

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

www.ourvalley.org

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Community members calling for investigation into murder-suicide involving two Blacksburg students

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Local community members in the New River Valley are petitioning for an independent investigation into the Montgomery County Public Schools' actions preceding the recent murder-suicide that resulted in the deaths of two Blacksburg High School students.

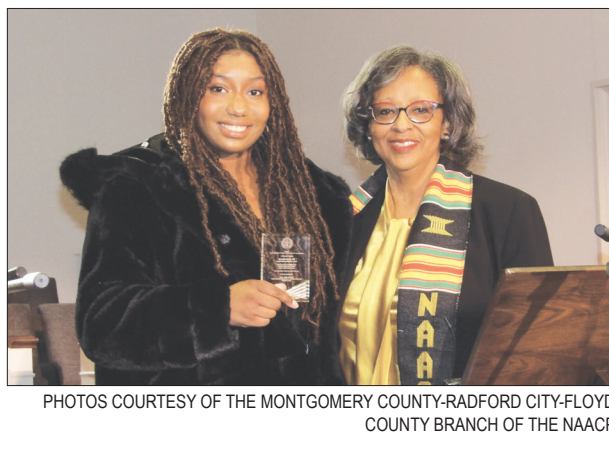
reported prior to their tragic murder-suicide. The bodies of two Blacksburg High School students were discovered on Nov. 7, 2023, a teacher workday for Montgomery County Public Schools, in a Blacksburg parking garage. Eckenrod is a professional counselor and Radford University professor, working in the School of Teaching Education and Leadership. "I teach mostly human development; student mental health, suicide, they are going to be educators, so I teach them all this stuff...suicide is #2 killer for teens and the #3 is homicide," Eckenrod said. Eckenrod is also the parent of a Blacksburg High School student who was friends with the victim, Serenity Hawley. Hawley was 17 years old and days away from her 18th birthday when she was found deceased in a

parking garage along with another deceased BHS student, Crony Monk. Identities of the juveniles were released by Hawley's family. According to reports, Hawley's mother Heather Waldron, had just learned of an incident from the school involving Hawley's ex-boyfriend Monk one month prior to the death of her daughter. A no-contact order had been issued by the school for Monk and Hawley. According to Eckenrod, her son and friends had reported concerning behavior to BHS administration they had witnessed by Monk towards Hawley. Eckenrod says that the model for Virginia's threat assessment has

See Investigation, page 2



Silver Life Award Members Dr. Randolph and Joan Grayson with President Deborah Travis and Secretary Shirley Akers



Silver Life Award Members Dr. Randolph and Joan Grayson with President Deborah Travis and Secretary Shirley Akers

Local NAACP holds community celebration for Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Inspired by the Dream: It Starts with me; Building a Beloved Community"

The Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP held its community celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024 at the Church on Main in Blacksburg. Member-at-large, Dr. Crasha Townsend welcomed everyone, and the invocation was delivered by church pastor, Tommy McDearis. Next, Dr. Cheryl Burrell Graves shared poet Richard Blanco's work, "One Today," a poem recited at Barack Obama's 2013 Inauguration. Music was provided by pianist

Daniel Taylor and the Church on Main choir who sang "Oh How Good It Is" and "He Never Failed Me Yet" with the solo provided by Zach Dulaney. Dr. King's favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace," was sung by Dr. Deana Katey. The audience then joyously sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" also known as The Negro National Anthem. The Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP 2024 Community Service Awards were bestowed on Michael Hickman of Pulaski and John Sills of Blacksburg. Hickman's

untiring community contributions include his work with the Calfee Community and Cultural Center and his 42 years with Pulaski County Schools. Hickman has been instrumental in bringing forth the revitalization, and awareness of the Calfee Community and Cultural Center (CCCC) where he serves as the President and on the Board of Directors. Sills was recognized for his lifelong commitment to the betterment of others and the Kairos

See NAACP, page 2

The Secular Society abolishes medical debt in Southwest Virginia



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SECULAR SOCIETY

The Secular Society, a non-profit corporation located in Blacksburg, has purchased an additional \$12,102,570 medical debt of 14,434 Southwest Virginia citizens. That debt has now been wiped out. To be eligible for purchase and abolition, the debt must be owned by someone with a family income less than four times the federal poverty level or for whom a medical debt is 5% or more of their annual income. The medical debt of an uninsured citizen, as well as that of an underinsured citizen, is eligible for purchase. Medical debt relief cannot be requested and the eligible recipients simply receive a letter with the good news. Once the debts have been purchased further collection attempts cease, credit reports are updated, access to medical care is restored and the citizen's peace of mind should improve. The Secular Society has again partnered with RIP

