002990
Michael Clarke to Virginia Tech Foundation Inc., Condo Unit 231 PH H-I University Crossroads Town of Blacksburg
Lynn J Reese to Samuel J Damiano, 2023001542
Lynn J Reese to Lynn J Reese, 2023001541
Roger Joe Dowdy to Roger Joe Dowdy, 1.005 Acres New Lot A Shawsville Magisterial District
Fengs Group Real Estate Inc. to Zijiao Mao, 5402 Square Feet Metes and Bounds Town of Blacksburg
Arnold J Sarri to Michael J Lopez, 2021010588
Arnold J Sarri to Roberta Ann Saari Lopez, 52.509 Acres Lot 2 Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Arnold J Sarri to Roberta Ann Saari Lopez, 3.262 Acres Lot 1 Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Jennifer A Zambriski to Zambriski Blacksburg Properties, Lot 23 Section Carriage Hill Townhouses Subdivision
Jennifer A Zambriski to Zambriski Blacksburg Properties, 0.43 Acre Metes and Bounds Town of Blacksburg
Kevin Scott Muncy to Paul T Muncy Jr., 1.28 Acres Metes and Bounds Riner Magisterial District
Markus Peter Breitschmid to Anna-Marion Beiri-Kennedy Trust, 0.79 Acre Lot 7 Auburn Hills Golf Club LLC Riner Magisterial District
Radford and Radford Properties to Nicholas Cameron Stuart Willis, Lot 9 Rim Rock Estates Section 1 Shawsville Magisterial District
Nancy R Walters to Susan Omara, 35.7845 Acres Tract 1 Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Glen N Klesat to Glen N Klesat Trust, Lot 81 Clover Valley Estates
Thomas Joseph McMurray to Thomas McMurray Trust, Lot 10 Block 5A3 Pheasant Run Townhomes Town of Blacksburg
Bank of America NA to Champion Mortgage Company, 2012010467
Richard K Bishop to Wells Fargo Bank NA, 2006001595 and Block 603 PG 633
Dawn D Turner to Joseph D Leech, 1.38 Acres More or Less Lot 86 Roanoke River Gardens
Richard D Reece to Kenny Ray Owens, 2020010055; 202100489; 2022009028
Lawyers Title Realty Services Inc., 2023002356
Christopher R Fuller to Christopher R Fuller, 0.541 Acre Town of Blacksburg
Daniel Vruink to Daniel Vruink Trust Lot 630 Blacksburg Country Club Estates Section III Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Molly J Parker to Molly Gay Parker Irrevocable Trust, 0.816 Acre Parcel 1 and 0.25 Acre Parcel 2 Lusters Gate Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Larry Huynh to Larry D Huynh Trust, Lot 7 Kipps Farm Subdivision Town of Blacksburg
Manuel Dejesus to Russell Coleman Real Estate LLC, 0.042 Acre Lot 12 Hunters Ridge PH II Town of Christiansburg
Kay F Dunlap to Laura Flick, 2 Parcels; Metes and bounds Parcel 1; Lot 10 Blue Ridge Heights Parcel 2 Town of Christiansburg
Kimberly Rodriguez Moon to Blanch Fay Harmon, Three Parcels; 3.5 and 0.46 Acres More or Less Parcel 1; 0.5 Acre Metes and Bounds Parcel 2; and See Legal Parcel 3 Town of Christiansburg
Tomorrows Investments LLC to Eldon Lee Smith, 0.7235 Acre Lot A Shawsville Magisterial District
Roderick Neil Dickerson to Dickerson Living Trust, See Legal
Eldon Lee Smith to Eldon Lee Smith, 0.7235 Acre Lot A Shawsville Magisterial District
David C Edwards to David C Edwards Revocable Trust, Tract 20 Indian Run Investment Company PH 2 Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Linda Jane Simpson to David Lee Wayne Rupe, Two Parcels Metes and Bounds See Legal
Michael R Aronson to Aronson Family Trust, 0.76 Acre Eakin Farm Town of Blacksburg
Cynthia S Fitzpatrick to Cynthia Snuffer Dehart, Mockingbird Hill Lots 3, 4, 5 Town of Christiansburg
Shawsville Volunteer Rescue Squad to Shawsville Volunteer EMS Inc., 4 Parcels See Legal

Kathleen C Walker to Kathleen C Walker, Lot 36 Senneca Springs PH I Town of Christiansburg
Carlyle R Wimbish Jr. to Carlyle R Wimbish Jr. Trust, Condo Unit 231 Building 2 Cascades Condos Town of Blacksburg
Bernard Clifton Linkous to Rebecca Cust Linkous, Metes and Bounds See Legal Prices Fork Magisterial District
Margaret Ann Shrader to William D Shrader Trust, Lot 11 Evergreen Cluster Development Town of Blacksburg
Benjamin Hughes Adkins Jr. to Adkins Living trust, Four Parcels See Legal
Glenn R Comeau to Joan C Comeau, Lot 73 Vistavia PH IV
Joan C Comeau to Glenn R Comeau, Lot 73 Vistavia PH IV
Trev A Smith to Smith Schwanke Family Trust, Indian Run 58.9 Acres C L Price Est TR 3
Trev Smith to Smith Schwanke Family Trust, Alleghany Mountain MMT/Mount Tabor 4.921 Acres
Roofia Galeshi to Daniel Ali Setareh, Pheasant Run Crossing PH 2 & 3 Lot 72
Roofia Galeshi to Cameron Kamran Setareh, Mountain View Estates 2 LT 11 PT 10, 12 Section 8
Clarence Watson Lafon to Clarence Watson Lafon, 21.315 Acres Tract C Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Clarence Watson Lafon to Clarence Watson Lafon, 1 Acre Tract A Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Nahum J Arav to Nahum J Arav, Lot 26 PH III Trillium Place Prices Fork Magisterial District
Joyce L Slusser to Rhonda Martin, 1.0801 Acres More or Less Metes and Bounds Parcel 1 and 0.31 Acre More or Less Metes and Bounds Parcel 2
Citimortgage Inc. to Citifinancial Inc., 20160009493; 20160009492; 2004000813
Phyllis B Price to Christopher Eric Tardy, 11.958 Acres Metes and Bounds Mount Tabor Magisterial District
Cheryl Mack Atkinson to Karlee Shiane Hungate, 1.0095 Acres Lot 1 Shawsville Magisterial District
Shah Development LLC to Montgomery Regional Hospital, 3.204 Acres More or Less Metes and Bounds Town of Christiansburg
Jeffrey Briskin to Briskin Family Trust, Lot 98 PH 1 Wyatt Farm Town of Blacksburg
Matthew J Wilson to Hunter Wilson, 2.117 Acres Lot 1 Shawsville Magisterial District
Land Development RVI LLC to R Fralin Constructions Inc., 0.501 Acre Lot 1 PH II-A Cloverlea Subdivision Riner Magisterial District
Monetary Considerations:
Nicholas James Capobianco Trust to Nabil Mikhaeil, Lot 11 Sherwood Forest Subdivision Section A Town of Christiansburg, \$339,000
Larry P Taylor to Anthony Phillip Mays, 1.464 Acres Riner Magisterial District, \$225,000
ALG Trustee LLC Sub Trust to REO 2023NR1 LLC, 2005013886, \$135,000
Anne L Campbell to Mad Real Estate Holdings LLC, 1.002 Acres Parcel 1 and 2.817 Acres Parcel 2 Town of Christiansburg, \$170,000
David Stephens Plumbing and Electrical LLC to Longarm Properties LLC, 7.773 Acres Lot 16 Riner Magisterial District, \$150,000
Joseph A Overbay to Bradley M Noel, Lot 20 Huff Acres Town of Christiansburg, \$340,000
SAS Eagle Givens LLC to Jeffrey John Loeffert, 0.202 Acre Lot 98 Town of Blacksburg, \$876,441
Darren P Lloyd to Zachary J Leffke, 1.342 Acres Lot 1 Riner Magisterial District, \$490,000
Community Housing Partners to Alan Dale Rupe, Lot 4 Woods Acres Town of Christiansburg, \$150,000
Landon Davis LLC to Matthew Gene Edwards, Lot 6A Riner Magisterial District, \$599,900
Stephen Seth Peery to Donald D Todora, 5 Acres Lot 5 Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$465,199
John David Hunt to David R Stephens, 2.332 Acres Lot 28 Hogans Retreat, \$450,000
R Fralin Construction Inc. to Reginald Kutriakr Ankrach, 0.149 Acre Lot 36 Kensington PH X Riner Magisterial District, \$381,000
Adam M Kluck to Michael Drinkwater, Lot 71 Windmill Hills PH I Town of Christiansburg, \$312,500
Brandy Renee McCann to 104 Nottingham Court LLC, Lot 27 PH V Oak Manor Townhouses Town of Blacksburg, \$270,000
Cynthia Jane Farmer Wood Executor to Margery L Mullins, Lot 41 Section I Mission Hill Town of Blacksburg, \$340,000
Adrian Aron to Saiful Islam, 0.169 Acre Lot 139 PH VI New River Village Town of Christiansburg, \$320,000
Julie Ann Fry to Two Kings and a Queen LLC, 1.040 Acres Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$230,000
EFW Jr. LLC to Two Kings and a Queen LLC, 0.3374 Acre Lot 4 Town of Christiansburg, \$230,000
John R Crunkilton to Stephanie Crispin Read, Lot 7 and 8 Town of Blacksburg, \$925,000
Heather Michelle Ursano to Alexandra Marie Latham, Lot 97 Oak Tree

Townhomes PH II Town of Christiansburg, \$270,000
Danielle A Rock to Barbara M Bouldin, Lot 7A Sun Village Subdivision PH I Town of Christiansburg, \$185,000
Barker Living Trust to Jeremy Hollbrook, Lot 10 Springview Subdivision PH II Riner Magisterial District, \$185,000
Benjamin Peter Hull to Bruce M Byrd, 0.576 Acre Lot 2 Cedar Orchard PH IV-B Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$762,000
Alexander Proutey to Johnathan Martin, 1.35 Acres More or Less New Lot 15A Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$353,000
Paul D Goodwin to Kate Kennedy Pierce, 2.1123 Acres Lot 88 Brush Mountain Estates PH V Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$700,000
James C Loan to Kaelum R Hasler, 0.780 Acre 33,965 Square Feet, \$252,000
Sean Patrick O'brien to Yingda Cheng, Lot 59 Maple Ridge Village 4 Brittany Meadows at the Villages of Maple Ridge Town of Blacksburg, \$755,00
Gustavo A Catalan to Peter Joseph Braito, Condo Unit 62 Building F Cascades Pointe Condos Town of Blacksburg, \$180,000
Kipps Farms LLC to Stateson Homes LLC, Lot 18 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$134,750
Kipps Farms LLC to Stateson Homes LLC, Lot 133 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$118,160
Sheila A Ballard to Austin Betz, 5.329 Acres Two Tracts Shawsville Magisterial District, \$245,000
Shah Development LLC to Eagle Construction of VA LLC, Lots 108 - 125 The Preserve at Walnut Springs Section 3 Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$1,388,942
RCBB Developers to Matthew C Wheeler Trust, 0.193 Acre Lot 12 Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$426,182
Tommy J Crabtree II to Donald H Smith, Lot 53 Town of Christiansburg, \$310,000
Michael Zimmerman to Samantha Clark Underwood, Lot 10 Radford Heights Subdivision, \$177,500
Margaret L Maxey to Connor Durham, Lot 46 Tract 1 and Lot 44 Tract 2, \$106,000
John W J Reynolds to Lucas Home Builders LLC, 0.957 Acre More or Less Revised Lot 401 Town of Blacksburg, \$75,000
Thomas J Burbey to Santiago Sain Diab, Lot 8 Shilo Way Subdivision Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$620,000
Joseph Daniel Rudolph to Jian Ni, Lot 513 Blacksburg Country Club Estates Section III Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$927,500
Dawn V Sechrist to James B Miller III, 5.535 Acres Lot 3 Parcel 1 and Remainder 0.76 Acre Parcel 2 Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$90,000
Hayden Leslie Hall to Bryce Stump, 0.942 Acre Lot 1 Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$190,000
Stateson Homes LLC to Susan F Rismiller, Lot 155 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$516,79
Bradley L Glenn to Daniel P Connors, Lot 53 Coal Bank Ridge Town of Blacksburg, \$985,000
Barbara R Welker to Stephen L Sakry Trust, Lot 2C Metes and Bounds Riner Magisterial District, \$535,000
Blacksburg Hotel LLC to MHH Blacksburg Holdings LLC, 2.922 Acres Lot 4 The Rugby Field Town of Blacksburg, \$15,664,700
Kipps Farms LLC to Stateson Homes LLC, Lot 142 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$118,160
Barry E Martini to Sarah Layne, 3.469 Acres New Lot 2-A Riner Magisterial District, \$600,000
Alice W Rakes to George W Rakes Jr., 21.072 Acres Shawsville Magisterial District, \$50,000
Joseph Z Simmons Executor to Raymond L Meese, Lot 5 Edgemont of Diamond Hill PH I Town of Christiansburg, \$400,000
Amanda L Clark to Joshua Charles Worch, Lot 1 Pilgrims Pointe Section 1

Town of Blacksburg, \$430,000
William S Cox to Shane Muller, Lot 22 Town of Blacksburg, \$420,000
DVD Properties LLC to Roxanne C Howard, 0.749 Acre Town of Christiansburg, \$235,000
Keely Jones Baird to MD Sami Hasnine, 0.173 Acre Lot 157 New River Village PH VI Town of Christiansburg, \$325,500
Stateson Homes LLC to Ahmad Khan, Lot 156 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$491,505
Tia Greene Blount to Persson Banh LLC, Two Parcels See Legal Town of Christiansburg, \$157,000
Georges El Abboud to Jennifer Carol Havens, Lot 4 Windmill Hills PH IV Town of Christiansburg, \$397,000
Patrick Finley to Roger D Shortt, 1.088 Acres Lot 46 Riner Magisterial District, \$650,000
Ronald M Lovelace Trust to Mohamed Sallam, Lot 22 PH IV-B Cedar Orchard, \$835,000
Richard K Best to Sean P O'brien, Lot 7 Parcel I and Part of Lot 6 Parcel II, \$740,000
John R Cooke to Ryan Hardie, Lot 76 Northside Park Section IX Town of Blacksburg, \$475,000
Christopher M Viscomi to Holly A Cannon, Lot 14 Stroubles Mill Section III Town of Blacksburg, \$920,000
Daniel G Wills to John R Cooke, Lot 109 Blacksburg Country Club Estates Section I Mount Tabor Magisterial District, \$575,000
Steven R Thompson to David Bieri, Lot 110 Highland Park Town of Blacksburg, \$420,000
Lucy Ann Goldberg to Maren Roman, 8.554 Acres Metes and Bounds Town of Blacksburg, \$245,000
Stateson Homes LLC to Aditi Anil Make, Lot 157 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$484,059
Kipps Farms LLC to Stateson Homes LLC, 129 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$118,160
Said Taheri to Emily Mardakis, Lot 56 Section II Laurel Ridge Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$525,000
Dennis E Nagel to Main Street Preservation LLC, 0.249 Acre Shawsville Magisterial District, \$325,000
Bobby Louis Poff to Angeliq Lovern, Lot 22A Walnut Grove Subdivision Section I Town of Christiansburg, \$47,500
Devon J Thomas to Jennifer K Marin, Lot 34 Highland Park Addition Town of Blacksburg, \$388,000
Kipps Farms LLC to Stateson Homes LLC, Lot 131 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$118,160
Thomas L Jeter to Jack Wadon, 0.164 Acre Lot 142 PH VI New River Village Town of Christiansburg, \$352,500
Kevin Christopher McLoughlin to Lydia J Stebar, 0.132 Acre Revised Lot 12 Midway Estates Shawsville Magisterial District, \$325,000
Phillip Michael Hambrick to Patrick Francis McConville, New Lot 117 South Hill Park Addition Town of Christiansburg, \$292,000
Stateson Homes LLC to Gregory R Valentini, Lot 158 Westhill Subdivision Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$516,114
David L Hagan to Thomas A Loflin, 30.240 Acres Riner Magisterial District, \$1,007,700
Carol G Lidgard to Cory S Wright, 15445 Square Feet Lot 34 Windmill Hills PH I Town of Christiansburg, \$247,000
Madeline R Pauli to Santos Lazo, Lot 8 Fox Hollow Subdivision PH I Town of Christiansburg, \$400,000
Randall H Yates to Starlight MHP LLC, Lot 9 Falling Branch Estates Section I Town of Christiansburg, \$290,000
Robert D Perdue to Asim Khan Kharam, 0.552 Acre Lot 18 A Town of Christiansburg, \$255,000
Minoka B Yonts to James A C Mason, Lot 38 Longview Estates Section 3 Town of Blacksburg, \$375,000
Arthur L Poff Jr. to Jacob Cooper, 2.2213 Acres Town of Christiansburg, \$305,000
Clark H Woods to Kimberly S Butler, 4.6875 Acres More or Less Shawsville



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OPINION

Reminiscing about the good old days of college football

Evans "Buddy" King
Columnist

We are only a few weeks away from the start of another college football season, and I thought it would be fun to write a nostalgic column on the sport. Along with Major League Baseball, college football was at the top of my list of passions as a kid growing up in the 60's.

I listen to a fair amount of sports talk radio these days, and I detest hearing comments about how the sport "started in 2000" and how such and such U is a "perennial power" when I know they went 0 and 100 in the 70's. Rest assured modern day sports fans, the game was around and quite the attraction well before NIL and the portal and coaches becoming instant gazillionaires when they signed their contracts.

I first became a fan going to "VPI" games at "venerable old Miles Stadium" on the quaint campus in Blacksburg. The teams dressed at "venerable War Memorial Gymnasium" on the drill field and walked up through a beautiful splattering of trees behind the end zone to enter the field. I still remember that you could hear the cleats scraping on the concrete steps and then the "Gobblers" would mystically appear and sprint on the field and begin their exercises. My parents spoiled me in those days and one way they did that was by getting into Miles early enough that we could watch every second of warmups.

In my earliest memories, the Tech team appeared through the north (?) end zone woods resplendent in burnt orange jerseys and white pants and helmets and coached by Frank Moseley, a classic southern football coach of the era and then the athletic director at Tech for several years. In later seasons, the team would burst out of the trees, green or a blaze of reds and yellows or barren depending on the month of the season, in maroon jerseys and helmets and coached by an even more classic southern football coach named Jerry Claiborne. I loved Coach Claiborne and felt honored to have played against his son David in high school.

Jerry took Tech football to unheard of heights, including back-to-back Liberty Bowls in the late 1960's (losing in valiant efforts against Ole Miss and Miami) before being lured to

College Park to coach the Terrapins, probably receiving a contract that set his family up for months. Jerry went on to coach at his alma mater, the University of Kentucky, and had a very symmetrical career - the 60's at Tech, the 70's at Maryland (oh was I disappointed and angered by that move), and the 80's in Lexington. My Dad loved to watch Jerry's television show on Sundays when he reviewed the game tapes from the day before, just to hear him say, "there's another goldarned fumble" and he "really got after him on that play".

It was the era of 1:30 starts, no lights, and various versions of the T and I formations, and before the term "student-athlete" had been coined. They all were.

To further empathize how different things used to be, Moseley's and Claiborne's teams featured players who were majoring in things like mechanical and aeronautical engineering and applied science and agriculture and were darn happy just to be getting their educations paid for and to be "big men on campus" for a couple of years before they got on with their lives' work.

Assistant coaches were also of a different quality and quantity. There were only four or five man staffs and most of the assistants had part time jobs on the side. The ones who didn't get offers from bigger schools or their own head jobs usually ended up selling insurance or real estate in the New River Valley or starting their own businesses after a few years.

The venues were also quite different. I mentioned "venerable old Miles Stadium" earlier - not to be confused with Mile High Stadium in Denver, the home of the Broncos and later the Rockies. Our Miles Stadium had a listed seating capacity of 14,000 as I recall, but it was hard to tell or calculate since there was a hill that people sat on, and I am not sure there was any fence down below the trees where the teams entered from.

I remember that every Tech game then was a mini version of Army v. Navy. The entire on campus student body was in the Corps of Cadets and before the games they marched on to the field squadron by squadron and eventually covered the field (from 30 yard line to 30 yard line at least). The public address announcer would proudly call out the names and hometowns of the individual squadron leaders as they marched on. They

were always from Suffolk or Wakefield or some other place in the heart of Virginia peanut country.

Miles was probably my first "Field of Dreams", at least in a tie with the baseball diamond at Municipal Stadium in Salem. When I first walked through the "portal" (oh how I hate the word now) and saw the resplendent emerald field striped with brilliant white lime, I was hooked.

Alas, the lure of what we called "big time college football" became too great, Miles went the way of the Corps of Cadets and women wearing mums to games, and the Hokies, apparently ashamed of calling themselves the Gobblers, moved into Lane Stadium.

Admittedly, Miles had become anachronistic I guess. Visiting teams did not like either having to find Blacksburg (hard to do before I-81 was completed into southwest Virginia) or what they found after they got there (14,000 seats and only one or two motels in the area). In fact, the Hobgobblers played several of their "home" games in "venerable old Victory Stadium" in Roanoke, 40 miles away, an hour trip down Christiansburg Mountain (Route 11) in those days. Victory hosted the "Harvest Bowl" in October, with Tech playing either William & Mary or UVA (with my Cousin Joe on the team), and the "Military Classic of the South" - VPI v. VMI, the Cadets v. Keydets - on Thanksgiving Day. For even snootier opponents, the Hokies would occasionally play in the Tobacco Bowl in Richmond and the Oyster Bowl in Norfolk, places you could actually get to.

Lane ushered in a new era of college football in southwest Virginia. The era of outlandish salaries for coaches and administrators, promises of NFL careers for the players (for the fortunate 3%), and the recognition by administrators that successful football programs keep the alumni in touch, much like money helps with your kids. The portal may be the end of this era of good feeling at many schools, however, when players have 3 alma maters over the course of their careers and never learn the school fight songs. Can't tell the transferee without a media guide.

Forgive the walk down memory lane, when mums and 1:30 kickoffs and five man coaching staffs ruled the playing field, but don't tell me college football "started in 2000".

OBITUARIES

Jennelle, Donna Necessary

Donna Necessary Jennelle, 79, of Christiansburg, received her new body and went to her home in Heaven on Saturday, July 29, 2023.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She was preceded in death by her mother, Daisy Necessary.

Donna leaves behind to cherish her memory a husband of 61 years, Richard C. Jennelle, Jr. (Dickie); a son, Greg Jennelle; daughters, Kim Agee (Steve) and



Whitney Meadows (Gary); grandchildren Hunter (Hannah), Jeremiah, Josh

(Rebecca), Jake (Katie), Caleb, Jarrett, Josie, Payton; great-granddaughter, Haley; her fur baby, Roy; and extended family and friends.

We would like to thank Carolyn Troutt and Medi Home Health and Hospice for taking great care of her and McCoy Funeral Home.

Donna's love and faith in Jesus Christ comforts her family in the days ahead. Psalm 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Brown, Joyce Ann Riggins

Joyce Ann Riggins Brown, 80, passed away at her home in Dublin on Saturday, July 29, 2023. She retired from Volvo Trucks. Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, George and Daisy Riggins; daughter, Sandra Woolridge; and sister, Brenda Bear.

She is survived by her daughters, Angela Brun, and Kimberly Breeden; son-in-law, Larry Woolridge; grandchildren, Hailey Brugh (Eli Conrad), Heather Martin (Jamie), Demi Woolridge,



Alexis Woolridge, Paige Woolridge and Preston Woolridge; great

grandchildren, Trinity Rader, Ashton Hamilton, Aiden Martin, and Colten Conrad; sister, Linda Cox; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will follow with Jerry Martin officiating.

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

Webb, Eric Lemmont

Eric Lemmont Webb, 46, of Pulaski, passed away on Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Dency Webb.

Survivors include his loving wife, Amanda Elizabeth Webb; daughters, Erika and Eriyah Webb; mother, Betty Jean Webb; stepchildren, Jasmine Taylor, Ethan Charlton, II, and Elijah Wesley; brothers, David Jeter (Carlea), J.T. Hayden, and

Anthony Hayden; sister,



Lekeshia Webb; aunt, Cheryl Webb; uncle, Jerry Hardy; and many other

aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

A celebration of Eric's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Eric's name to Pulaski County Parks and Recreation, 5100 Alexander Road, Dublin, VA, 24084.

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

See **Obituaries**, page 5

Gas prices rise in Virginia

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 17.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.59/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 29.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 37.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has jumped 15.5 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.99 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.99/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.30/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.99/g while the highest was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 16.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.72/g today. The national average is up 21.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 45.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

- July 31, 2022: \$3.97/g (U.S. Average: \$4.17/g)
- July 31, 2021: \$2.99/g (U.S. Average: \$3.16/g)
- July 31, 2020: \$2.00/g (U.S. Average: \$2.18/g)
- July 31, 2019: \$2.49/g (U.S. Average: \$2.72/g)
- July 31, 2018: \$2.63/g (U.S. Average: \$2.87/g)
- July 31, 2017: \$2.12/g (U.S. Average: \$2.31/g)

- July 31, 2016: \$1.93/g (U.S. Average: \$2.13/g)
- July 31, 2015: \$2.46/g (U.S. Average: \$2.66/g)
- July 31, 2014: \$3.32/g (U.S. Average: \$3.51/g)
- July 31, 2013: \$3.47/g (U.S. Average: \$3.62/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.46/g, up 13.7 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.33/g.

Richmond- \$3.61/g, up 19.7 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.41/g.

West Virginia- \$3.51/g, up 16.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.34/g.

"Gas prices suddenly soared over the last week due to heat-related refinery outages that impacted some of the largest refineries in the country, at a time when summer gasoline demand peaks and as gasoline inventories slid to their lowest July level since 2015," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "In addition, oil prices surged to their highest level in months, rising to over \$80 per barrel due to SPR releases coming to an end and concerns over cuts in supply from Saudi Arabia and Russia, the second and third largest oil producers in the world. Motorists have seen average gasoline and diesel prices rise at the fastest pace in over a year, but the rise seen in the last week should now start slowing. However, as we get ever closer to the peak of hurricane season, any new issues could easily push the national average over \$4 per gallon for the first time in 2023. Drivers may want to brace for potentially higher prices yet."

Submitted by Gas Buddy



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AUGUST 10TH 7:05PM
AREA 51 NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

AUGUST 11TH 7:05PM
DINOS AT THE DIAMOND - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

AUGUST 12TH 6:05PM
MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

AUGUST 13TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

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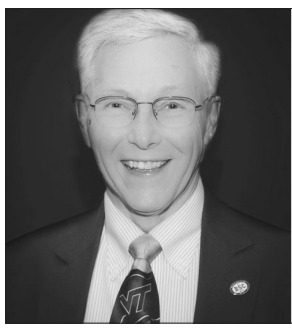
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Obituaries from page 4

Marcum, Ronnie

Ronnie Marcum peacefully passed away at the age 74 on July 24, 2023 in Blacksburg, with his loving wife of over 52 years by his side.



He was born in Pardee, Va. on September 6, 1948 to Doyle and Carrie Mae Marcum. He is survived by his wife Faye; sons Monte and Casey; their wives Anna and LeAnna; his grandchildren Wyatt, Helena and Cayleigh; sister Hilma (Til) Collier and her husband, Gene; his favorite nieces Carrie and Martha; and brother Harry Marcum and his wife, Tanua.

Management Program at Penn State. Ronnie had a distinguished 35-year career with Consolidation Coal Company (Consol) serving the coal mining industry. While with Consol he held many executive positions with extensive underground and surface mining expertise that also included reclamation, land management and transportation.

He was predeceased by his parents, sisters Margaret Dehart and Juanita Smith, and brothers Earl, Lenard and James (Johnny) Marcum. As close as family, Ronnie's lifelong best friend Benny Mason of over 60 years survives him.

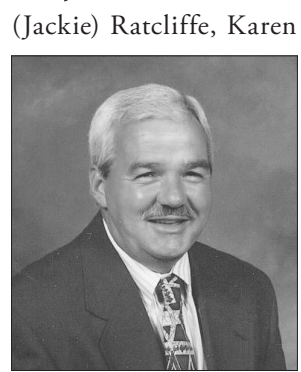
Ronnie retired from Consol in October 1999 and then went on to become an independent consultant which eventually led him into the role of Executive Vice President of Engineering for PinnOak Resources. Ronnie was a loyal Hokie to his core

and demonstrated the Ut Prosim values to their fullest extent. Being the first and only in his family to earn a college degree, education was very important to him. He and Faye recognized its significance in making positive abilities in life by establishing numerous academic scholarships at Virginia Tech and Radford University, Faye's alma mater. Virginia Tech honored Ronnie's academic and professional capstone on September 30, 2021 by inducting him into its elite Academy of Engineering Excellence. He was a strong supporter of all Virginia Tech athletic sports both as an avid fan cheering and through creating athletic scholarships. As hard as Ronnie worked through his professional career, it was the effort and joy he put into his retirement years that defined what living life to the fullest. His long list of life passions included family time and travel, golfing, fishing, going on waterfall adventures with his youngest son Casey, long walks with Faye and their pets over the decades and even being her faithful step class aerobics partner. He was on call and ready to dance with Faye anytime on a cruise ship. He particularly enjoyed experiencing all these celebrations at his personal playground in Rarity Bay on Tellico Lake in east Tennessee. Storytelling with his grandchildren, fishing with them and the dog and sipping wine with Faye and friends on his boat dock brought him true happiness. Ronnie was the go-to guy to solve problems and fix things with a unique care for the details to do it correctly - because the precision was both a challenge and a game for him.

With tremendous lifelong support from Faye, Ronnie built a legacy based on honest hard work and giving back because that is what brought him humble joy. Faye was with him every step of his journey for over 55 years in an exemplary partnership of taking care of each other. He practiced living every day with positivity through his warm smile and signature thumbs up. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Eagles Nest Regeneration Inc. in Ronnie's memory and desire to help others. A private family service will be held followed by a Celebration of Life at Blacksburg Country Club on a future date. Eagles Nest Regeneration: 10 Hickok St. Suite 200, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Whitlock, David Thomas

David Thomas Whitlock, 73, of Barren Springs, Virginia gained his heavenly body on Friday, July 28, 2023, at his home surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor his memory by living their lives to the fullest.



David was born March 24, 1950, in Radford to the late Maynard "Bunk" and Betty Murdock Whitlock. What a joyous reunion, walking on streets of gold with them.

(David) Sale and Donald (Arlene) Whitlock. David had many other family members and close friends. He will also be missed by his special fur baby, Gracie.

David is survived by his loving wife, Mary "Peachy" Ryan Whitlock; two daughters, Mitzi Young and Kathy (Scott) Aust; four grandchildren, Ashley (Justin) Hatch, Austin (Lottie) Young, Kayla (Cody) Blankenship, and Dylan Young; four great grandchildren, Deklan and Larken Hatch, Carter and Hudson Young; a very special niece, Jaicey Dalton; siblings, Sue

outside. He was a man of many talents and accomplishments. He loved working with his hands and could make anything and fix it if it was broken. David never missed the opportunity to tell a joke, his humor was quick and effortless, and always hilarious. He was an animal lover his entire life. You could always find a dog by his side or on his lap. The family will receive friends 5 - 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home. Memorial services will follow with the Pastor Neil Wood officiating. The family would like to give special thanks to the staff and Physicians at NRV Carilion Medical Center and Carilion Hospice for the loving care they provided David.

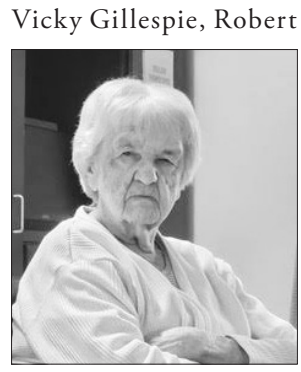
David was an avid outdoors man, he loved to golf, hunt, fish, gardening, and piddling

cake, butterscotch pie, pinto beans, and corn bread. She loved to crack walnuts, pick blackberries, and garden. She was a true country girl and a proud Lytton. She would find Indian arrowheads every time she went to the garden and had a huge collection.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Pastor Ray McDaniels officiating. The family received friends prior to the service at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive S.W., Blacksburg.

Bugg, Onita May Lytton

Onita May (Puddin) Lytton Bugg passed away July 29, 2023. She was a resident of Pilot. Onita lived in Pilot until medical issues worsened and then resided in Heritage Hall.



She was born October 21, 1930, to the late Fred Harmon and Lena Kesterson Lytton. She was preceded in death by Robert W. Bugg (Bobby), her late husband; and by her brothers and sisters Arnold, Brownie, Howard, Ed, Paul Lytton, Ruth Leslie, Kathleen Plaster, and Alma Scaggs.

Bugg, and son-in-law Bradley Goad. She left behind grandchildren, Quinton Self, Jr., Amanda Roop, Laura Beth Howell, Deseray Bugg and seven great-grandchildren.

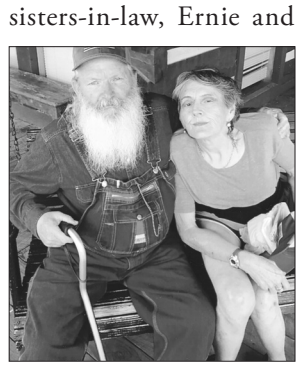
Her surviving children are Janet Mathis, Susie Roop,

Onita (Puddin) was a wonderful cook who opened her home to everyone, famous for German chocolate

you to Good Samaritan Hospice and its nurses Connie and Monica. Funeral services were conducted Monday, July 31, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Steve Board and Pastor Steve and Lou Akers officiating. Interment followed at the Hall's Church Cemetery. The family received friends Sunday, July 30, 2023, at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W., Blacksburg.

Davis, Diana Lynn Woods

Diana Lynn Woods Davis, 63, of Christiansburg, died Thursday, July 27, 2023, at her home.



She was born in Montgomery County on June 9, 1960. She was preceded in death by her father, E.J. Woods.

Kim Woods, Donnie and Carma Woods; grandchildren, Hannah and Tara Janney; numerous nieces and nephews. Special thank

sisters-in-law, Ernie and

She is survived by her husband, Delvis Davis; mother, Margie Woods; daughter and son-in-law, Krissy and Michael Janney; sister and brother-in-law, Susan and Dean Howard; brothers and

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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 grid with numbered squares and a vertical title 'CROSSWORD' on the left.

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Disco light, 7. London radio station, 10. Aerospace Co. Morton, 11. Capital of Puglia, Italy, 12. A phantom or apparition, 13. Packed wine, 14. The ocean below 6000 meters, 15. 1st dynasty: AKA Xia, 16. Every, 17. Six (Spanish), 18. His ark, 20. Segment or a circle, 21. Pres. Johnson or Obama, 26. 12th Greek letter, 27. The First Lady, 32. A blood group, 33. Takes to task, 35. Prints money (abbr.), 36. Airbus manufacturer, 37. A instance of selling, 38. 12th month (abbr.), 39. Baseball's Ruth, 40. 1959 Nobel biochemist Severo, 43. Weights deducted to obtain net, 44. To lie scattered over, 47. 6th Jewish month, 48. Physical maltreators, 49. Founder Franklin, 50. Published, CLUES DOWN: 1. Fish of the genus Alosa, 2. Rock singer Turner, 3. Muslim weight from 1 to 5 pounds, 4. Turkish unit of weight, 5. Bovine genus, 6. Popular shade tree, 7. The principal foundation of, 8. La ___ Tar Pits, 9. Spanish hero soldier, 10. Brains egg-shaped grey matter, 11. Fundamental, 12. Bast, 13. Small angels, 16. Not or, 17. S Pacific island group, 19. Ad ___: impromptu, 22. Gen. ___ DeGaulle, 23. Hasidic spiritual leader, 24. Aluminum, 25. Considerate and solicitous care, 28. Popular Canadian phrase, 29. Consumed food, 30. Hayfields, 31. About Andes, 34. Secondary School Certificate, 35. Pen maker Castell, 37. Brand of clear wrap, 39. Past tense of bid, 40. Resort city on Lake Biwa, 41. Big Bear was chief, 42. A group of cattle, 43. The bill in a restaurant, 44. People of the Dali region of Yunnan, 45. One point S of due E, 46. Pig genus

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Legals - Montgomery County

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetlands

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals This is to give notice that the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC) under 24 CFR part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under the Appalachian Regional Commission POWER grant program and the Department of Housing and Community Development Project (22-PW-02A) is located in the 100-year floodplain and a riverine, and the NRVRC will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain/wetland and the

Legals - Montgomery County

potential impacts on the floodplain/wetland from the proposed action, as required by both Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project area includes the development of an enhanced concrete boat launch on the bank of the New River in Montgomery County. The project area is approximately .94 acres, located entirely within the 100-year Floodplain and partially within a riverine. The project provides enhanced motorized and non-motorized boat access to the New River at the most utilized boat launch in Montgomery County, thus expanding the recreational opportunities and access for Montgomery County residents and tourists. This

Legals - Montgomery County

project will benefit the livability of our region and the burgeoning outdoor recreation economy. The Montgomery County boat launch at Whitethorne is one of four new/enhanced boat launches that will extend the existing 37 miles of the New River Water Trail (Giles County) to the rest of the region, totaling 61 miles upon completion. The project includes several related components: enhancements/expansion of current boat launch, extended parking suitable for vehicles with trailers and an accessible path to connect. The proposed project is located at 5277 Whitethorne Rd Blacksburg, VA 24060. There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains/wetlands and those who have an interest

Legals - Montgomery County

in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain/wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it

Legals - Montgomery County

will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and/or wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Written comments must be received by the NRVRC at the following address on or before August 17, 2023: New River Valley Regional Commission, 6580 Valley Center Drive Suite 124 Radford, VA 24141 Attention: Kathleen Armstrong, Regional Planner II/ Community Designer. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9am to 5pm at the above address and electronically by request. Comments may also be submitted via email at karmstrong@nrvc.org. Date: August 2, 2023

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Kyle Busch takes SRX win at Motor Mile



Brad Foy (50) finished first ahead of Karl Dudzevski (7) and Kyle Dudley in the 50-lap Sportsman Series race at Pulaski County Motorsports Park on Thursday night. The SRX series visited Pulaski County Motorsports Park (formerly Shelor Motor Mile Speedway) for a nationally televised EPN race on Thursday night.



Race Grand Marshall Frank Beamer tells drivers to "Start your engines" on Thursday night for the first of two SRX heat races.



Kyle Busch takes the checkered flag in front of Clint Bowyer in the SRX feature race Thursday night.



Kyle Busch took the win in the SRX race at Pulaski County Motorsports Park Thursday night. Tony Stewart was third and Clint Bowyer placed second to complete the final podium.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

The biggest night of stock car racing to ever roll into the New River Valley was this past Thursday, and it ended with a two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion parked in victory lane.

In his Superstar Racing Experience (SRX) debut, Kyle Busch earned the victory with an impressive performance at the .416-mile Motor Mile Speedway inside of Pulaski County Motorsports Park.

A star-studded field of 12 drivers included some of the world's best to ever get behind the wheel. The premier group, handpicked by SRX owner Tony Stewart, combined for 200 NASCAR Cup Series wins and 59 Indy Car Series wins. The list of competitors also held a combined six NASCAR Cup Series championships and one Daytona 500 victory as well as three Indy Car titles and five Indy 500

wins. The SRX series came to southwest Virginia for the first time and put on a show in front of a packed house. A pair of 20-lap heats opened the night's festivities before the 100-lap main event. Marco Andretti won the opening heat before the field was inverted, leading to a victory for 10-time NASCAR Cup Series winner Clint Bowyer in the second sprint.

A century of laps around the 15-degree banked oval highlighted the night. Busch worked his way up to the top spot, as he held off a quickly approaching Bowyer who had found some serious speed on the bottom groove.

A late-race crash involving Paul Tracy and 2023 Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden also collected Ken Schrader and Hailie Deegan. After the field was bunched back up, Busch maintained his

lead for the final handful of laps to secure his first-ever SRX victory.

Driver Paul Tracy was suspended because of the earlier crash.

On Friday night, SRX released the following statement:

"Superstar Racing Experience (SRX) has announced an immediate suspension of driver Paul Tracy in relation to yesterday's on-track incident at Pulaski County Motorsports Park."

"We take issues regarding driver safety extremely seriously at SRX," SRX chief executive officer Don Hawk said. "This is not a decision we take lightly. It is our responsibility to ensure that we foster a competitive, and most importantly, a safe racing environment."

Earlier in the evening, fans were treated to a 50-lap feature for the Collision Plus Sportsman Series. Brad Foy led for the

majority of the race, starting the night off by parking his black and orange machine in victory lane.

Current points leader Kyle Barnes started on the front row and defending late model track champion Kyle Dudley started one spot behind him. Early mishaps at the start of the race sent the duo to the tail of the field.

Foy proved to be the class of the field, jumping out to an early lead that he never surrendered. Karl Budzevski stayed within reach of the race winner but was never able to make the final pass. A strong showing of perseverance from Dudley pushed him back up through the field, a run good enough for the final podium spot.

Peyton Williams, Pulaski County Motorsports Park

Blacksburg Rec hosts co-ed softball tournament



Crow's Nest was the runner up in last week's Spring Co-ed softball tournament, hosted by the Blacksburg Recreation Department.



The Henry Heath squad took the championship at the Blacksburg Recreation Department's spring co-ed softball tournament.

PHOTOS BY MARTY GORDON



PHOTO COURTESY OF WYTHEVILLE HOCKEY

The Blue Ridge Bobcat hockey team will play their inaugural season this October at the Apex Entertainment facility near Wytheville.

New hockey team in SWVA

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Southwest Virginia is getting a new minor league sports team. This past week, Barry Soskin and Chris Bryniarski announced plans for a hockey team at the Apex Center near Wytheville. Seating capacity will be approximately 3,000.

The team will be known as the "Blue Ridge Bobcats". Team officials unveiled the name on Thursday, saying this fierce moniker represents the team's tenacity, agility, and fearlessness in conquering the rink.

The excitement begins on Friday, October 20, and Saturday, October 21, as the Blue Ridge Bobcats host their very first home games.

The club also announced its first coach, Vojtech Zemlicka, who has a track record

with the ECPL's Roanoke hockey team.

The team said: "Zemlicka brings a wealth of expertise and dedication to the sport of hockey. With years of experience as a player and coach, he has proven his ability to create competitive strategies and identify the challenges athletes face both on and off the ice. His proficiency in designing effective game plans for defense and offense, along with his focus on one-on-one skill development training, makes him a valuable asset to the Blue Ridge Bobcats."

Serving as an Assistant Coach with the SPHL's Rail Yard Dawgs, Zemlicka played a pivotal role in recruitment and player development, particularly focusing on defensive strategies. His keen eye for plays and game analysis helped the team make strategic decisions during intermissions and after games, ultimately contributing to the team's camaraderie and success.

Blue Demons reunite as summer teammates

Three former Christiansburg High School baseball players were on the diamond this summer with the Princeton Whistle Pigs in the Appalachian League. Pictured are (from left) Mason Self, MJ Hunter and Connor Brizendine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONICA HUNTER

ReNew

from page 1

helping with the clean-up. If someone wants to volunteer but prefers to be solid ground, there are land crews that work close to the river. "It is fun, and you can interact with the water. There is always opportunity, and we do not usually turn anyone away," Armstrong said. Specific questions in the registration process will help organizers determine your preferences in how you wish to donate volunteer time. Getting together before and after as a big group and enjoying each other's company is also a big part of the event. Some localities will be providing a lunch to volunteers and others may choose to bring a lunch or snacks to enjoy with other participants. Community members are encouraged to check with their local organization that is hosting the event on the schedule of events. Registration of volunteers is also vital in helping coordinators best utilize the placement of teams on land and water to make the biggest impact on renewing our natural resources. The hope is that one day, they will not need as many volunteers because people have become more aware of how damaging garbage can be to the environment.

"When we have less and less trash pickup, that means we have more success in our mission," Armstrong said. In addition to the water clean-up, the ReNew the New Committee has a school-based education program. Ollie Otter is their loveable mascot for the program and serves as a representative for the otters that abundantly reside in the New River and other waterways in the region. The catchy 'Be a Litter Quitter' song geared for children along with an art contest are some of the ways the organization is spreading the word on nature preservation to children. The art contest winners, along with their pictures, are posted on the ReNew the New website at www.renewthenew.org. "That early intervention with kids about littering and water quality is important," Armstrong said. "The Litter-Quitter Critter, hard to say, easy to do." More information about the event, along with the registration form for each individual ReNew the New event, can be found at www.renewthenew.org and through the organization's Facebook page at the New River Valley Regional Commission. The registration page will guide volunteers through selecting the clean-up location of their choosing.

2023 AUG. 26TH FALL INTO THE NEW

ReNewing the New River
One River, Two States
One Bag at a Time

Volunteers of all ages who love the New River will gather at designated starting areas throughout the NRV.

Registration for participation is required and available online. The number of volunteers each local can handle is limited. Participants must sign a waiver before getting started.

Please make sure you wear sunscreen and old tennis shoes or water shoes. Flip flops are not recommended as they can come off too easily.

Lunch and t-shirt will be provided to all who volunteer.

If bringing your own boat, you MUST say so in the registration form so drop off and pick up can be arranged.

REGISTRATION
www.ReNewTheNew.org

Logos: Giles County, New River Water Trail, NRVRC, Floyd Virginia, Pulaski County Virginia, Radford VA, Montgomery County VA.

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF RENEW THE NEW

Steppin' Out

from page 1

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Steppin' Out

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SAY YES TO SCIENCE

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Fraud

from page 1

According to court documents, in 2014, despite having no medical training, Barnes bought a medical practice through his company, L5 Medical Holdings. L5 operated pain management clinics, which involved the prescribing of prescription opioids and opioid addiction treatment medications, including Suboxone. Barnes, who previously worked in the mortgage industry, concluded that pain management was a "recession proof" industry. In addition, he conducted a feasibility study that identified Lynchburg, Virginia, as a prime location for a pain management clinic. After Barnes began operating his pain clinics, those clinics became more focused on prescribing Suboxone and opioids and less focused on interventional treatments. Barnes and L5 operated the clinics in a manner that prioritized revenue maximization over patient care. Providers were encouraged to limit patient visits to 15 minutes and to see as many as 30 patients per day. In addition, at the direction of Barnes, medical providers with L5 followed the opinion of non-medical professionals in making medical decisions, including whether a patient should be treated for opioid addiction or for pain management, whether a patient should receive a prescription, and what type of drug should be prescribed. Patient interactions with non-medical

professionals were billed to Virginia Medicaid and Medicare improperly. L5 also implemented a urine drug screening policy principally based on insurance reimbursements rather than patient care. In particular, Barnes and L5 specifically refused to implement a random drug screening policy in order to avoid losing the revenue that resulted from billing Medicare and Virginia Medicaid for as many drug tests as those insurance policies would pay for. At sentencing, Barnes faces a maximum statutory penalty of up to five years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. The Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office of the Inspector General, the Virginia State Police, and the Virginia Attorney General's Office - Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys S. Cagle Juhan, Jason Scheff, and Special Assistant United States Attorney Janine M. Myatt, Assistant Attorney General with the Virginia Attorney General's Office, are prosecuting the case.

Submitted by the United States Attorney's Office of the Western District of Virginia

Christiansburg

from page 1

amount, which is \$10,750," Hebert said. Grant award money and marketing needs will make up the additional budget needs for the program. Sponsorship opportunities are made available at different levels. Hebert went on to say that the goal would be to launch the program with the final 10-week program in the fall of 2024. "Once it gets kicked off, it's a very well-developed and designed program," Councilman Tim Wilson said. "If you are thinking of starting a business that she's developing to help people get off the ground and have the potential to be a success if they put the effort in to it." Three consent agenda items were also unanimously approved during the meeting. The Town of Christiansburg has contracted with Century Engineering, LLC., for professional engineering services on the design of the Stafford Drive signal for the Peppers Ferry Rd Project in the amount of \$412,216. "I'll add, this is a 50/50 grant, we are furnishing half and VDOT, I believe, is furnishing the other half," Mayor Mike Barber

said. Town Manager Randy Wingfield confirmed that this is correct under the Revenue Sharing Program. As also part of the 50/50 Grant Revenue Sharing Program, the Town has contracted for professional engineering services provided by Whitman, Reardon, & Associates, LLP., for the Cambria Trail, Phase I Project in the amount of \$689,218.55. "So, we're basically getting 1.1 million dollars of work done for about 500,000," Barber said. The last consent agenda item approved by the Council was a request for approval of two purchase orders. According to the agenda, both purchase orders together total \$249,054.57. As described in the agenda and read before the council members, the first purchase order is to Excel Truck Group for a new 2024 Freightliner Cab and Single Axle Chassis, Model 114SD, with a total cost of \$119,499.57. This purchase is through Cooperative Procurement using the Virginia Sheriffs' Association Heavy Procurement Program Rollover Agreement. The second purchase order is to Henderson Products who will install the new dump body and snow removal equipment to the 2024 Freightliner. This purchase utilizes a Cooperative Procurement Agreement through Sourcewell, which provides the Town with a 10% discount. In other actions,

Council members voted unanimously to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) as requested and stated per the agenda, by Burch Properties LLC, and property owner Kevin Lagos, Lessee, to allow a public billiard parlor and poolroom on the property located at 1635 North Franklin St., zoned General Business District B-3. The purpose of the request is to permit billiard tables within the restaurant, eliminating the need for partitions that would otherwise be required. A conditional use permit is required due to a 2022 change in Town Code, Sec. 6-1, "Billiards and pool are not permitted in any room where alcoholic beverages are sold or dispensed unless allowed as part of the approval for a "public billiard parlors and poolrooms" conditional use permit...". There are four proposed billiard tables located in the main serving area near the rear of the restaurant and adjacent to the restrooms. The proposed conditional use permit would be limited to the specific restaurant/unit stated within the application. The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to recommend approval to Town Council on June 20, 2023. The council also unanimously approved the rezoning request by Summit Community Bank, Inc., property owner, to rezone the property located at 100 Akers Farm Road, from Limited Business District B1 to General Business District B-3. The property

is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. As described in the Council's meeting agenda, the purpose of the request is to permit a larger freestanding sign. The B-1 zoning district permits 50 square feet per face, while the B-3 zoning district permits up to 75 square feet per face. The applicant has stated that they intend to erect a monument sign that has a 75 square foot face and is 16.3 feet tall. The Planning Commission voted 4-1 to recommend approval to Town Council on June 20, 2023. Council member Casey Jenkins abstained from the vote due to the Summit Community Bank's support to the Montgomery Museum, for which he serves as director. The Christiansburg Town Council unanimously approved the recommendation to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for reappointment of Mike Barber to the Montgomery-Blacksburg - Christiansburg Development Corporation for a term of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 (as stated in the agenda). Mayor Barber would be reappointed to serve a 3-year term. The Town has representation on many county-wide and regional boards and commissions. For a complete list, please click on this link: <https://www.christiansburg.org/410/Other-BoardsCommissions>.

North Franklin Street (Route 460 Business) at Laurel Street Pedestrian Improvements Town of Christiansburg

Find out about a project to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of North Franklin Street (Route 460 Business) and Laurel Street in Christiansburg. The project entails adding pedestrian signals and two crosswalks to the intersection and constructing approximately 280 linear feet of sidewalk next to the eastbound lane of North Franklin Street to connect to an existing section of sidewalk.

In addition, a pedestrian refuge island also will be constructed in the median of North Franklin Street. Curb and gutter and drainage improvements are also included in the project.

Review the project information and National Environmental Policy Act document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353, 1-800-FOR-ROAD, or TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Jason Patrick, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153, on or prior to August 17, 2023. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Jason Patrick at the phone numbers listed above.

UPC: 122866
State Project: 0460-060-880, P101
Federal Project: HSIP-5150(228)
From: Intersection of Route 460 North Franklin Street/Laurel Street
To: 0.11 mile southeast of the intersection Route 460 North Franklin Street/Laurel Street

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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