



News Messenger

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Christiansburg

Saturday, November 18, 2023

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Obenshain secures victory in House of Delegates race

BLACKSBURG - Chris Obenshain (R) has officially declared victory in Virginia House of Delegates District 41, defeating Lily Franklin (D) after all ballots were counted.

"Today's outcome comes after election officials in Roanoke County and Montgomery County had the opportunity to thoroughly count every ballot including mail-in and provisional ballots," Obenshain's campaign announced.

"Thanks to all of the voters who

put their trust in me to represent the 41st House District," said Obenshain. "Serving you is the honor of my life. As I pledged during this campaign, I'll go to work right away to represent the people of Southwest Virginia.

"The closeness of this election reflects the division we see across our nation," he continued. "My commitment to you is to work with members of both parties to find common ground and common-sense solutions to the issues facing

our Commonwealth. On issues like growing our economy, protecting our communities, expanding our mental health resources, and improving education, I am certain that we can work together to build a stronger Virginia. I look forward to that work and will always be available to you to hear your thoughts and feedback."

Staff report



Chris Obenshain

FILE PHOTO



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

The Town of Blacksburg and local nonprofit Live Work Eat Grow (LWEG) plans to establish a new community garden near the lower parking lot of Heritage Park and Natural Area on Glade Road.

Blacksburg to establish new community garden at Heritage Park

BLACKSBURG - The Town of Blacksburg, along with local nonprofit, Live Work Eat Grow (LWEG) plans to establish a new community garden near the lower parking lot of Heritage Park and Natural Area on Glade Road.

"The success of the Blacksburg garden program has increased community interest," said Kim Thurlow, Housing and Community Development Initiatives Manager. "Due to the demand for new community garden plots, in 2022, the town allocated a portion of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to LWEG to collaborate with the town and establish two more community gardens."

Live Work Eat Grow provides the day-to-day management of the community gardens in the Town of Blacksburg and offers diverse programming open to all

Town residents focused on growing and preparing healthy food.

In recent months, LWEG in partnership with town staff has explored prospective community garden locations, on either town-owned land or in partnership with a private landowner. The goal over the next three years is to establish approximately 40 additional community garden plots at new locations for use by town residents.

In early November, the forthcoming Heritage Park garden site will be cleared of invasive plants and brush. The first phase of this project will involve suppressing invasive plants, ameliorating the soil, and installing garden beds and fencing. In total, the first phase is expected to take about a year and a half to complete, with an anticipated public opening in the

spring of 2025.

"This site will help meet the growing demand for garden space in Blacksburg and will allow us to serve a new community in Tom's Creek Basin. Lower Heritage is becoming a hub for outdoor recreation with the trail systems, terrain park, pavilion, and the new Brush Mountain properties close by. A garden will make a great addition," said Steve Kruger, Garden Coordinator for LWEG.

The garden at Heritage Park will join three existing community gardens in town: The Garrison Garden (2021), the Wong Park Garden (2020), and the Hale Garden (2009). The Town's Community Garden program was the subject of a recently published article in Virginia Town and City Magazine, and the recipient of the 2024 Virginia

Municipal League (VML) Innovation Award in the Community Health Category. The category focused on localities that are building healthy community environments through active lifestyle programs, nutrition education, and improving access to healthier food choices. In addition to receiving the Innovation Award for Community Health, the Town of Blacksburg also received the VML President's Award for Innovation, the top honor in the competition.

Stay tuned for more details on the garden's progress, volunteer opportunities, or how to sign up for a garden plot.

Town of Blacksburg

Presentation to Christiansburg Town Council shows progress of aquatic center over 13 years

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG - Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell and Competitive Supervisor Nate Destree presented to Christiansburg Town Council on their competitive pool

operations during the regular council meeting on Tuesday night.

"We are in our 13th year of operation at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center (CAC), and the pool that is often the most misunderstood is our competitive pool. An Olympic-size pool in a

small town. Wow, do we realize what we really have over there," Caldwell said.

Caldwell introduced Destree, who joined the center five years ago, as a successful recruiter of high-level swim meets that brings together

See Progress, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE
Brandon Cole, Deputy Clerk (left) and Tiffany M. Couch, Clerk of Court for Montgomery County (right).

Town council members remark on candlelight vigil

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

A candlelight vigil was held at Blacksburg High School (BHS) on Saturday, Nov. 11 in support of the community suffering from the loss of two BHS students found dead inside a vehicle on Nov. 7, 2023.

Blacksburg Town Council member Lauren Collier and Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith remarked on the event during the council meeting on Nov. 14.

"We had about two to three hundred people come, and we started the morning

out with no singers, and we ended up with 40 singers and it was really beautiful, and we are just really grateful for all the participation," Council member Lauren Collier said.

"Thank you for offering leadership on that activity; I've heard a lot of nice things," Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith said.

The council members said the audience stood in solidarity, representative of the shock felt by students and community members. Many other government leaders and organizations were also in

See Council, page 4

Montgomery County offers concealed handgun permit renewal online

Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk Tiffany M. Couch recently announced the launch of a new online service regarding concealed carry permits called "PermitDirector."

The new service, which the clerk's office began offering in October, will allow current concealed handgun permit holders

the ability to manage processing, payment, and issuance of renewal concealed handgun permits online.

"We have partnered with Permitium to give our citizens a fast, easy, and affordable way to renew their concealed handgun permits online," said Couch. "The choice to

renew online, in person, or by mail is now the choice of the citizen. I understand that citizens now require options when processing their renewals and do not always have the luxury of taking off work to come to the Clerk's Office or can afford the time, travel,

See Permit, page 4



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Wednesday, Nov. 22:

South Main Street Lane Closure

The right-hand southbound lane of Blacksburg's South Main Street from Landsdowne Street to King Street will be closed 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. until Wed. Nov. 22. Traffic will shift to the left-hand lane during this closure. The closure is due to demolition of curbing along South Main and King Street and the preparation for a new turning lane.

Saturday, Nov. 18:

Hokies for the Hungry Food Drive

The Marching Virginians at VT will hold the Annual Hokies for the Hungry Food Drive for the Montgomery County Christmas Store at Lane Stadium. The Pep Band will travel through the tailgates to perform for fans. In exchange, they will collect canned goods or cash. The goal is "One Can from Every Fan." Bring non-perishable food or cash to hear the 'Hokie Pokie' played at your tailgate!

Page to Screen Movies: The Iron Giant

At the Radford Public Library; noon - 2 p.m. Come see the animated classic "The Iron Giant", based on Ted Hughes 1968 novel "The Iron Man." It's a fun film the whole family can enjoy. Rated PG; 86 minutes.

Sunday, Nov. 19:

NAACP meeting

The general body meetings of the local branch of the NAACP are held the 4th Sunday of each month from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Meetings are currently held at the Old Hill School 570 High St., Christiansburg. However, because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the November meeting will be moved to the third

Sunday. Please join us Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. The speaker will be Kory Trott, JD, Virginia Tech Black Caucus. All are welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 19 and Monday, Nov. 20

Montgomery County Christmas Toy Drives at VT

VT Athletics and the Montgomery County Christmas Store announce the Annual Toy Drive to benefit the toy department at the store. Every year, fans have the opportunity to bring unwrapped toys to the games. Volunteers will be at entrances with huge, decorated boxes to take toys. Dates include: Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. at the VT/Clemson volleyball game; Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. at the VT/Wofford men's basketball game; and Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. at the VT/UNC Greensboro women's basketball game.

Wednesday, Nov. 22:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg: 2-6 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Saturday, Dec. 2:

SWVa Legal Aid Society meeting

The Board of Directors of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society will meet at 9 a.m. at The Inn at Virginia Tech, 901

Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg. The public is welcome to participate.

Sunday, Dec. 3:

NAACP Veterans Affairs Committee

The NAACP Veterans Affairs Committee will present a program to honor veterans at 3 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg. The guest speaker will be former Navy Commander Dr. David Points of Roanoke.

Saturday, Dec. 9:

NAACP year-end meeting

The NAACP will hold its year-end meeting 9 -11:30 a.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg. Douglas Asante will speak about Ghana and the slave trade.

On-going:

Blacksburg stormwater utility credit application deadline

The deadline for Stormwater Utility Credit Applications is Jan. 1, 2024. If you are located within the Town of Blacksburg and have a stormwater management facility on your site, you may qualify for a credit on your monthly stormwater utility fee. Go to www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to know more about whether you qualify. Please note that stormwater management facilities are typically ponds (either dry ponds/dry detention basins or wet retention basins). Other types include underground storage structures (usually located under parking lots in commercial areas), vegetated areas like bio-retentions, and mechanical filters that remove oil and sediment from stormwater runoff. For questions, please contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

Blacksburg Police

Department survey available

The Blacksburg Police Department (BPD) is asking the community to complete a short (approximately three-minute) survey ranking individual satisfaction with the department. All responses are recorded anonymously and honest feedback is appreciated. These responses will help the BPD continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg community. Access the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/Q8SHQH8.

Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan Amendment application process

In 2021, Town Council adopted the updated Comprehensive Plan. As part of the mid-way evaluation between five-year updates, the town accepts privately initiated applications for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. These amendments include changes to Future Land Use Map designations or the text of the Plan. Applications will be due on Jan. 15, 2024. A pre-application meeting is required prior to submittal. Contact Maeve Gould, Comprehensive Planner, at (540) 443-1300 or CompPlan@blacksburg.gov, with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

Call to Artists: Signal Cabinet and Utility Box Public Art Project

Town of Blacksburg Public Arts Committee is seeking design submissions from artists who are local, regional, or familiar with the Blacksburg area. Designs will be installed on utility boxes or traffic signal cabinets at selected intersections around town as public art, beginning in summer 2024. Submissions are accepted via email and must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, to be considered by the selection committee. Before submitting a design for consideration, interested artists are highly encouraged to visit <https://letstalkblacksburg.org/publicarts-utilitybox> to learn more about the project details and submission information. Questions: contact Kenna Jewell, kjewell@blacksburg.gov, 540.443.1092.

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Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Trustees of Blacksburg Church of Christ Missions & Cole Burch Properties LLC, Property Owners, and Carter Machinery Company, Inc., Applicant, to allow for machinery and equipment sales, service and storage, and for a contractors equipment storage yard, and for rental of equipment commonly used by contractors, on approximately 5.81 acres located south of Roanoke St. and west of Simmons Rd. SE, also

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

addressed as 2091 and 2095 Roanoke St. including several vacant parcels, identified as Tax Parcels 499-(16)-1-4, 8A, 9-12; 499-(16)-4A, 5-8; 529-(1)-13-17, 23-26; 529-(1)-18, 19; 529-(2)-4-9; 499-(A)-15; Parcel IDs 007705, 014072, 007704, 014069, 020750, 230046; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

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Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on November 27, 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 Special Use Permit request:

A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Ernest Woods) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow an additional 10,000 cubic yards of rubble landfill for the disposal of inert debris on 2.12 acres of a 46.777-acre parcel. The property currently contains a by-right rubble landfill totaling 15,000 cubic yards of inert debris, the maximum volume of fill permitted by-right in the Zoning Ordinance. The property is located off Brammer Lane, approximately 0.41 miles east of the intersection of Brammer Lane and Houchins Road (State Route 758). The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-51 (Parcel ID: 033688), 46.777 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PLANNING COMMISSION

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 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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 Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on November 27, 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 Special Use Permit request:

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

A request by Mayapplings, LLC (Agent: Hayley Reynolds) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Child Care Center within an existing structure. The use is defined as "day care center" in the Zoning Ordinance, which is allowed in the A-1 Zoning District only by an approved Special Use Permit. The property is located at 2895 Old Fort Road (State Route 1279), at the intersection of Thomas Lane (State Route 737) and Old Fort Road. The property is further identified as Tax Map 052-7B1 (Parcel ID: 003254), 2.640 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Price's Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Low-Density Residential in the Price's Fork 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>.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

VT Electric service scam alert

The Virginia Tech Electric Service (VTES) has received numerous calls indicating that the public phone number for the VTES business office, 540-231-6437, has been used for scam calls by scammers pretending to be VTES.

In the reported scams, scammers are attempting to get personal information by selling a product. Please note that VTES will never call requesting payment over the phone, nor sell products of any kind.

Common scams perpetrated against the Virginia Tech community and other general safety tips can be found

at police.vt.edu/scam-alerts and police.vt.edu/safety-security/safety-tips/socialmediascams.

You should never give out personal identifying information over the telephone, by text, or email, to anyone demanding money or financial compensation.

You should be apprehensive of situations where someone overpays you by check and then asks you to wire money, utilize a prepaid card or visit a bitcoin ATM for payment.

You should be suspicious if you receive

an unsolicited letter or email requesting you to deposit a check and wire money back to an individual that you did not request and have not met personally.

You should never provide personal information such as dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and bank account/credit card numbers.

No law enforcement or other government agency in the U.S., including the IRS, will ever call you on the phone and threaten you with arrest if you do not immediately send them money, provide them with the number of a gift

card, or transfer money into a bitcoin account.

Scammers commonly use scare tactics and promote urgency when attempting to defraud others.

Community members should report all crimes and suspicious activity/persons anywhere on campus immediately to the Virginia Tech Police Department at 540-382-4343 or by dialing 911.

Anonymous tips can be reported online at police.vt.edu/anonymous.

Town of Blacksburg

Permit

from page 1

or expense to mail in their paper renewal application." found on the Clerk's website at: <https://www.montva.com/circuitclerk>.

Chris Perez, Vice President of Permittium said he appreciates the partnership with the clerk's office.

"I am excited to announce the partnership

with Tiffany M. Couch, and the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office," said Perez. "I admire the pivot that they have made by recognizing the recent demand for their

citizens to have the ability to start the process payment for their renewal applications online. Permittium aligns with their priority of keeping their staff and citizens safe while providing

the best service possible." The Permittium site can also be accessed directly at: <https://montgomeryva.com/circuitclerk>.

Staff report

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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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Council

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attendance on Saturday.

According to Colliver, speakers that addressed the group were Reverend Pam Phillips of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation (UUC), Blacksburg Police Chief Todd Brewster, Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) Board member and Dialogue on Race organizer Penny Franklin, New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) Behavioral Wellness Outreach Specialist Caroline Mullins, and Grief Coach with Soul Body Connect Lindsay McKinnon.

Singers from Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Appalachian Voices, Summer Musical Enterprise, and UUC were also present.

Other business during the Nov. 14 meeting involved a public hearing for the ordinance 2031 to vacate a Greenway Trail easement on land situated near 1505

Bradley Lane in Blacksburg.

"The Town wants to relocate the Greenway Trail to a different location that's actually a better location and so this paves the way for that to happen," Blacksburg Town Attorney Larry Spencer said.

There was no public comment following Spencer's presentation.

In additional announcements at the Council meeting, Small Business Saturday, also known as Shop Small Saturday, will happen on Saturday, Nov. 25 in Blacksburg.

Friday, Dec. 1 will mark the date of the annual Winter Lights Festival in the downtown area. In addition to other evening events, the tree lighting is scheduled for 5:45 p.m., Tuba Christmas at 6 p.m., and the parade following at 7 p.m.

Progress

from page 1

competitive swimmers while also positively impacting the commerce in the area.

"The CAC has come a long way in 13 years since opening," Destree said. "Most recently, with your support and our partnership with Virginia Tech, we were able to secure two new scoreboards...one that will be used predominantly for diving and as a secondary board in our larger championship meets, and then the other one...which is more centrally located to our competition and championship course."

Destree said Virginia Tech has promoted their swim athletes through increased signage. Virginia Tech has produced a total of ten Olympian swimmers with eight

men's top-25 NCAA championship finishes. Additionally, nine local high schools use the pool for practices, as well as youth club teams that utilize the services provided by the Center.

Lighting changes from fluorescent bulbs to LEDs have greatly improved visibility in the Center as well. Caldwell expressed a need to continue seeing improvements to the Center on a bi-annual basis so that the Aquatic Center can continue to maintain the interest they are currently receiving.

Christiansburg Town Council members consented to an agenda item that awards a contract in the amount of \$2,184,941.00 to E.C. Pace Company, Inc. for construction of the Silver Lake

Sewer Interceptor Phase II Project.

According to the agenda, the project consists of constructing approximately 6,370 linear feet of 15" gravity sewer line, pump station abandonment, and related appurtenances.

The council has set three public hearings for Jan. 9 including two for conditional use permits and one for a street vacation request.

The Christiansburg Christmas Parade will be held Dec. 8, 2023, in downtown Christiansburg.

Temporary street closures will occur from 3-4 p.m. on West Main Street from Franklin Street to Phlegar Street. Additional street closures for the Christmas at the Market will happen from 3-9 p.m.

CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Twos under par	28. Catholic holiday service	2. About aviation	24. Great battle of 333 BC
7. Expresses surprise	33. Canadian province	3. Small biting flies	25. Salt Lake state
10. Shows exceedingly great size	34. Capital of Alberta	4. Bulgarian monetary unit	26. Woman (French)
12. At this place	36. Large African antelope	5. Point midway between E and SE	29. A public promotion
13. One who prints from a plate	37. Mexican tortilla sandwich	6. Old CCCP or U___	30. Social insect
14. '95 U.S. Open golf champ Corey	38. Pigmented eye membrane	7. Rubber tree genus	31. Knifed
15. Stupefy with alcohol	39. Baby's food protector	8. Waterless	32. Formal association of people
16. Breezed through	40. Winglike structures	9. Female chicken	35. Toff
17. A major division of geological time	41. Sun-dried brick	10. Relating to the Hebrews	36. Snaps up
18. Humble request for help	44. Those dull in appearance	11. Dig up	38. Annona diversifolia
19. Part of a deck	45. Basketlike baby's bed	12. Diacritic caron	40. Opera vocal solo
21. Albanian monetary unit	48. Purpose or intent	14. Capital of Sicily	41. Largest continent
22. Atomic #22	49. Difficult to carry	17. Shock therapy	42. Day (Latin)
27. Atomic #18	50. Cry made by sheep	18. Cyto___: surrounds the nucleus	43. Sole
	51. More than one spouse	20. Daughters of the Am. Revolution	44. Hit lightly
		23. Nincompoops	45. Guy (slang)
			46. Black tropical Am. cuckoo
			47. Screen Writers Guild

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www.montcova.com

OBITUARIES

Payne, Nelda Jean Bolt

Nelda Jean Bolt Payne, 79, passed away Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, at her home in Radford.

She was a retired US Postmaster at the New River Post Office. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emmitt Orville Bolt and Mertie Elizabeth Nester; brother, Norman, Roy and Clinton Bolt; and sisters, Dorothy Bolt, Lovelyn Carmichael, Fay Wilkerson and Hazel Thomas.

Survivors include her husband, James Phillip Payne, Sr.; sons, Joe Harris and Randy Harris (Yvonne); daughters, Veronica Harris, Kay Wyatt (Russ) and Raven Garner (Chris); grandchildren, Joe Harris and Ja'Micia Garner; five stepchildren; and numerous step grandchildren and great grandchildren; sister, Helen



Talbot; and many other special nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Special thanks to daughter Raven for her loving care.

The family received friends Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastors Perry and Phillip

Slaughter officiating. Interment followed in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the First Missionary Baptist Church, 7318 Manns Drive, Fairlawn, VA 24141.

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

Turner, James Thompson

James Thompson Turner, 77, of Dublin, passed away Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, at the Veterans Care Center in Salem.

He was a U. S. Army veteran and owner/operator of Northside Gulf, Jim's Radiator, and J&J Sales. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Margaret Turner; daughter, Patricia Davis; brother, and brothers-in-law, Jack Mullins and Jim Gettys. He enjoyed working on and talking about cars, hunting, fishing, boating and snowmobiling.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Shannon Turner; son, Brian Turner (Heather); son-in-law, Chad Davis; grandchildren, Thomas Davis, James Davis, and Lily Wallace; siblings, John Turner (Betty), Sue Mullins, and Brooks Turner (Fran); sister-in-law, Judy Gettys; special friend, Steve Whitt; special family



members, Molly (Boston Terrier) and JoJo (Tabby Cat); and many other nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 12 until 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Allison Unroe officiating.

Interment with full military honors will follow at 2 p.m. in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to either the Fairlawn Presbyterian Church or American Cancer Society or Dementia Research Van-Andel Institute or the Alzheimer's Association.

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

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 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

Montgomery County
WORSHIP DIRECTORY

I NEED HELP

Read Psalms 11:1 through 18:50

Many of the Psalms are full of praise to God. We sometimes visualize David as peacefully strumming a harp as he quietly watches a flock of sheep grazing on a grassy slope. Psalm 13 presents a different picture.

David apparently had doubts, troubling thoughts, and enemies. Things did not always go well for him. In the first part of this psalm, David, in authentic transparency, expressed some real concerns. He apparently had enemies who were getting a little too close for comfort. The amazing part is how, in spite of the chaos around him, David made a decision to trust God.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation (Psalm 13:5).

Everything does not always go well for us either. We face challenges that seem overwhelming, and we do not always see a clear path through the jungle of everyday life. But God is our Source of help, and we can trust Him to get us through!

Prayer Suggestion: Father, I do not feel up to the task that is before me at times, but I have decided that I will trust You.

Quicklook: Psalm 13:1-6

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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 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@stmclc.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.

PENECOSTAL 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

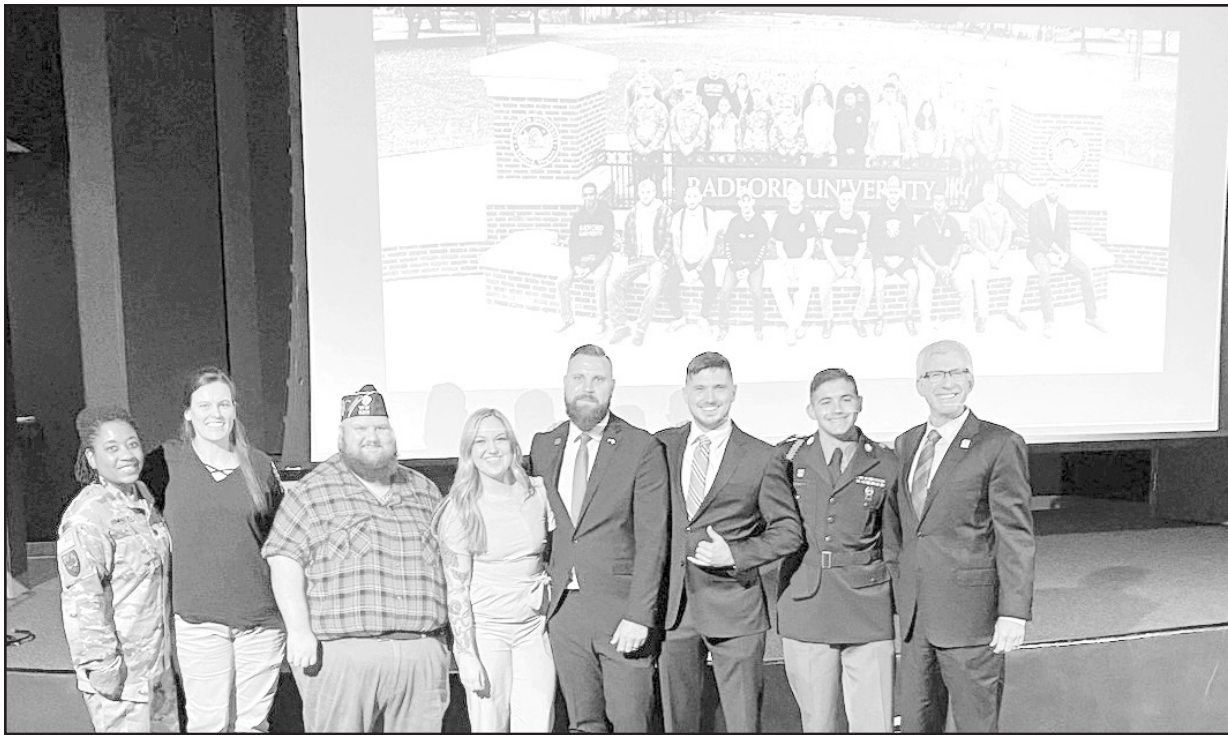
Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. G. Lance Presley. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

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.

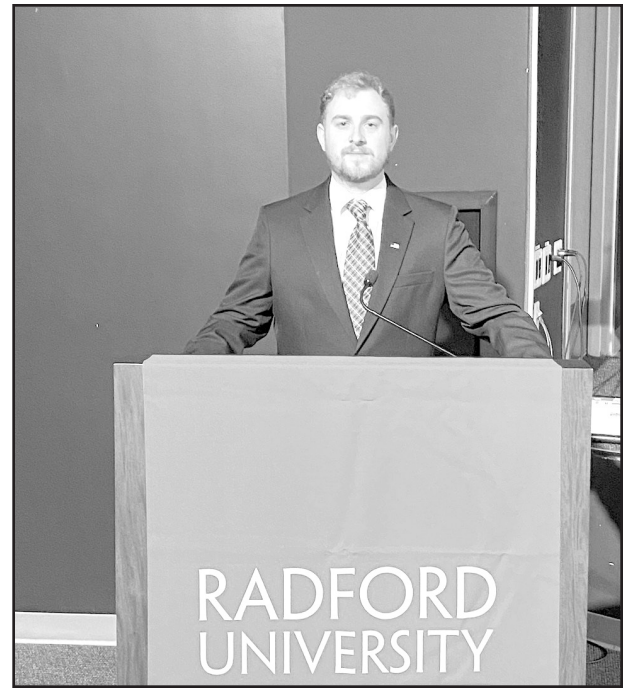
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

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



Lieutenant Colonel Adrien Humphreys, Amanda Bishop, Rob Borman, Sophia Stallard, Troy Stallard, Mark Shelton, Jordan Meritt, President Dr. Bret Danilowicz.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Marine Corps Veteran Shaun Landry speaks during the Veterans Day Celebration at Radford University's Bonnie auditorium.

Radford University and the Military Resource Center honors service members on Veterans Day

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

Radford University welcomed military service members from every branch of the United States Armed Forces during their annual Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 10, 2023.

Students, faculty, staff, and special guests, and especially veterans and military members currently serving, were among the many that attended the event in the Bonnie auditorium on RU's campus.

Special guests were welcomed by Marine Corps Veteran Shaun Landry, who began the ceremony by thanking everyone for their attendance and support. Special Radford University administration included Mayor David Horton, President Dr. Bret Danilowicz, Provost and Senior Vice Present Dr. Bethany Usher, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communication, Dr. Danette Gomez Beane, members of the RU Board of Directors, and Radford City Council members.

Landry, from Tazewell, Virginia, served as an infantry rifleman and a Joint Fires Observer in the 3rd Battalion 5th Marine Regiment from 2015-2020, reaching the E5 Sergeant ranking.

"From the coast of Australia to Southeast Asia and even the Middle East, my Marine Corps journey has brought me all over the world," Landry said. "I conducted two deployments while I was in the service and attended various leadership schools. I am a current student veteran and co-President of the Student Veterans Organization here on the main campus at Radford University. I am studying business management and plan to graduate in 2024."

Air Force Guardsman Justin Jones also addressed the audience, welcoming veteran supporters that partner with the military students in assisting with bringing important programs and resources to the University.

Some of those in attendance were Barrett Bass, Radford University Alumni and Veteran of the US Navy serves as the Veterans Outreach Coordinator in Salem, Virginia. Allison Patrick is the Resource Specialist with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Danielle Rock is an RU alumni and veteran of the US Army and is also the Suicide Prevention Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Additional organizations that were recognized by Jones were the Radford VFW Post 776, the New River Valley Marine Corps League, and the members of the New River Valley Veterans Council.

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Jones earned his associate degree in Humanities at Valley Forge Military College in 2012 and is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force Air National Guard as a 2G051 Logistics Planner, beginning his enlistment in 2020. He is a psychology major at RU and will be graduating in December of 2023.

"I am Scribe of the Student Veterans Organization here at Radford University main campus. My plans after I graduate is to attend grad school studying neuroscience," Jones said.

Radford University has a welcoming atmosphere and supportive resources that have garnered much attention and some impressive awards of recognition. RU was recently given the honor of a Military Friendly Silver Status college and has been increasing their rankings every year for the previous seven years.

The Military Times also has named the University as a "Best for Vets" institution.

"And for the first time," Landry said. "We have added the designations of being a Military Friendly Spouse School, and a Guard Friendly School. In January of this past year, we were excited to be featured on national television on the Lifetime Network. Montel Williams and his tv show Military Makeover spotlighted Radford University in a segment called Operation Career."

The video may be viewed on the YouTube website.

Senior Criminal Justice student, Amanda Bishop, served in the US Army from 2012 to 2016 and is a resident of nearby Dublin. Serving as an Automated Logistic Specialist, Bishop became skilled at fixing, repairing, and recovery of a variety of wheeled and armored vehicles during her tour of service time that took her to places like South Korea, Colorado, and Kuwait.

"During the four years of my active-duty service, I got to see and experience all kinds of stuff. But since serving, some things will never be the same to me, like how I see our country's flag and how I hear the national anthem," Bishop said. "I think one of the best things about serving is getting to be around certain people because sometimes people make places that much better even if the place isn't that great."

One point that resonated throughout each veteran's service was the community and sense of purpose they felt with their fellow service members. Transitioning from a military environment into civilian life can be difficult for some individuals and their families.

Rob Borman, an Army Veteran and student at Radford University, serves as the Student Veteran Organization Vice

President. The MRC he said, provides a place to connect with others like him that share similar experiences.

"The dedication and loyalty to service and our communities give veterans the strength to weather storms but it is the support of our communities that keep veterans going the next step in our post-service missions," Boreman said.

Radford University's Military Resource Center is not only a place where past and present service members and their dependents can find camaraderie and community, but also provides support for military dependents as well. One military dependent, Garrett Armstrong has not one, but two parents in the service. Armstrong found support through the Military Resource Center at RU during his sophomore year and said his time at the University has improved since then.

"At first, I was a little nervous about fitting in being a military dependent and expected the office to be full of old army dudes telling war stories and fartin' all the time, and to be fair, there probably is a majority of veterans and active-duty students in there," Armstrong said. "But the MRC was not what I had pictured. It is not just an office on campus that just does business, it is a place to be with people who I have a lot in common with."

Service members and veterans in crisis with mental health such as depression, anxiety, anger, or feelings of wanting to hurt themselves or someone else, should know that help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Veterans Crisis Line can be reached at 1-800-273-8255. A confidential crisis chat is also available at VeteransCrisisLine.net, by texting 838255, or by dialing 988, then press 1.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOCL

Thousands of mussels from four species were salvaged during the event.

Record number of mussels salvaged during 2023 event

Heather Bell
hb@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Each year during the Claytor Lake drawdown to allow landowners to clean up debris from the shoreline, a dedicated group of volunteers gathers to save freshwater mussels and return them to the water.

According to Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL) Executive Director Ciara Harris, this year's effort was very successful.

"We had 115 participants and salvaged a record 8,045 mussels, 1,500 more than in 2021," she said.

Harris said "mussels from four species were salvaged, with Paper Pondshell being the most numerous at 63%,

up from 57% in 2021. Elliptio came in third after Giant Floater in total numbers, but had the biggest percent increase since 2021, 14% up from 5%. Three Purple Warty Back were again salvaged this year, but no Pocketbook (eight in 2021) or Pistolgrip (three in 2021)."

"Mussel Salvage is a community/state-wide event made possible by large participation each year," Harris added. "We are thankful to all of our participants/volunteer groups. It's important to save mussels during drawdown because they're essential to keeping the water clean."

Friends of Claytor Lake Board Secretary Laura Bullard organizes the

event and volunteers, checking them in and prepping them with team information and salvage locations.

FOCL reminds anyone who utilized the drawdown to please report their use of the drawdown and record any mussels salvaged.

"Reporting your use of drawdown is important for continuing drawdown every other year," according to FOCL. "If you did not receive a drawdown card in the mail from AEP, we have you covered on our website. Please record any uses of drawdown along with total mussels you saved! You can record easily (and anonymously) at <https://www.focl.org/mussel-salvage-reporting>."

NOTICE RADFORD RESIDENTS

The due date for paying **REAL ESTATE TAXES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES** for 2023 is **December 5, 2023**.

All taxes must be paid no later than December 5, 2023 to avoid additional penalty, interest, and fees. All payments made by mail must bear a postmark no later than December 5, 2023.

Taxes may be paid in person at:
Treasurer's Office
619 Second Street, Rm 164
Radford, VA 24141
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

For your convenience, extended hours will be offered Dec. 4th & Dec. 5th
7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Authorized by:
Janet H. Jones, Treasurer
City of Radford, VA

Events from page 3

Eligibility applications for Christmas Store 2023

Online applications are being accepted and reviewed now through Dec. 6, 2023 to shop

at the Montgomery County Christmas Store in December. Go to the Christmas Store website at www.mcchristmasstore.org and click on Apply to Shop. First, you will see the documents you need to have ready to upload before beginning the application process. Then scroll down some more to see the criteria you must meet to see if you are eligible to apply to shop at the store in December. If you qualify to shop at the store Dec. 5-9, you will receive the link to select your shopping appointment.

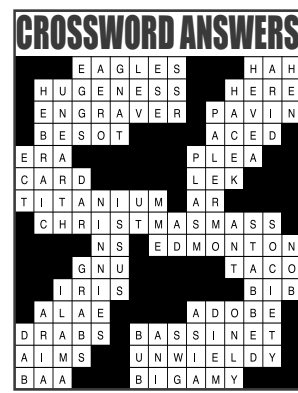
Call for participants: 2023 Blacksburg Annual Holiday Parade

Citizens are invited to participate in Blacksburg's annual Holiday Parade, organized by Blacksburg Parks and Recreation. This year's theme is "Miracle on Main Street". Parade entries may be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, scout groups, bands, sports teams and more. The parade will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. In the event of inclement weather,

the parade will be rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 2. For more information on how to get involved, contact David Goodman, Community Programs Supervisor at degoodman@blacksburg.gov or 540.443.1106.

Free GED classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Monday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Dec. 12. For more information or to sign up please call the Library at 540-268-1964.



MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Bobcat to play volleyball at Radford University

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

RADFORD - Radford High School volleyball player Hollybrook Cline has announced plans to play volleyball at nearby Radford University.

Cline officially signed a Letter of Intent this past week in the school's gymnasium in front of family, friends, coaches and fellow players.

"I chose RU because I love the team, culture and the girls," she said. "Staying close to home was also important to me, as well as I grew up watching Radford

[University] volleyball and from a young age I knew I wanted to be a part of the team."

Cline was recently named to the Three Rivers District second team volleyball list. Her senior year, she recorded 159 kills and 260 digs, and finished her Bobcat career with 278 kills, 937 assists, 689 digs and 95 aces.

Cline says staying close to home will offer her great support.

"It feels really good to have a community supporting me, that will follow me closely to college," she said.

Sherisa Livingston enters her fourth season as the head coach of

the RU volleyball program in 2023-24. Named the 11th head coach in program history in 2020, her teams have shown steady improvement and growing success each year.

The 2022 season was Livingston's best yet, leading the Highlanders to a 12-16 overall record, including an 8-8 mark in Big South play.

Cline's goals are to be positive and encourage her team, focus on one point at a time and give it my all during each and every point individually.

For now, Cline has not chosen a major but is leaning toward sports management, allied health science, or biology.



FILE PHOTO
Radford High School's Hollybrook Cline returns the ball during a recent contest with James River.



The Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway, near Radford, is no go for next season as a racing facility.

FILE PHOTO

Parent company resumes speedway ownership

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The parent company of Calfee Park Baseball and the Pulaski River Turtles will be resuming management of Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway beginning Nov. 30.

In an announcement on Tuesday, the ownership said after leasing Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway to Rusty Wallace Racing Experience owner Mark Ebert for the 2021-2023 seasons, Motor Mile will resume management of the venue for the 2024 season.

Current plans include several special events such as the always-popular Monster Truck, Nights of Destruction and JJ DA BOSS Tours. Other types of events such as concerts and live-action events are being considered.

But, according to a press release, there are no plans at this time for a weekly racing series for either the Speedway or Dragway tracks.

Both tracks will be available for rental for individual days, for special events, or for a recurring series if there is interest by an outside party or organization.

In August, officials from the Rusty Wallace Racing experience said there would no operating contract extension after this year.

In 2020, the Rusty Wallace Racing Group took over the speedway, which is celebrating its 34th year anniversary this year. The track has been known over the years as the New River Valley Speedway and has

changed its name four times since its opening over 20 years ago.

The multi-year lease agreement allowed RWRE to take over venue operations, with the speedway becoming the home track for the RWRE and its companion companies. At the time, former NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace called Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway, one of the finest grassroots motorsports facilities in the nation.

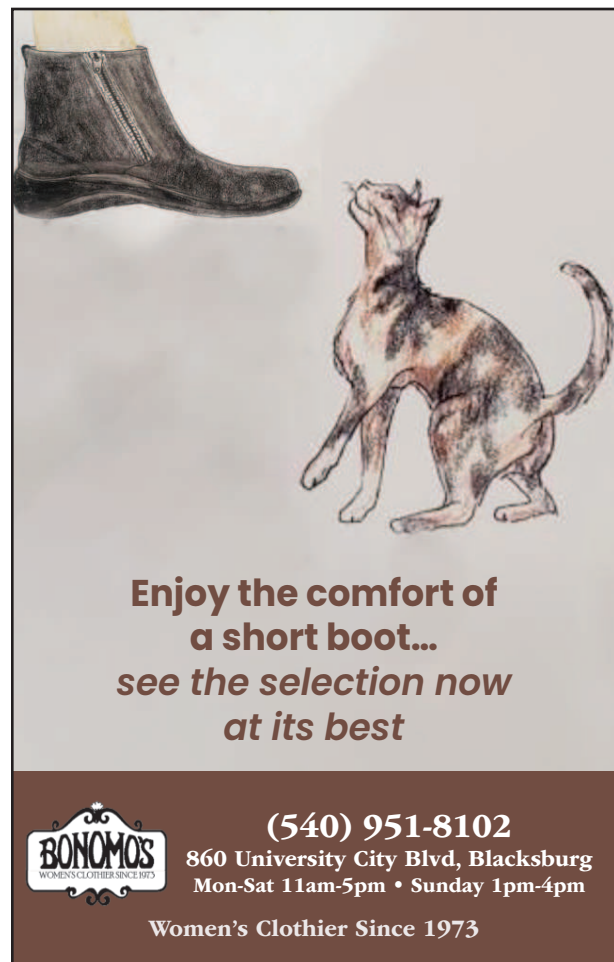
"We worked tirelessly to rebuild the fan base at the racetrack, and it is tremendously

disappointing to me that we could not bring back the fans in the numbers that would allow us the revenue to pay a reasonable lease or purchase the racetrack," Ebert said.

His departure will be official on Nov. 30, at which time the Motor Mile management team will start to firm up events and dates for the 2024 schedule.

The track has a long, rich history in the New River Valley. In 1952, a dirt track originally opened on the former farm site between Radford and Dublin. In the 80's, a paved 0.416-mile oval was

See **Speedway**, page 8



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Women's Clothier Since 1973

ONLINE AUCTION
Ends Thursday, December 7th at 3 PM
Large Farm Tracts and Home for Sale at Auction in Floyd VA
2103 Ridgeview Rd NW, Floyd, VA 24091
Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Searching for farmland, a great family home, or building site? Check out these 5 offerings which total 174.78 acres. Acreage features mostly open farmland with good views, several building sites, access to Beaver Creek, and an existing brick ranch home. Property is being offered in 5 tracts, so purchase multiple to get the acreage you desire!

PREVIEW DATE:
Saturday, November 18th
at 11 AM

- Offering #1 - 25.14 ac
- Offering #2 - 35.44 ac & House
- Offering #3 - 48.98 ac
- Offering #4 - 57.65 ac
- Offering #5 - 7.56 ac

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per tract is required on day of sale. Close on or before January 22, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation and court approval. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on December 7, 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 - Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com

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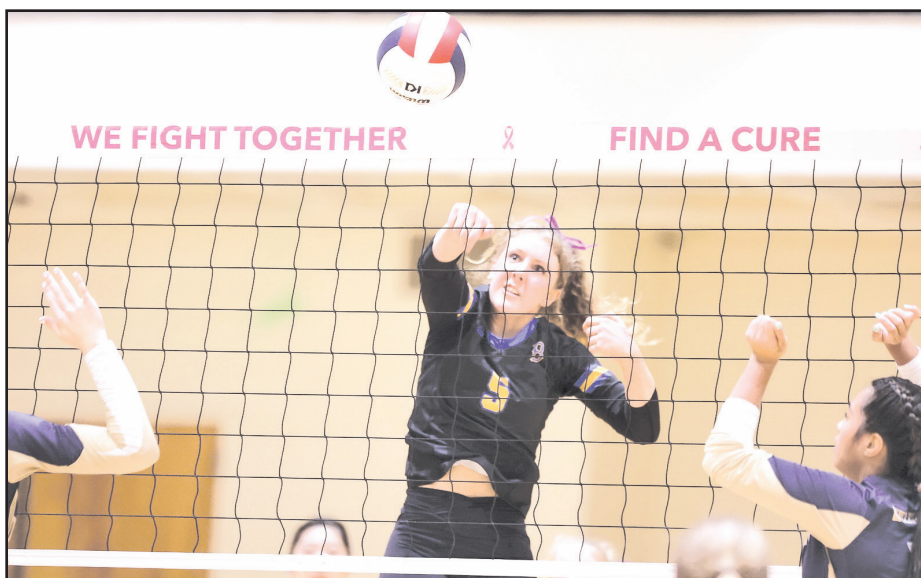
Blacksburg falls in volleyball semi-finals



Emma Castle sets for the Blacksburg offense against James Wood in a Class 4 state semifinal match. In a state semifinal match, Blacksburg took on defending state champ James Wood on the Colonels home court.



Blacksburg's Su Kato receives a James Wood serve during the Tuesday match in Winchester.



Blacksburg's Jordan Boffen hits against James Wood during a Class 4 state semifinal match on Tuesday night.



Blacksburg's Rowan English gets a kill against James Wood during the state semifinal match. The Bruins would come up short against the defending Class 4 champions, 21-25, 12-25, 14, 25 on Tuesday in Winchester.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Softball signs pair of future Highlanders

Radford University Softball Head Coach Alisa Tasler has announced the exciting signing of two future Highlanders for the 2025 season.

Dakota Redmon, an incoming freshman from Mayodan, N.C. and Klara Van Beuge, an incoming freshman from Littleton, Colo. round out the duo of new Highlanders who

will be making their collegiate debuts in the coming years.

Dakota Redmon
5'10 | Pitcher/Infielder | Mayodan, N.C. | Rockingham County Early College High
2022 Game Game Changer Award winner, two-time scholar athlete award winner and

two-time collegiate honor roll

Two-time all-conference honoree, two-time all-state honoree and two-time all-district honoree

2A Mid State Conference Tournament MVP in 2023 and was the 2A Pitcher of the Year 2023

Silver Slugger and NC Gatorade Player of the Year nominee for 2023

Pitches as well as having appearances at first base and second base in the infield

Plays her club softball with Carolina Elite and was ranked #35 in the 2022 Extra Innings Softball rankings, a USC Softball 16U Champion and TCS Colorado Sparkler All-American Team.

Tasler on Dakota: "Dakota has been a kid I have wanted on my team for a long time. She is an overall athlete that can not only perform

in the circle but will also help us at the plate."

Klara Van Beuge
6'0 | Infielder/Outfielder | Littleton, Co. | Chatfield High School

First team all-conference in the 5A District of Colorado

Named all-state for Colorado

Played under head coach Darin Shepard at Chatfield High School

Has played first base, third base and in the outfield

Played club softball with Colorado Softball Academy

Tasler on Klara: "We are super excited for Klara to join our program. We believe that she is going to come in and make an immediate impact."

Radford University Athletics

Speedway

from page 7

built on the site.

The track announced that it had cut all sanctions with NASCAR and discontinued its oval track racing in late 2017 but reopened under

NASCAR sanctioning in 2019.

It was purchased by Shelor Automotive Group in 2004 and was subsequently renamed Motor Mile Speedway.

The track is most famous for hosting four NASCAR Busch Series events between 1989 and 1992, which included future NASCAR champions like Jeff Gordon.



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FRIDAY



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- Build Your Own Meal for \$6, 4-6 PM
- 10% case discount



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