Medical Debt, a non-profit corporation headquartered in New York, to purchase and abolish this debt, to notify the debtors in writing that their debt has been cancelled, and to ensure that the credit report has been updated. For those whose medical debts have been abolished, the relief is a gift, an act of generosity from a disinterested third party, and so the debt does not count as income to the debtor. The citizens in 20 Southwest Virginia counties - Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, and the City of Radford - received these medical debt relief benefits. The Secular Society

Hope Valley Church provides warmth and rest to escape frigid temperatures

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

As frigid temperatures reach single digits, and wind chills feeling below zero, individuals lacking the proper housing face dangerous exposure to the elements. Warming centers and homeless shelters can often reach capacity quickly during this time of year, so Hope Valley Church decided to open their Fellowship Center to those in need. Located at 2149 Dominion Dr. in Christiansburg, just five minutes from the Uptown Mall on Peppers Ferry Road, the church's fellowship center offers a spacious and warm community area with a television, ping-pong table, kitchen, and restrooms. Upon hearing of the idea to open the church's doors as a warming center, many members of the church and community jumped to action with donations of pillows, cots, blankets, air mattresses, pots of soup, water, coffee, orange juice, and desserts. One Virginia Tech student wanted to help out as well and dropped off handmade scarves and hats to donate to anyone in need. Leadership Team Member of Hope Valley Church Frank Sowers said that members came up with the idea to open the fellowship hall just one day prior, while they were thinking about the frigid temperatures and the needs of the community. "We've been texting the church and putting it on Facebook and people responded. We're stunned; I'm still getting text messages now saying, 'what do you need?'," Sowers said. "So, the church really stepped up and folks outside the church have stepped up." Hope Valley Church is continuing to look for ways to share their warming center efforts with the community and spread the word to those in need. They have shared their information on social media but have also reached out to other area shelters in case they might reach capacity and need another place to send people. Volunteers have also stepped forward to offer transportation for people to the Hope Valley Church as well.



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Hope Valley Church, located at 2149 Dominion Dr., Christiansburg, opened its doors to people in need of a warm place to sleep on Jan. 20.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 24:

Ben Duke art exhibit opens

Artist Ben Duke, Associate Professor of Art at Michigan State, will have an exhibition of his work in the Art Museum at the Covington Center on the campus of Radford University. The show is entitled A Situation of Meanings and features paintings representing two decades of art. The show will run through Friday, Feb. 23. On the final day, Duke will host a talk at 4 p.m. in Covington's Davis Performance Hall followed by a reception that will include refreshments. Both events are open to the public without charge.

Frances Frederick exhibit opening

Due to inclement weather and freezing temperatures, the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's opening reception for Frances Frederick, originally scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 17 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Jan. 24, 5:30-7:30pm. The reception will be hosted at the Alexander Black House. Frances Frederick is the Blacksburg Regional Art Association's (BRAA) longest-tenured member, joining in 1952. Her style has changed over these years but has always been rich in color and texture and influenced by a variety of subject matter. In this exhibit, we look back on some of her most vibrant work. The exhibit will run until March 13, 2024.

Friday, Jan. 26:

NAACP

from page 1

Prison Ministry Program at the Pocahontas State Correctional Center where he visited inmates and provided support and information to increase their positive outlook on life. Sills also volunteers with Meals On Wheels.

Branch president Deborah Travis and branch secretary Shirley Akers presented Silver Life Membership Awards to Joan Grayson, Randolph Grayson, Ann Shawhan, and Larry Bechtel. A fully paid Life Membership of \$750 can be remitted in increments over 10 years or as a lump sum.

Tyler Graves was recognized for her three-year service as NAACP Youth Council president. She and brothers Robert and Richard McCrae were 2023 recipients of the Samuel H. Clark Memorial Scholarship in honor of Mr. Clark who worked tirelessly for equal justice and civil rights and who served as past president of the local

Sustainability Committee Meeting

The Christiansburg Sustainability Committee will meet at 10 a.m. in the Administrative Conference Room of Town Hall, 100 E. Main St.

Friday, Feb. 2 and Saturday, Feb. 3:

Book Sale

There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lots of selections and low prices. Come and support the Radford Library.

Saturday, Feb. 3:

Southwest Virginia High School Art Show

The art of high school students from throughout Southwest Virginia will be on display at The Art Museum on Tyler (214 Tyler Ave., Radford) Feb. 3 – Feb. 17. Opening reception: Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12- 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Monday, Feb.12:

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, Feb. 13:

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 St.). 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.

NAACP branch. The audience donated \$1,592.77 for the scholarship fund.

Townsend introduced the keynote speaker, Tameka Paige, Community Relations Specialist in the City of Roanoke's Sheriff's Department. Paige spoke eloquently about the importance of examining oneself with the goal of creating a beloved community. She emphasized the importance of both empathy and compassion and related both to Dr. King's work. She admonished it is incumbent upon us all to recognize and address hate in our communities and to work toward positively addressing community needs. Ms. Paige warned of the dangers of complacency and urged the audience to look inward for redemption and atonement. She went on to emphasize the need for a strong commitment to creating a beloved community and reminded everyone to take steps to know and love one's neighbors. Love is

not disposable; we must all live the meaning.

Travis made closing remarks with a quote from Dr. King, "Rise up tonight with greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us more on in these powerful days, these days of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation." The program ended with everyone singing, "We Shall Overcome," a gospel song associated with the civil rights movement. Guests were then invited downstairs for refreshments and further discussion.

Donations to the Samuel H. Clark Scholarship Fund can be made at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mrf-naacp-shcs>.

Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP



Keynote speaker Tameka Paige



Community Service Award Winners John Sills and Michael Hickman flanked by Secretary Shirley Akers and President Deborah Travis



Silver Life Awardees Ann Shawhan and Larry Bechtel flanked by Secretary Shirley Akers and President Debbie Travis

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY-RADFORD CITY-FLOYD COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NAACP

Investigation

from page 1

steps that should have been followed but were not. She has started a petition to present to the MCPS Board requesting an independent investigation into the events leading up to the death of the two BHS students and how procedures, she feels, were not followed.

Eckenrod has also spoken with MCPS Superintendent Dr. Bernard Bragen.

"Dr. Bragen was so kind and a decent human being when I met with him. I don't want that to get lost in this. The petition is not to blame the school counselors and teachers. The mechanism that was supposed to be in place was not followed. I know it wasn't followed, because my son went to administration and expressed his concerns, but his concerns were not met," Eckenrod said.

Multiple parents also went to the school over concerns, so this was not just a one-time fear, Eckenrod also said. She went on to explain that Hawley had moved to Florida with family for about a year but missed friends and returned to Blacksburg High School. She then moved in with the now principal of Blacksburg High School, Mr. Stuart, and his family.

According to reports from Hawley's family in a WSLs news report, Hawley was very active in school, worked at a local pizzeria called Your Pie, and had just been accepted to Virginia Tech. The family also revealed

that Monk had shot their daughter in the chest before turning the gun on himself.

"My goal is not to humiliate or shame people publicly. I just want the actions of the school to be investigated," Eckenrod said. "She was so full of life, I mean vivacious. You walked into Your Pie...that whole group was tight. She flashed the most beautiful smile."

Eckenrod also said Monk needed serious help and that all the signs of intimate domestic violence were there.

"I know it is easy to vilify him, and Serenity has been in my home and seen her in Your Pie where she worked," Eckenrod said. "She was at my home and Croney was outside my home stalking her."

The focus of the petition and request for an independent investigation is to improve response procedures for domestic violence between intimate teen partners.

"The other thing that bothers me is that there is minimal, I mean minimal information related to how to make a report or express a concern," Eckenrod said. "The only thing I found was in the Student Conduct Manual. It is a small section for students and parents to call a hotline. For me, that is buried in a document. That is the only thing I can find."

The MCPS Student Conduct manual can be found

online at www.mcps.org.

Additionally, Eckenrod referred to the Michigan Oxford Independent Report concerning the necessity of clear communication procedures for reporting and initiating a threat assessment investigation. The report is in response to a Nov. 30, 2021, student-involved shooting that led to the deaths of four high school teens, with six more students and one teacher injured.

The report published on www.cbsnews.com revealed the shooter "was not identified as a threat because individuals at Oxford High School failed to recognize on Nov. 30, 2021, that the shooter's conduct, statements, and drawings suggested that he might cause physical harm at the school."

"It breaks my heart that the administration didn't seem to have more awareness about intimate partner violence. She had a no-contact order. All the signs were there," Eckenrod said. "I've been a school counselor and I've been in the position where you recognize the red flags and look for the resources, especially for the parents. I've been to funerals of my students...and I never want to attend another funeral of a student who has committed suicide."

Eckenrod plans to present the petition to the Montgomery County School Board meeting during the public address session.

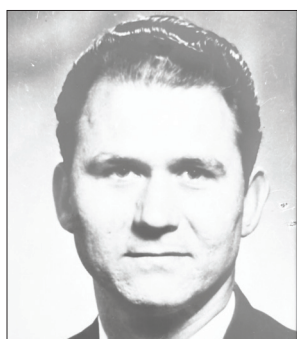
OBITUARIES

Fulcher, The Rev. Earnest Clyde

The Reverend Earnest Clyde Fulcher entered peacefully into the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Wednesday evening, Jan. 17, 2024, at the age of 97.

He enrolled in the US Navy Sept. 1, 1942, and served in the Mediterranean Arena in North Africa, Italy, and participated in Operation Overlord on D-Day. He received the American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory medal, and the European African Middle Eastern Campaign medal with two Battle Stars. He was honorably discharged on March 4, 1946. After the war he worked on the Southern Pacific Railroad in Washington, played in Bluegrass bands with Rex and Eleanor Parker and Curly Sizemore and the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers, then became a coal miner in West Virginia.

He met and married his wife of 68 years in 1950. He was ordained in the Pentecostal church and they worked faithfully in ministry for years as a ministry team. He and his wife traveled extensively in southwest Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee conducting tent revivals throughout the 1950's. Many lives were touched and changed through his evangelistic ministry, radio ministry (1950's-1980's), his singing and music. They pastored several



churches in West Virginia and Virginia before building Christian Fellowship Tabernacle in 1962 in Christiansburg where he pastored until 2020. They traveled world-wide in ministry to Pakistan, South America, New Zealand, Africa, Europe, Canada, and the Caribbean with a favorite destination being annual trips to Israel for many years as a tour host.

Rev. Fulcher had a deep love of the Bible and the Message of this last day. His life of service laid countless treasures in heaven where they now rejoice together with those gone before.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matthew 25:21

He is survived by his one son, Dr. E.C. Fulcher, Jr. of Abingdon, Md.; and one daughter, Marva Rebekah Coffey and husband, Rev. Barry Coffey of Riner, Va. He is also lovingly remembered by his grandchildren: Anna

Maria Fulcher Callahan (Chris), Deborah Sinsky (Robert), Lydia Dominguez (Jose), Andrew Coffey (Rebekah), Peter Coffey (Rachel), Stephen Coffey (Sarah) and Lukas Coffey (Hailey). He has been blessed with 11 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. He will also be greatly missed by the church family which he dearly loved at Christian Fellowship Tabernacle.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Marvaree (Porter) of 68 years and beloved granddaughter, Jessica (Fulcher) Harris. Special thanks to caregivers who loved him and made his last years on earth one of comfort and caring: Kimberly, Debbie, Amy, Sheena and dear friend, Lowell. Also, thanks to Amedisys Home Health, Intrepid Home Health and Virginia Veteran's Association Home Care.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the care of Horne Funeral Services, 1300 N. Franklin St., Christiansburg. Visitation was held Sunday, Jan. 21 at Horne Funeral Home, with a Graduation Celebration held at Christian Fellowship Tabernacle Monday, Jan. 22 with Reverend Barry Coffey and Rev. Stephen Coffey officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

Great is thy faithfulness Philip Eugene Cline, 90, of Huntington, W.Va. and Radford, died at home with family present Jan. 6, 2024, from complications due to a stroke 2.5 years before.

Born in Stidham (Martin County), Ky., to Ovie and Jesse Cline, he was the oldest of six children. Cline graduated Oceana High School, Oceana, W.Va. Despite growing up in humble circumstances, with his father working as a coal miner and both parents were schoolteachers, he valued education and graduated from Marshall University with a B.S. in accounting in 1955 and an M.A. in political science in 1962. He firmly believed that you are to honor thy father and mother and you would live long and prosper, and that he did!

By foot, hitchhiking and bus, Cline made his way to Marshall College (now University), where he lent his talents to Omicron Delta Kappa, Baptist Youth Fellowship Work, and Sigma Phi Epsilon. His passion for student government, which had begun in high school, continued at Marshall, where he served throughout his four years and ultimately became the student body president.

Cline had a remarkable career, starting at J.H. Fletcher Co. in 1955 and eventually becoming the executive vice-president and board member. He was past president and member of the Board of Directors of Broughton Foods Co. He served on the board of directors for several other businesses, including Southern Belle Dairy Inc., Portec Rail Products Co., the Logan Corp., Champion Industries Inc., US Chamber of Commerce, Cabell County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the YMCA. He served on the United Way board of directors and co-established the United Way of the River Cities Foundation. He was a member of the Huntington Rotary Club, and was involved with the Huntington Museum of Art, Marshall Artists Series, West Virginia Humanities Foundation, Southwestern Community Action Council and many others.

Cline was a present member and past chairman of the Huntington Area Chamber of Commerce and the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce. In 2011, the WV Chamber inducted him into its Hall of Fame. Steve Roberts, president of the West Virginia State Chamber of Commerce stated "Cline's influence reached national heights, as seen in his service on the board of directors for the US Chamber of Commerce. He also helped lead the successful national effort to pass Gorton/Rockefeller Product Liability Act."

Cline maintained a strong connection with Marshall University, serving as a past chairman of the Marshall Institutional Board of Advisors, and past president of the Marshall Foundation and

Cline, Philip Eugene



Cleveland Cline (Nancy), and his life partner and gravesite resting mate, Ruth Layne Cline.

Survivors include his three amazing children, two sons-in-law, two grandchildren, Sandra Cline Ramsey and her husband, Steve, of Jacksonville, Fla.; Philip Andrew "Andy" Cline of Lantana, Fla.; and Holly Leeann Cline and her husband, Sid Miller of Radford; her two daughters, Ruth Layne Cline "Laney" and Hollybrook Coulter Cline. His grandchildren who he loved more than life; nieces and nephews and their spouses; cousins and many friends. Special friends include Roberta Johnson, Dr. Friday Simpson, Steve and Ann Roberts, Marshall Reynolds, Walt Bolen, Allen Reasons, Rick Stout, Becky King-Harris, Jim Fletcher, Chris Michael, Kay Ransbottom, Jane Fotos, Pat Mann and all his church lady friends.

the Marshall Alumni Association. He was a life member of the Big Green Club and received numerous alumni awards. He made significant contributions to the university, establishing the Ovie and Jesse Cline Museum in the One-Room School House and creating the Ovie and Jesse John Marshall Scholarship in honor of his parents. Cline was recognized for his philanthropic endeavors, privately funding the college tuition of numerous deserving students.

Furthermore, Cline had a deep commitment to health care and community service. He served on the boards of Cabell Huntington Hospital, West Virginia Alliance for Hospital Trustees, and the Huntington Pediatric Clinic. He was involved with American Red Cross and played crucial role in establishing the Phil Cline YMCA, a facility dedicated to providing free access to recreational activities for young people and senior citizens.

In 1987, Cline was named to the Greater Huntington Wall of Fame, and in 1988 the Huntington Herald-Dispatch selected him as its "Citizen of the Year."

From his college days until his death, Cline was a stalwart member of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church. In 1955, he was the West Virginia youth representative to the Baptist World Congress. For many years, he looked forward to April when he taught Sunday School for the month. As a Baptist, Cline also had a special relationship with faith-based Alderson-Broaddus College. He generously contributed as a donor, received an honorary doctorate degree, and served as a dedicated member of the college's board. In 2011, he even took on the role of interim president.

Cline attributed his perseverance and success to his strong faith and his personal relationship with his Lord, Savior and Friend, Jesus Christ. He met his late wife and the mother of his children, Ruth, at Camp Cowen, a Baptist young adult retreat. He was an active member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church serving on various committees and involved with his beloved FAB Sunday School class for over 63 years. He prayed daily and placed his trust in his Lord with every decision he made.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ovie and Jesse Cline, his five siblings Cecil Gobel Cline (Sprout), Anne Cline Gillum (Tom), Mary Cline Wilson (Brad), Alice Cline Hobbs (Bernie), Grover

Cline moved to Radford after his stroke. He enjoyed the extra time with his grandchildren, watching their progression into adulthood. He became a donor of Radford University and was recognized by the Department of Design for his contributions. He was so excited to learn that his youngest granddaughter would be attending RU in the fall of 2024.

He was a father, grandfather (Papaw), accountant, humanitarian, philanthropist, leader, visionary, world traveler and a farmer. His farm, The Hollybrook Farm, began with a cabin that he built with friends on the weekend and grew into a working dairy and beef cattle farm. Cline hosted many family reunions and church functions in the summer at his farm in Gallia County, OH. In 1994, his farm received the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship award. He loved his farm and his family and any time he could combine the two, he did so with joy. His family will miss him dearly.

His legacy as a dedicated advocate for education will be forever remembered through the establishment of a scholarship in his name. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider donating to the Philip E. Cline Scholarship at Radford University. You may send your gift to the Radford University Foundation, PO Box 6893, Radford, VA 24142. Please include the scholarship name on the memo line of your check.

Friends may call on Friday, Jan. 26 from 5-7:30 p.m. at Chapman's Mortuary, Huntington, W.Va. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Jana Stoner officiating. Graveside family service will take place on Sunday, Jan. 28 at Tyler Mountain Memory Gardens, next to his life partner's final resting space, in Cross Lanes, W.Va.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.chapmans-mortuary.com.

Sutphin, Louise Haley

Louise Haley Sutphin, 90, of Christiansburg, passed away peacefully at her home Jan. 18, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, all eight of her siblings, her grandson, Lucas Sutphin and her granddaughters, Haley and Emily Sutphin.

She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Marshall Sutphin; her son, Derwin Sutphin and his wife, Regina Sutphin; grandsons, Wyatt and Garrett Sutphin who were the light of her life.

The family is thankful for the care provided by



Good Samaritan Hospice and special thank you to Stephanie Miles and Heather Mundy for the loving care they gave her and the family.

The family received

friends Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Porter Riner officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia in memory of her grandson, Lucas Sutphin.

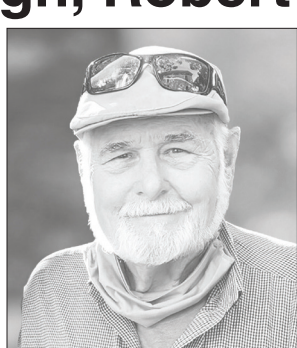
The Sutphin family are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Trobaugh, Robert Dennis

Robert Dennis Trobaugh, 85, of Dublin, passed away Friday, Jan. 19, 2024. He was born Sept. 18, 1938, in Harrisonburg. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Dennis Menefee Trobaugh and Jacqueline Virginia Kerlin Trobaugh, and brother, Sgt. Kenneth Menefee Trobaugh.

Survivors include his children, Dena Lester (Mel), Donna Crawford (Dennis), Debra Jarels, and Scott Trobaugh.

Bob was the editor and publisher of the Radford News Journal (1969-1974); worked as an operations analyst and production control manager at Inland



Motors in Radford, Va.; VA Transformer in Roanoke, VA; Chihuahua, Mexico; and finally, ABB in Bland County.

Bob had many interests and hobbies: raising and training quarter horses, fishing and boating at Claytor and

Smith Mountain lakes, gardening, collecting antiques, playing old time Bluegrass music, just to name a few.

The family would like to thank the staff at Commonwealth Assisted Living and Gentiva Hospice nurse, Sharon. A special thank you to his very dear friend, Juanita.

Bob's wish was for cremation and celebration of life services will be held at a later date. The family suggests making a donation to a local animal shelter in Bob's name.

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

Beta Sigma Phi conducts Exemplar Ritual

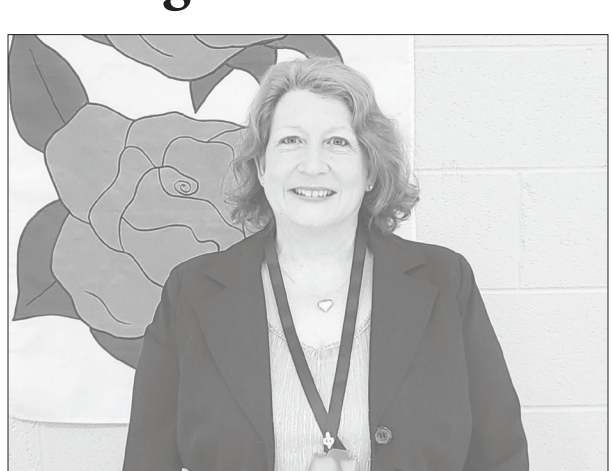


PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTEN TALLEY

The Exemplar Ritual was recently bestowed upon Kristen Talley by her Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. Talley qualified for advancement to this third degree following a period of four years participation in regular chapter activities and cultural programs.

Robin Grove conducted the candlelight ritual, with Phyllis Durham and Carolyn Sowers serving as Assistants. Talley was presented a pin and the traditional yellow rose.

Talley pledged to Alpha Mu Master in November of 2019. She currently serves as Chapter Service Chairman and a

member of the Program Committee. She is employed at Virginia Tech and resides in Christiansburg with her husband Paul.

Submitted by Beta Sigma Phi

Etzler's Hams

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OPINION

A busy week in the 2024 General Assembly Session

The first full week of the 2024 General Assembly Session was a busy one in Richmond, and several of my bills received their initial committee hearings. Republicans are now in the minority in both the Virginia House and Senate, and that has made it increasingly difficult for members of our party to shepherd legislation through a politically polarized legislature. While my legislation to increase the footprint of Virginia's Tobacco Commission to include the New River Valley ultimately failed to advance in subcommittee, I am undeterred in my resolve to fight for our region.

I was happy to receive many visitors to the Capitol from the 42nd District this past week! Representatives from our local American Legion Post, New River Valley Community College, and even Virginia Tech's head football coach came to Richmond to participate in our legislative process. I always enjoy seeing familiar faces from the 42nd District while I'm in Richmond.

There are a couple of topics I would like to cover this week, and while they are unrelated to each other, I find them interesting, nonetheless. The first is the 238th

anniversary of Virginia's Statute of Religious Freedom, which was written by Thomas Jefferson this week in 1786. This is one of the foundational documents not only for Virginia, but also for the United States, and it was a partial inspiration for the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Simply put, the statute holds that no one can be compelled by law to practice a particular faith, or any faith for that matter. It also recognizes that some future General Assembly may change or repeal the statute, but doing so would be a violation of our natural rights. As we recognize National Religious Freedom Day, we reaffirm our commitment to the principle that all Virginians are free to pursue faith as we see fit.

On a separate note, I've been receiving many emails from constituents regarding Virginia Democrats' attempts to roll back 2nd Amendment protections. Like you, I'm very concerned that much of this legislation does nothing to solve the underlying reasons for gun violence and instead targets law-abiding owners of firearms. According to Virginia state police statistics, rifles – of any sort – make up less than 5% of all homicides in Virginia. And yet,

the General Assembly continues to debate legislation that would effectively ban some of the most popular models of sporting rifles. We should instead be focusing on real solutions, such as those provided in Operation Ceasefire that resolve issues of gun violence on a community-by-community basis.

Coming up next week will be even more bill presentations, and with that, longer committee meetings. If you'd like to share your thoughts with me on any particular legislation, I'd encourage you to send me an email at DelJBallard@house.virginia.gov!

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@HouseVirginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

Del. Jason Ballard

Virginia gas prices on the rise over last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 4.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.95/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 4.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 38.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.1 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.87 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.49/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.50/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.49/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.50/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.8 cents per gallon in the last week,

averaging \$3.03/g today. The national average is down 7.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 36.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

- January 22, 2023: \$3.34/g (U.S. Average: \$3.39/g)
- January 22, 2022: \$3.16/g (U.S. Average: \$3.33/g)
- January 22, 2021: \$2.31/g (U.S. Average: \$2.39/g)
- January 22, 2020: \$2.37/g (U.S. Average: \$2.53/g)
- January 22, 2019: \$2.09/g (U.S. Average: \$2.27/g)

- January 22, 2018: \$2.39/g (U.S. Average: \$2.54/g)
 - January 22, 2017: \$2.18/g (U.S. Average: \$2.30/g)
 - January 22, 2016: \$1.69/g (U.S. Average: \$1.84/g)
 - January 22, 2015: \$1.97/g (U.S. Average: \$2.03/g)
 - January 22, 2014: \$3.18/g (U.S. Average: \$3.27/g)
- Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:
- Roanoke- \$2.91/g, up 6.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.84/g.
 - Richmond- \$2.95/g, up 5.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.89/g.
 - West Virginia- \$2.92/g, up 5.2 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.87/g.

bouncing off lows, only to re-test them again and again. While prices jumped in some places, it's being offset by drops elsewhere, and that has kept alive the possibility of briefly seeing the national average fall to the lowest level since 2021," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "We remain just a nickel or so away from a \$2.99 national average, and while the window of opportunity continues to slowly close, with refiners now starting the purge of winter gasoline on the West Coast, we still have a low-level chance of getting there. But make no mistake- if we do see a national average of \$2.99 per gallon, it won't last long as we start to turn the corner and get closer to the start of the transition to summer gasoline."

GasBuddy

News Messenger

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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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$46 a year in Montgomery County, \$55 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$59 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Utility bill scams

Winter is upon us and with temperatures plummeting in many areas, keeping the heat on is critical — a fact that fraud criminals try to take advantage of. Each winter, utility scams spike as scammers claiming to be from the utility company say you haven't been paying your bill and they threaten to cut off service if you don't make an immediate payment. The goal of these crooks is to create a sense of panic — when we react first with emotion, it's hard to access logical thinking, and the criminals are adept with using this tactic. Their hope is that we stay in that state of panic long enough to complete a payment.

If you get a surprise call from the "utility company"

threatening to shut off your service, hang up the phone. Contact your provider using the customer service number on a recent bill (or log into their website or app if that's an option). Chances are high you will find out your payments are up to date.

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

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

AARP Virginia

Youth Conservation Corps crew leader applications being accepted

RICHMOND - Virginia State Parks is currently recruiting Crew Leaders for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program for 2024. Crew Leaders will mentor youth by helping them complete trail maintenance, basic construction and beautification of the parks.

YCC Crew Leaders work directly with park staff and live alongside their crew of 10 high school youth between the ages of 14-17.

"Although the work can be challenging, participants will have the opportunity to gain field experience and build their leadership skills," said Youth Engagement Coordinator Scarlett Stevens. "Crew Leaders

will have opportunities for career development training from shadowing a park employee to receiving certification in Red Cross First Aid CPR/AED, Basic Trail Building Training and Mental Health First Aid."

Room and board are provided. Crew Leader stipend for the employment period is \$6,500 that is divided into three, biweekly payments.

The dates of employment are June 5 - July 27, which includes a week of training. The program consists of two two-week sessions with crews and days for park orientation, crew preparation and clean up.

Crew Leaders will have selected

days off between sessions as well as spending time at a park in between sessions engaging in professional development opportunities.

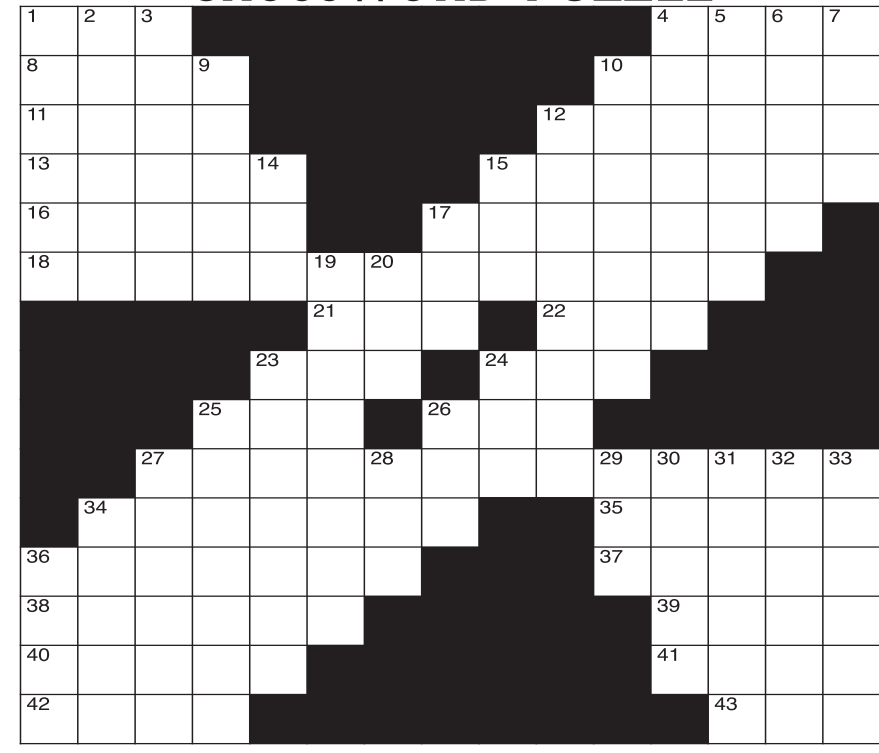
Eligible applicants must be 18 years of age, hold a valid driver's license and have previous leadership experience with youth or peers. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis beginning in January until positions are filled.

Visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/jobs> to apply.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

See Conservation, page 8

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 24. V-shaped open trough | CLUES DOWN | 23. Pokes holes in |
| 1. Tax collector | 25. Make lively | 1. Part of your foot | 24. "Star Wars" hero |
| 4. Fishes without the line touching water | 26. It accompanies feather | 2. It's at the back of the eyeball | Solo |
| 8. Brooklyn hoopsters | 27. Blonde bombshell | 3. Where things stand | 25. One in a hospital |
| 10. Actress Lathan | 34. One who revolves | 4. Offered | 26. Scandinavian god of battle |
| 11. A metric for athletes | 35. Bluish greens | 5. Contains pollen | 27. Famous cat |
| 12. Food storage location | 36. Charity | 6. Boisterous get-together | 28. Angeles: City of Angels |
| 13. Colossus | 37. Having the shape of a cube | 7. Asserts out loud | 29. