



News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, September 2, 2023

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00



PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS TEATES

Parmer & Sons staff Paul Theus painting soffit, Brian Kipps holding ladder, and Chad King painting screen door on Day one of the Pilot Community Center project.

Discover the tradition of Quilts of Valor at Meadowbrook Public Library

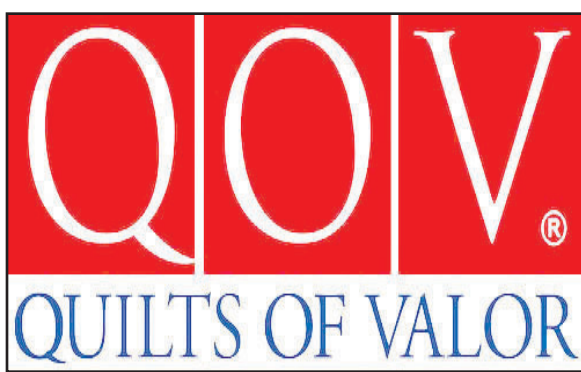
SHAWSVILLE - The Meadowbrook Public Library is holding a "Quilts of Valor" event Saturday, Sept. 9, at 1 p.m.

"This event promises a unique opportunity to delve into the world of Quilts of Valor, an initiative that honors the courage and sacrifice of service members and veterans who have been touched by the ravages of war," the library announced.

The Quilt of Valor Foundation presents quilts to service members and veterans. As of July 31, 2023, Quilts of Valor has presented 354,712 handmade quilts.

"A Quilt of Valor is more than just a handmade quilt; it embodies gratitude, respect, and appreciation for those who have served our nation," the announcement continues. "These meticulously crafted quilts, whether machine or hand quilted, hold within their stitches a profound recognition of the struggles and triumphs of

See Quilts, page 4



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION

Large donation from local business wows Pilot Community Center members

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Pilot Community Center has been undergoing a facelift and it is thanks to caring individuals from the community who have donated their time, energy, and money to the beautification of the historic schoolhouse.

An especially large donation of time, money, and lots of paint was graciously donated from Parmer and Sons Painting business in Christiansburg.

While maintaining the historical integrity of the 1921 building, the organization and community have pulled together to provide a full kitchen renovation, flooring, interior

paint, two new bathrooms, and a new roof. However, the building was in bad need of new exterior paint.

First, using a photo of the schoolhouse from the 1920s, board members attempted to match the original paint color.

"I think for a long time we all thought it was white, with the metal roof that was on there previously," Ted Veggeberg, Vice President of the Pilot Community Center Board said. "But then we found a photo that shows that the trim around the windows was white, but the siding was not white. It was some off-white color, so we went with light grey."

In addition to Veggeberg, the board is made up of Vice President John "Bert" Gill and Alice Jones as Treasurer.

Additional dedicated members routinely tend to the grounds such as Cody Rush and Thomas (Tom) Teates. Teates also serves as the custodian of the center. Gill's wife, Gloria Kirkner McNeil attended the school when it was still serving the community. The school closed in 1963 when a larger school was built in Riner, according to information on the center's website at www.pilotcommunitycenter.weebly.com.

Teates said when the organization thought about painting the building, they didn't think they had enough money in their account to do it, but wanted to get an estimate on how much money it would take. So, they

See Donation, page 4

Montgomery Museum hosts Lois Stephens reception, awards ceremony for Railroad Art Show

CHRISTIANSBURG - Join the Montgomery Museum of Art & History Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, 5 -7 p.m. for the opening reception of local artist Lois Stephens and the awards ceremony for the multi-artist Railroad Theme Art Show.

The reception will take place in the museum at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg.

So many talented and well-trained artists say they wish they could loosen up and let go of the comfort of realism. Lois Stephens is one of the few who accomplished that goal. Her new exhibition entitled, "Oilful Expressions," shows how Stephens prefers to work in oil with a palette knife, a device that replaces the brush and lends itself to

free rein. She says the more you do it, the more confident you become. Also, don't be afraid to change something that doesn't work. "It's just paint." Oil paint is especially easy to remove or paint over. "Simplify." Painting in an impressionist style comes from simplifying what you have been doing. Many of the paintings in the show are landscapes depicting local scenes that often include water. "Flow" shows a stream in springtime, "Hibernal" a cold winter scene, and "Garden Path" a walk bordered with flowers. Compared to her earlier works, these paintings are more impressionistic in style.

Along with opening Stephens' show on Sept. 7, the museum is acknowledging the closing of the Railroad Theme Art Show. Twenty local artists have

Montgomery Museum
OF ART & HISTORY
4 East Main St. Christiansburg, VA 24073

RAILROAD THEME ART SHOW

Reception & People's Choice Awards:
September 7, 2023, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

OVER 40 SUBMISSIONS BY LOCAL ARTISTS

Lois Stephens' Oilful Expressions

On Display Sept. 7 until Nov. 4
ARTIST RECEPTION:
SEPTEMBER 7, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
4 EAST MAIN STREET,
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
www.montgomerymuseum.org/exhibit/stephens

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

submitted over forty works in numerous media including paint, pen and ink, photography, and wood scrollwork that depicts railroad heritage. The People's Choice voting for the awards ceremony is taking place now, and voting will close at 6 p.m. at the reception with awards presented at 6:30 p.m. Vote now

at: <https://montgomerymuseum.org/exhibits/railroad-theme-show>. A cash bar will be available and food will be catered by Zeppoli's.

Submitted by the Montgomery Museum of Art & History

Virginia Tech outlines ambitious strategy to spearhead cancer research and elevate university's global standing



PHOTO BY CLAYTON METZ FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Members of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors and university officials tour the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, which included a stop at the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Visitors learned from veterinary medical oncologist Nick Dervisis (at right) how providing state-of-the-art cancer care for animals complements research for human treatments.

BLACKSBURG - Reducing the hardship caused by cancer requires the alignment of many skilled people.

At Virginia Tech, the talent is lining up with precision and purpose.

The university is mustering its scientists and engineers behind a new strategy to help families struggling with a disease that occurs in almost two million people and claims more than 600,000 lives annually in the United States. Moreover, the incidence and death rates from cancer in dogs is similar to that in humans. According to studies

in the journal Nature, cancer will cost the world \$25 trillion over the next 30 years.

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors on Monday was briefed on the faculty, university leaders, and strategic planning to elevate the university in the cancer research world - and as a top 100 global research university.

Ultimately, the goal is to slow cancer's toll on the people of Virginia and of the world.

"We are defining the opportunity space for Virginia Tech to have a major, global impact," said Michael Friedlander,

vice president for health sciences and technology.

"The key will be for the university to differentiate its contributions by building on several areas of strength in cancer research from many established, longstanding cancer research programs.

In addition to accelerating innovative preventions, diagnostics, and therapeutics for a variety of cancers, the emphasis on cancer research will better position Virginia Tech as a top 100 global research university, according to Dan Sui, senior vice

See Research, page 6

U.S. drug overdose deaths hit a new record in 2022

Drug deaths nationwide hit a new record in 2022. Nearly 110,000 people died of drug overdoses.

**109,680 dead in one year.
That's 300 lives lost each day.
This has to stop.**



**Annual New River Valley
Candlelight Vigil for
International Overdose Awareness Day**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

401 Peer Center parking lot
401 W. Main Street, Radford
Brief remarks begin at 7:30 PM
Open to the public



Stop the stigma. Carry naloxone.

Learn more at nrvc.org/endoverdosenrv

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 2:

Page to Screen Movies: Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?

Page to Screen Movies Presents: Whatever Happened to Baby Jane? At the Radford Public Library; noon. This classic psychological thriller stars two icons of the silver screen, Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, as feuding sisters locked in a spiraling, toxic relationship as one of them loses touch with reality. The film is 2hrs 12 minutes and although not rated does contain some frightening and suspenseful scenes. Popcorn provided while supplies last!

Monday, Sept. 4:

Blacksburg Labor Day closings

Town administrative offices will be closed. Blacksburg Transit will operate on Intermediate Service and BT offices will be closed. The Blacksburg Community Center and the Blacksburg Aquatic Center will be closed. There will be no trash pickup in the SE Quadrant. Make-up service will be Wednesday, Sept. 6. Please have all materials at the curb by 7 a.m.

Radford Labor Day closings

City offices and the Radford Public Library will be closed. Solid Waste Collection: Monday, Sept. 4 collected on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Please have garbage ready for collection by 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday. Drop Center will be closed.

MFRL closed

All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will be closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday, Sept. 5:

Pre-K Yoga with 'The Whole You'

At the Radford Public Library; 10:30 - 11:45 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.

Wednesday, Sept. 6:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant community meeting

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold the next Commander's Community Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library at 125 Shelton St. The meeting will also be broadcast on Facebook Live from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facebook page. These meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity to learn about RFAAP Modernization and Environmental Projects. Our commitment to responding to your questions extends beyond the community meeting. You can reach out to us for questions or to conduct research on your own through several resources, including: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>; Homepage: <http://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx>; or Email: USARMY.RIA.JMC.MBX.AMSJM-PA@ARMY.MIL.

Thursday, September 7:

Blood Drive

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street in Radford, is sponsoring a Blood Drive, 1- 5 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Walk ins are welcome but in order to be seen more quickly, please call 1(800) RedCross to schedule an appointment.

American Legion meeting

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

Community Quilting Bee

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your supplies and join us for conversation.

Saturday, September 9:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club September Fish Fry, 5 to 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. Entertainment by Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge. 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. This is the last fish fry in 2023. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Monday, September 11:

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, September 12:

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.

Saturday, September 16:

Ladies Night Out Workshop

At First Missionary Baptist Church 7318 Manns Dr., Fairlawn, Va., 5 p.m. Speaker will be Ruth Wolford New Mount Olive UMC—Radford. Sponsored by Deaconess Ministry—FMBC. Refreshments will be served.

Shred-A-Thon

Town of Blacksburg Shred-A-Thon; 9 a.m. - noon, 725 Patrick Henry Dr. Free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please bring documents in a box, tote or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Remain in your vehicle during drop off. For more information, call the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540-443-1212.

Thursday, September 21:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant located at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further

See Events, page 6



Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on September 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia. Pursuant to Code of Virginia, Title 15.2, Article 2 Section 15.2-2006 et seq., the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding a request from Tall Oaks 51, LLC to vacate an unimproved portion of public right of way. This area is identified as a portion 10' wide portion of Walker Street located at its intersection with the northern side of West Main Street. The request contains a total area of approximately 0.034 acre. Council will also hear comments regarding a request from East Radford Development 1001, LLC to vacate a portion of unimproved public right of way. This area is located between Tyler Avenue and Picket Street. The request contains a total area of approximately 0.051 acre. Copies of the application, together with the plat of the property to be vacated, are available for review in the City Manager's Office located at 10 Robertson Street.

Legals - Montgomery County

Notice of Public Hearing

Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 during its meeting beginning at

Legals - Montgomery County

6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item: ROW 23-0001/ORD 2036- Request to vacate approximately 20,439 square feet of Town-owned Right-of-Way known as Rimrock Drive (adjacent to Tax Parcel 347-8 1) at 2600 Research Center Drive by Snyder-Hunt Company, LLP (owner). A request to vacate approximately 20,439 square feet (0.47 acres) of Town-owned Right-of-Way known as Rimrock Drive from Research Center Drive to its termination at Route 460 Bypass. The application states that the vacated property will be absorbed into Tax Parcel 347-8 1 and used as a private driveway to access the Blue Ridge Cancer Center. Rimrock Drive ROW is a built street and includes sidewalk and utilities. RZN 23-0002/ORD 2035- Request to rezone approximately 1.1 acres from R-4 Low Density Residential to PR Planned Residential in the 1200 block of Airport Road (Tax Map Number 317-2 31, 32, 34A & 317-2 32A, 33, 34) by Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley (contract purchaser) for Blacksburg Fire Safety Foundation (owner). A request to rezone approximately 1.1 acres of land from R-4 Low Density Residential to PR Planned Residential for the development of 11 income-restricted townhomes with 33 bedrooms total in the 1200-block of Airport Road. Townhomes will be sold to buyers earning between 30%-80% of Area Median Income (AMI). The Future Land Use Designation for this parcel is Medium-Density Residential. This development request represents an increase in the allowable bedroom density above the Future Land Use density of 20 bedrooms per acre. ROW 23-0002/ORD 2032- Request to vacate approximately 0.13 and 0.09 acres (total of 0.22 acres) of Town-owned Right-of-Way in the 1200 block of Airport Road by Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley (contract purchaser). This is a request

Legals - Montgomery County

accompanying RZN 23-0002 to vacate approximately 0.22 acres of unbuilt Town-owned Right-of-Way adjacent to Tax Map Number 317-2 31, 32, 34A and Tax Map Number 317-2 32A, 33, 34 known as unbuilt Airport Drive and unbuilt Virginia Street. The land to be vacated would be incorporated in the proposed Habitat for Humanity townhome development as driveway and rear yard space. Persons affected by or interested in the rezoning request and right-of-way vacation requests may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission will take action. Copies of the request and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204; 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on September 11, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' intention to act on the following Ordinance: A request by Jeffrey Allan

Legals - Montgomery County

and Jennifer Lamm Frayser (Agent: Meredith Engineering) to rezone a total of 122.60 acres from Rural Residential (RR) conditional with proffers approved in 2008 to develop a proposed single-family subdivision, to Agricultural (A-1) to allow for a family subdivision consisting of three (3) single-family residential lots. The property is located on Bradshaw Road (State Rt. 629), approximately 0.05 miles west of the intersection of Bradshaw Road and Dewberry Lane. The property is further identified as Tax Map 032-A 55 (Parcel ID: 001477) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204; 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by Darrell Linkous for a Special Use Permit

Legals - Montgomery County

(SUP) to allow a Manufactured Home on a vacant lot located within the R-3 Residential Zoning District. The property is located at 425 Briggs Road (St. Rt. 1045) near the intersection of Briggs Road and Jacob Drive, Shawsville; off of Kirk Hollow Road (St. Rt. 690). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 083-A 4 22 (Parcel ID: 031288), 1.29 acres, zoned Residential (R-3) in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan and is further designated as Medium Density Residential in the Shawsville Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204; 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on September 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Resolution: A resolution adopting the "Transportation Matters" master transportation plan for the County of

Legals - Montgomery County

Montgomery, Virginia to replace the existing transportation chapter of the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. The "Transportation Matters" plan provides recommendations to improve transportation infrastructure, increase safety, expand public transportation options, and strengthen funding applications for transportation projects throughout the unincorporated areas of Montgomery County. Copies of the "Transportation Matters" plan may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204; 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by RDH LLC for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on property to allow a Short-Term Tourist Rental within a newly constructed one-bedroom dwelling. The property is located at 2157 Harding Road, Blacksburg (St. Rt. 785), and is located approximately .28 miles west of Lusters Gate Road (St. Rt. 723). The property is further identified as

Legals - Montgomery County

Tax Map 042-A 50A (Parcel ID: 035257), 1.349 acres, zoned Residential (R-2) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

House for Sale - Open House

SUNDAY OPEN HOUSE

September 2nd 2 pm to 4pm

3591 Onyx Drive Radford 299,000

5 miles from Christiansburg shopping mall area down RT 114 on peppers ferry. Christiansburg school district

Come see this spacious ranch home fully remodeled plus granite countertops. 2500 square feet with 4 bedroom and 2 full baths. Wonderful views with large yard. Call/text Matt Hicks Summit Ridge Realty 540-320-5481

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?



To place your ad, call 389-9355

Quilt

from page 1

our service members. The Quilts of Valor Foundation aims to wrap these individuals in a tangible reminder of our nation's deep respect for their service and sacrifice."

Jenny Fields, an advocate of the Quilts of Valor, will lead a discussion about the movement.

"With her knowledge and connection to the cause, Fields will shed light on the history, significance, and heartwarming stories behind these cherished quilts. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the intricate process of creating each quilt, the symbolism woven into the

fabric, and the impact these tokens of appreciation have on the lives of recipients.

Whether you're a seasoned quilter, a history enthusiast, or simply curious about the Quilts of Valor initiative, this event promises to be an eye-opening and heartwarming experience

for all." Meadowbrook Public Library is located at 267 Alleghany Spring Rd., Shawsville.

News Messenger staff report

Donation

from page 1

called Parmer and Sons Painting.

"Grey Sayers was the guy that came out to look and give us an estimate," Teates said.

The members knew it would be expensive, but Teates enjoyed meeting with Sayers and was looking forward to working with their company. Within a day or two, Teates received a call back on the estimate. It was going to be in the ballpark of \$20,000. However, Sayers had more to say about the project.

"But you know' he said, 'I was talking to the owner of the company, Royce Parmer, and I suggested to him that maybe this is what our charitable donation to the community for the summer should be. Each year, we do something as a donation to support the community,'" Teates said.

Shocked by the incredible gift to the center, Teates was unable to respond at first.

"I had to get up off the floor and then I said 'Wow,'" Teates said.

That was the fall of 2022. The project is now underway, thanks to the Parmer and Sons team. Paul Theus is the crew leader, and joined by Jody Puckett, Brian Kipps, Chad King, and Eric Neufield.

"I know we're just super happy to be able to contribute," Theus said. "For me personally, this area means a lot because I went through the Eagles Nest and you know, this Pilot/Floyd area has people who have reached out to help me so it's cool to give back to give back to this area. Personally, I kind of have a bit of a connection with it, so it's serendipitous that I happened to be put on this job. I am grateful for it."

Teates said that passersby may have noticed Theus as the acrobat that can be seen high on the ladder painting the tall building, along with the crew who has worked to bring the historic building back to life.

"We are very grateful for Parmer and Sons," Veggeberg said. "I know it started with Tom bringing them out here and talking to various representatives with them to give us an estimate and kind of see where we're at."

The center's restoration has been met with other challenges as well. The roofing could not be replaced with the original style of tin shingles because no one can do this type of work anymore, according to Teates.

"Plus, we had a leak...in the upstairs and we had to repair a rafter and put new roof up," Teates said. "You can't repair a tin shingle roof and not have it leak."

Lead paint on the exterior of the building also caused further complications for the members, as well as staying on schedule for the paint job that was to happen in the summer of 2023. Transformation Painting was able to do the necessary lead paint removal in a safe manner so that the Pilot Community Center could stay on time for its needed fresh coat of paint. An original cost of \$5000 for lead paint removal was lessened when community members jumped in to do some of the work themselves,

such as removing bead board that would have needed cleaning of the lead paint.

Funds are raised through membership dues, occasionally renting out the building for events, and some other activities that the center has organized for the community. Donations are always accepted as well and can be made on the center's website.

A recent yard sale was very successful for the Pilot Community Center, yielding approximately \$500, which the members of the organization had not really planned for. The event was one of many outreach opportunities the members have planned to invite the community in to enjoy the house and surrounding property. Many people living in rural areas of the county also find it difficult to have a yard sale at their home.

"I mean if you live down this road like I do, no one's coming to your house," Ted Veggeberg, President of the Pilot Community Center Board said. "So, we wanted to provide that function for the community."

People can use the building for reunions, meetings, and even weddings. Interested parties may find contact information through the Pilot Community Center Facebook page, at their website or by email at pilotschoolcc@gmail.com. Additionally, the Little Library is located upstairs in the building where community visitors can take books to read or donate them. Puzzles line the shelves of a bookcase downstairs inviting people to sit a spell and enjoy the ambience of the over 100-year-old schoolhouse.

"There are lots of different ways for people to come in and get involved," Veggeberg said. "We are grateful for any and all presence. We want to hear feedback from the community on how we can do things better to serve the community."

The Pilot Community Center meets the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the center in Pilot on Brush Creek Road. Anyone is welcome to attend and give in any way they wish to contribute.

News Messenger

Established 1869

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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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PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS TEATES

Pilot Community Center leaders say they appreciate the incredible gift of restoration to the exterior of the historic schoolhouse by Parmer & Sons.

CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sustained dull pain
- 5. Hoover Dam Lake
- 9. An earnest appeal
- 10. Tree trunk used in sport
- 11. Close by
- 12. Indicated horsepower (abbr.)
- 13. Delaware
- 14. Makes in salary
- 16. Fringe-toed lizard
- 17. Two-year-old sheep
- 18. = to 198 liters in Egypt
- 19. Barnum & Bailey
- 21. Destruction
- 25. Shock treatment
- 26. A priest's linen vestment
- 27. Consumed
- 28. Etymology (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Temporary cessation of breathing
- 2. Not cloudy
- 3. Listened
- 4. Acquired by effort
- 5. Chart of the Earth's surface
- 6. Eastbound
- 7. Yellow-fever mosquitos
- 8. Small amount of residue
- 10. With great caution, warily
- 12. One who copies behavior
- 15. One point E of due S
- 16. Fiddler crabs
- 17. A large cask
- 19. Mains
- 20. Adult male swan
- 22. Of the whale & dolphin

CLUES ACROSS

- 29. Doctors' group
- 30. Tsetung or Zedong
- 31. Subroutines
- 35. Maintenance
- 36. Sacred shrine in Mecca
- 40. Mutual savings bank
- 41. The cry made by sheep
- 42. Fell back from flooding
- 43. Farm state
- 44. British Isle in the Irish Sea
- 45. Georgian monetary unit
- 46. Turkish rulers
- 48. Utter sounds
- 49. Mains
- 50. Fashionable water

CLUES DOWN

- 23. Frozen water
- 24. Metric ton
- 27. Marine or parasitic protozoas
- 28. Cologne
- 29. Built by Noah
- 30. Indicates physician
- 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 32. Environmental Protection Agency
- 33. Supplement with difficulty
- 34. Dark fur coat animals
- 35. Utilization
- 37. Unit = to 10 amperes
- 38. Stalin's police chief
- 39. Almost horizontal mine entrances
- 40. Missing soldiers
- 44. More (Spanish)
- 47. Express surprise

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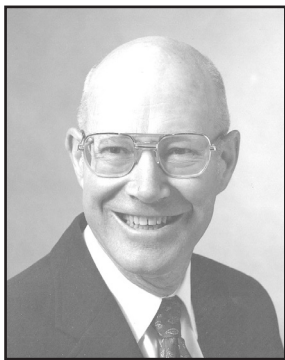
OBITUARIES

Foster, Jr., Robert Lee

Robert Lee Foster, Jr., 94, of Foster; son-in-law, George Kennedy; Radford, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023.

He was a lifelong member of Unity Christian Church (formerly First Christian Church) and a 37-year retiree of Hercules. He was an excellent golfer, loyal Hokie, and proud of the fact that he had been a Radford resident his entire life. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Lee Sr. and Augusta Sayers Foster; his daughter, Augusta "Gussie" Foster Kennedy; and his brother, Ralph Sayers Foster.

Survivors include his loving wife of 68 years, Bronte Charles Foster; daughters, Vanessa Foster Abbott (Douglas), and Mona Melissa "Missie"



grandchildren, Matthew Kennedy (Holly), Sarah Kennedy, Laura Abbott and Allyn Abbott; great grandchildren, Jack and Bishop Kennedy; and numerous other family members and friends.

A memorial service was held Friday, Sept. 1, 2023, at Unity Christian Church in Radford with Rev. Wendy Wilson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Ave., Radford, VA 24141 in his memory.

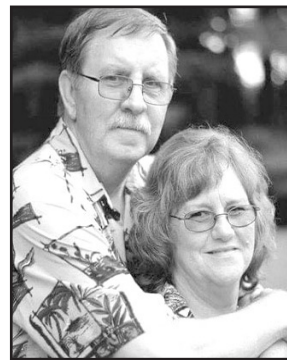
The Foster family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Howard, Bertha "Beanie"

Bertha "Beanie" Howard, 71, (Savanna); of Christiansburg died Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023.

She was born in Christiansburg on Jan. 8, 1952. She was preceded in death by her mother, Thelma Price; grandparents Herman and Ruth Price; and great-grandson Dalton Marsh.

She is survived by her husband, Marvin E. Howard; son, Randy Howard (Melissa Miller); daughter, Laura Howard (James Ratcliffe); grandchildren, Jacob Miller, Bobbie Page, Alyssa Marsh (Joey), Cheyenne Meek (Steven), and Grant Bean



great-grandchildren, Trace, Hailynn, Laynie, Easton, Jace, Troy, Athena, Katelyn, and Victoria; sisters-in-law, Evelyn Still, Mary Adkins, and Hazel Johnson; and brother-in-law, Frank Howard.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Shake Smith officiating. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. before the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12 Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to

Montgomery County
WORSHIP DIRECTORY

God Repays

Read Ezekiel 24:1 through 27:36

Why do people sometimes seem to get away with sinning? Does God look away when these evils come against His children?

"Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, sailors and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck" (Ezekiel 27:27).

When Israel turned away from the Lord, the people became prey for the enemies of God. The nations that attacked Israel assumed God would not judge their sin, but they were mistaken. God watched and recorded every evil deed. A day of accounting was decreed.

In time, Israel's enemies lost wealth, status, and strength. Some even disappeared from the world altogether.

When trials come, Christians should not presume that God is unconcerned with their struggles. He sometimes uses difficulties to discipline and train them for righteousness. As His people wait upon Him, their faith grows.

One day you will be lifted above your trials, and retribution will be given to those who would plunder you.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You even now.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 27:26-31

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

leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

St Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 East Main Street, Christiansburg VA, 24073. Worship and communion at 10:00 a.m., each Sunday, followed by hospitality coffee and Adult Sunday Adult Seminar. Our service is also streamed. Contact for more info: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com. http://www.stthomaschristiansburg.dioswva.org.

LUTHERAN

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello.

Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, FL. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service *Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM

& 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church, 5007 Jewell Dr., Shawsville Va. Sunday morning service 11am. Pastor Tim Clyburn. 8 miles from Shawsville Rt 460, on Alleghany Spring Rd.

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. G. Lance Presley. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00am. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

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

WESLEYAN

Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Community Health Center of the NRV ranked in top ten percent by HRSA in quality achievements

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley (CHCNRV) was recognized with five awards by The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), including the Gold Leader in Health Center Quality status which recognizes CHCNRV clinical quality efforts as being in the top ten percent of Federally Qualified Health Centers and look-alike entities.

The awards, which are based on calendar year 2022 data, include:

Health Center Quality Leader indicating best overall clinical quality measure performance among all health centers nationally.

Access Enhancer recognizes the total number of patients and the patients who receive at least one comprehensive service.

Advancing Health Access Enhancer Technology for Quality and Advancing Healthcare Information Technology (HIT) for integrating high levels of technology to enhance patient care and access.

Health Disparities Reducer for improvements in areas such as low birth weight, hypertension control, and/or uncontrolled diabetes and/or meeting benchmarks for all racial/ethnic groups served.

Details of the criteria for all the badges earned can be found at hrsa.gov. A link is also included at www.chcnrv.org.

"The compliance process to report our work to HRSA is rigorous,



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CHCNRV

and our staff has done an exceptional job of documenting our processes," Michelle Brauns, MS, APR, CEO of CHCNRV said. "But more importantly, our patients have benefited from the quality improvement programs we have implemented. We value the trust our patient's place in our organization and strive to continually make improvements to serve our community's health needs."

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, Pearisburg, and Pulaski County High School, visit our website at www.chcnrv.org or call 540-381-0820.

Submitted by CHCNRV

2023 Kentland Farm Field Day to highlight research, management practices for livestock and horticulture producers

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will host the 2023 Kentland Farm Field Day.

This event will highlight current research projects at Kentland Farm as well as focus on livestock and horticulture production. This year's livestock track includes:

Small Ruminant Production and Parasite Resistance (Presented by Dr. Scott Greiner)- This session will focus on current management practices and research results related to parasite management in small ruminants.

Market Analysis (Tara & Aaron Helmick)- Learn about managing a

high turnover livestock enterprise with beef and sheep, sell-buy livestock marketing, and real-world perspectives from a first-generation farm family.

Fencing Essentials (Jonathan Kidd, Pasture Systems)- This session will focus on rotational grazing infrastructure, wood post manufacturing and treatments, and an overview of fencing types available for livestock systems.

The horticulture track (presented by Lori Robertson, Dr. Tom Kuhar, Dr. Steven Rideout) will include information on:

Integrated Pest Management (Conventional and Organic) Seasonal Cover Crops

Events

from page 3

information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Community Needs Survey underway

New River Community Action and United Way of Southwest Virginia are working on collecting feedback to better understand the needs and strengths of the New River Valley. The results of the survey will help us better plan services and strategies to make the NRV a great place to live, work and play. Please take the survey and share it with your friends, family, and neighbors!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/>

FF7SQ96.

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:

Obituaries

from page 5

Rabin, Rena

Rena Rabin, 95, died Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023, at the Heritage Hall Nursing Home in Rich Creek, Va.

She was the beloved mother of Alane, Larry, Dennis, Joyce and Andrew. Born in New York City, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late Benjamin and Anna (Caminear) Rabin. She lived in N.Y. for 32 years, in New Jersey for 32 years, moved to Rhode Island for 10 years, and then settled in Virginia 21 years ago. She was a homemaker while her children were at home, then when her youngest started school she worked for four years at the family business, Bills Village Florist in Boonton, N.J. Rena was fully dedicated to her children, her home and her crafts. She was a prolific knitter, crocheter, seamstress and artist. When she wasn't crafting and creating, she was reading, or watching her favorite shows.

Devoted mother and mother-in-law of Alane Homer and her husband Geoff Walsh, of Blacksburg, Larry Goldenberg, of Hyannis Port, Mass.,



Dennis Goldenberg and his wife Phyllis, of Hackettstown, N.J., Joyce Goldenberg and her husband Jeff Feakes, of Columbia, S.C. and Andrew Goldenberg and his wife Bridget, of Willimantic, Conn. Dear sister of the late Marion Chorney. Loving grandmother of Michelle Homer, Stephanie Homer, Sarah Kennedy, Lisa Roberts, Brian Goldenberg, Stephen Goldenberg, and Daniel DeMartino. Cherished great-grandmother of Sophie, Colin, Lily, Violet, Bentley, Grayson, Sydney and Peyton.

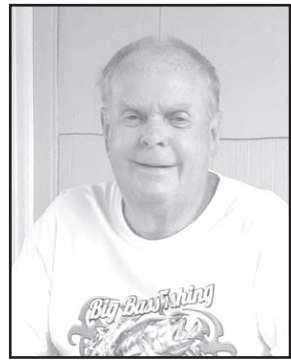
Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 31, in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I. Shiva will be observed in private. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741, or American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023. For online condolences, please visit ShalomMemorialChapel.com.

Sexton, Jerry B.

Jerry B. Sexton, 76, of Dublin, passed away Monday, Aug. 28, 2023 at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alex Sexton and mother, Luella May Farlow; son, Johnny Sexton; and three brothers.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 58 years, Evelyn Sexton of Dublin; daughter, Sherry Scott and spouse Vicki Scott of Asheville, N.C.; grandsons, Brandon Fisher and fiancée Ashley Edmenston of Chilhowie, and Chase Sexton of Dublin; granddaughter, Bethany Fisher and partner of Jacksonville, Fla.; four great granddaughters, Braley Fisher,



Hailyn Fisher, Ashdon Fisher, and Adalyn Fisher; his best friend who was like a brother, Randy Smith; and his canine companion, Scooter.

Jerry was a bass fisherman and loved taking his boat out on the water. He was a gentle and simple man.

At the wishes of Jerry, the family will remember him in private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his memory to either the American Diabetes Association or to the American Heart Association.

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

High Tunnel Production Flower Production, etc.

Speakers from VCE, Virginia Tech, and industry will also provide exhibits and demonstrations on soil health, invasive insects, weed identification, etc.

Kentland exists to support the research, teaching, and Extension programs of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, which include many of Virginia's major agricultural crop and livestock species. Programs are conducted at the farm by many different colleges and departments of the university, including Engineering, Science,

Veterinary Science, and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. The farm is rich in local history, and Virginia Tech has maintained that history through the manor house, enslaved people's cemetery, Native American sites, and other early farm buildings.

Registration: \$20 - includes lunch and ice cream

To register, call Pulaski County Extension (540-980-7761) or online at <https://tinyurl.com/Kentland2023>.

Submitted by the Virginia Cooperative Extension

Research

from page 1

president of the Office of Research and Innovation. "As we aspire to continue to improve public health, it's imperative that we recognize opportunities for growth of National Institutes of Health funding for research and amplify the impacts of faculty research through

publications in high-impact journals," Sui said. "These investments can also further fuel innovation and ensure that our university remains at the forefront of medical progress, impacting lives on a global scale."

In terms of cancer research, Friedlander said Virginia Tech has differentiators that, when taken together, set it apart from other universities – it's the Virginia Tech difference.

Virginia Tech has an abundance of engineering expertise that can be applied to cancer research across various fields, including biomedical, chemical,

computer, materials, and mechanical engineering. This expertise uniquely positions the university to make transformative contributions to develop new devices, technologies, and therapeutic delivery systems to enhance diagnostics, treatments, and prevent unwanted side effects, such as radiation therapy injury-related complications.

The university boasts a robust veterinary medicine program, featuring a cutting-edge Animal Cancer Care and Research Center at the Health Sciences and Technology campus in Roanoke. This fortunate and rarely found

positioning of veterinary medicine alongside human biomedical research creates a fertile ground for exploring synergies between human and companion animal health.

The university has considerable expertise in behavioral science research with a growing emphasis on health behaviors research with a focus on how to prevent cancer and how to prevent relapse in cancer in patients who have already received treatment.

Virginia Tech created the Cancer Research Alliance to inventory its existing cancer research strengths across campus and to energize

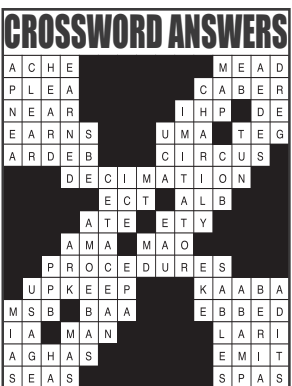
collaborations among scientists and engineers from across its colleges as well as with multiple universities and health centers, such as Carilion Clinic, Children's National Hospital, and Wake Forest University.

What's next? In order to advance to the next level, Friedlander said Virginia Tech must recruit additional researchers primarily focused on cancer and further refine an organizational structure that highlights and elevates cancer as a major hub of health sciences research.

Further definition of opportunity areas is essential.

"Virginia Tech will no doubt differentiate itself from established cancer research universities and programs with honor in service of tomorrow's health for humankind as well as for our animal companions," said Friedlander, who is also the executive director of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC. "Together with our internal and external partners, we'll carve our unique path to excellence in service of improved and accessible health care and freedom from cancer for all."

John Pastor for Virginia Tech



MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Kelly, Cormany leaving Radford High

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

RADFORD - Radford High School will attempt to make it back to the Class 2 basketball playoffs without its top two players.

Elijah Kelly has transferred to the Miller School near Charlottesville, while Gavin Cormany is off to Oak Hill Academy. Both would have been entering their senior years at Radford but have now reclassified at their new schools to be juniors (class of 2025).

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

Cormany joined Kelly on the all-state list, averaging 14.4 points for a team that finished 23-5 this past season.

Kelly averaged 18.8 points and pulled down 7.3 rebounds per game. Cormany was 48-160 from behind the three-point arc.

Oak Hill Academy, located in Mouth of Wilson, has three competitive boys' basketball teams which routinely sends players to NCAA Division I, II, and III college teams all over the country — even to the NBA (a total of 33 players, more than any other school in the nation).

In 2017, USA Today ranked Oak Hill as the third best basketball program of the decade. Under head coach Steve Smith, the Oak Hill Warriors was crowned "National High School Champions"

nine times from 1993, 1994, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2012 and most recently in 2016. The school has an enrollment of 132 students.

The Miller School has an enrollment of 210 students. The boys' basketball team won the 2018 VIC Championship and the VISAA Division II State Championship and last season finished 21-8.

The two players leave a New River Valley program that has been dominant for the past 10 years. Gavin's father Rick is the school's head coach, who now has over 760 wins, making him the second most winning coach in Virginia history.

The win totals put Cormany in some elite company with the likes of Bluestone's George Lancaster (724 wins), former Maury head man Jack Baker (746 wins) along with retired coaches Bill Littlepage from Hopewell (755 wins) and Robert E. Lee-Staunton legendary sideline boss Paul Hatcher (897 victories).

Cormany is in his 27th season at Radford and his 37th overall. Over 560 of his wins have come for the Bobcats after leading Rocky Gap to several successful campaigns.

Radford has won 21 of the last 22 regular season championships in the Three Rivers District, 16 of 17 tournament championships, the last four Conference 45 championships, four Region C championships (2001, 2002, 2004, 2013), three Region 1A West Championships (2014, 2016, 2017), two Region 2C Championships (2018, 2019), three state runner ups, nine state Final-4's and state champions in six of the last 12 years.



Gavin Cormany shoots a three-pointer during this past season's state championship loss in Richmond.



Elijah Kelly was named the all-county/all-city player of the year after Radford finished 23-5.

FILE PHOTOS

Saunders to play softball at Carson-Newman

Marty Gordon
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One of Radford High School's top softball players will continue her career at Carson-Newman University.

Addie Saunders made her announcement on Monday. As a junior, Saunders was first-team all-district and all-region as a shortstop.

Carson-Newman University is a NCAA Division II school that competes at a high level in the South Atlantic Conference. This past year, the school's softball team finished (31-17)

after a loss in the NCAA regionals.

Michael Graves returns for his 16th season as a member of the Carson-Newman softball coaching staff and is the program's second ever head coach. In his five full seasons at the helm of the program, Graves has coached Carson-Newman to a trio of NCAA Southeast Regional appearances.

Saunders called the CN campus "absolutely beautiful."

"The Christian environment is what I have always wanted," she said. "When I went to visit, everyone was so kind and

welcoming. It felt like home away from home. They have great facilities and a winning program. Throughout this process, I have been to many different campuses and have talked to many coaches. After talking to Coach Graves, I felt God leading me to Carson-Newman," she said.

Saunders' stats from her junior season included a .587 batting average and a slugging percentage of .810. She had 37 hits, 26 singles, eight doubles, three triples, 28 runs and 13 stolen bases.

Saunders hopes to be

a team player and strives to be the best she can be.

"I was recruited for outfield, so my goal is to be in the starting lineup for the Eagles," she said.

She plans to major in Exercise Science with hopes of getting her doctorate in Physical Therapy.



Radford's Addie Saunders slides in safely for a stolen base during a game this past spring. She will now take her game to Carson-Newman University.

PHOTO BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Sold out crowd ready for today's home opener

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There is quite the buzz from Hokie Nation ahead of Virginia Tech football's season opener, as the game is now sold out against Old Dominion on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Lane Stadium.

For the second straight season, the Hokies will open with Old Dominion. The Monarchs will make their third trip to Blacksburg and first since 2019 on Sept. 2.

Things are definitely looking a little different at the quarterback position. Grant Wells got married to his high school sweetheart, Josie Bare, in the offseason in his hometown of Charleston, W.Va.

Other game notes:

Brent Pry begins his second season as the head coach in Blacksburg looking to build on Virginia Tech's 3-8 record during the 2022 campaign. Last season, Pry and the Hokies ended the year strong with their

23-22 road victory at eight-win Liberty.

The Hokies added 11 transfers to the roster.

Several Hokies will

change positions in 2023, including Jaylen Jones has moved from wide

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Blacksburg downs Glenvar in volleyball



Blacksburg teammates Rowan English and Emma Castle celebrate a three-set win over Glenvar. The Bruins won 25-12, 25-20 and 25-17.



Blacksburg's Bruin Rowan English gets an uncontested kill against Glenvar during Monday's match.



Blacksburg's Su Kato receives a Glenvar serve during Monday's match at Blacksburg High School.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Pry, Hokies have to produce in '23



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Virginia Tech begins the 2023 football season with a lot of questions. The answer to the first is a simple one: Win and the fan base will be happy.

The Hokies-base was patient for the three first years of the Fuente era, and the water cooler talk is how long of a chain will Brent Pry get in his second-year.

What has to happen? Pry needs to win. The Hokies need to go back to a bowl game. Those are two easy answers, which could be harder than the base is waiting for.

Let's look at the positives: State recruiting is back. Virginia Tech needs to be the leader in the

Commonwealth. This had changed under the Fuente-regime. The top Virginia football players should always be a top priority. In this age of the transfer portal, it is important to keep players close to vest. Pry has checked this box.

More community attention by the coach and ongoing talks with the fan-base. Pry has checked this box. The issue of the young coaching staff stood out in the first year of Pry's tenure. Fans will have to wait on this one to see if the box was checked.

The rest of the positives are still unknown. This program must reach for the upper rung of the ladder and pull itself back to the top of conference play.

The rest of the athletic program has moved to the top tier of the conference in almost every area. Congrats to the basketball teams and those of wrestling, soccer, baseball, softball and track, you have carried

the Hokie flag for a number of years. Pry must lead the way for football and do the same for that team.

The question is how long the fan-base will give him. Typically, it takes at least three years to change things. The fourth year is the key, which could be right at the limit for any coach.

One of the biggest positives Pry has brought to the program is the "Frank Beamer way" of doing things. He learned from the big man and has stepped up and again become the face the public can recognize. Give him a n "A" on that part of the report. Again, is this enough to hold the door shut.

The Hokies should win six games and await an invite to a bowl game. Number seven is also within reach, which would silence the doubters at least for now. But we all know they are not patient.

Let the 2023 season begin.

ACC officially names Charlotte new home city

The Atlantic Coast Conference officially announced its new home in Charlotte, N.C., on Tuesday, Aug. 29, raising the conference flag and office of all 15 member institutions at a ceremony at the new office headquarters, Legacy Union's Bank of America Tower in Uptown Charlotte.

On Sept. 20, 2022, the Atlantic Coast Conference Board of Directors, representing all 15 member institutions, announced that the conference office was relocating its headquarters to Charlotte in 2023.

The unanimous decision completed a comprehensive review and assessment, under the direction of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, to ensure that the conference office was best positioned for the future and changing dynamics of intercollegiate athletics.

"I am proud to be the mayor of this wonderful city and I'm honored today to be able to raise the City of Charlotte's flag in the ceremony. I want to say to each of you who are participating in this, on behalf of our entire community we welcome the ACC leadership, the staff, the coaches, the players, and fans," said Mayor of Charlotte Vi Lyles. "We're thrilled to have the following of the ACC and host the conference headquarters in our great city of Charlotte. Thank you for choosing Charlotte, thank you for choosing North Carolina, and we look forward to many years of partnership and memories. Again, let's have a great ACC year, and welcome to the Queen City."

"It is a historical day for the ACC as we are welcomed to the Queen City," said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "This has been a journey over the last 18 months, and we are honored and proud to call Charlotte the home of the ACC."

"This city we all call home is a place that has always opened its arms to the people that come here to better their community, to better their corporation or organization, or to better themselves. We always look forward to having a great addition,

like the ACC, in Charlotte," said CEO and Chairman of Lincoln Harris Johnny Harris. "Few organizations have played a greater role in elevating our region's presence than the Atlantic Coast Conference. We are excited that our city will be called home to the ACC moving forward."

The ACC and Charlotte have enjoyed a longstanding partnership that includes the Queen City hosting a significant number of ACC events and championships. In April 2018, the ACC and the Charlotte Sports Foundation announced a 10-year agreement that keeps the ACC Football Championship Game in Charlotte through the 2030 season. The ACC Men's Basketball Tournament has been played in Charlotte on 13 occasions, including in 2019 at the Spectrum Center. The 2021 and 2022 ACC Baseball Championships were played at Truist Field, and the league has participated in the Duke's Mayo Bowl since its inception in 2002.

The Atlantic Coast Conference, now in its 71st year of competition and 15 members strong, has long enjoyed the

reputation as one of the strongest and most competitive intercollegiate conferences in the nation. ACC members Boston College, Clemson, Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Louisville, Miami, North Carolina, NC State, Notre Dame, Pitt, Syracuse, Virginia, Virginia Tech, and Wake Forest continue to build upon the cornerstones on which the league was founded in 1953 with a consistent balance of academics, athletics and integrity. The ACC currently sponsors 28 NCAA sports – 15 for women and 13 for men – with member institutions located in 10 states. In August 2019, ESPN and the ACC partnered to launch ACC Network (ACCN), a 24/7 national network dedicated to ACC sports and league-wide original programming. For more information, visit theACC.com and follow @accsports on Instagram and @theACC on Twitter and on Facebook (facebook.com/theACC).

Atlantic Coast Conference

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PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

The Virginia Tech Hokies open the season today in Lane Stadium, facing Old Dominion at 8 p.m.

receiver to safety, while Kaden Moore is moving to center from right guard, where he started 24 games and played 1,417 snaps, to center this season.

Coach Pry added two new assistant coaches to the staff in the offseason. Elijah Brooks will coach running backs while Ron Crook will take over the offensive line.

Tech's 12 in-state signees marked the Hokies' largest Virginia signing class since 2014. The Hokies had 12 signees within a 220-mile radius of Blacksburg, including two 4-star recruits – defensive back Antonio Cotman

Jr. (Richmond, Virginia) and offensive lineman Layth Ghannam (Charleston, West Virginia).

During a team meeting on Thursday afternoon, Virginia Tech football head coach Brent Pry shared who the captains will be for the upcoming season. The 2023 season captain's announcement included seven student-athletes, with three selections on offense, three selections on defense and one specialist. The captains are DL Norell Pollard, S Nasir Peoples, DL Josh Fuga, QB Grant Wells, OL Kaden Moore, P Peter Moore and TE Nick Gallo.

The Hokies have added the

STAR position to their position groupings in 2023. The STAR is a hybrid linebacker/defensive back position, which has the responsibilities of a weak side linebacker and a nickel back.

With the ACC's elimination of divisional play in 2023, the Hokies will not face Miami, Duke, North Carolina, or Georgia Tech.

Limited tickets remain for Tech's other two home contests in the month of September, so act fast now to see the Hokies against Purdue on Saturday, Sept. 9 at noon and versus Pitt on Saturday, Sept. 30 (game time TBD).

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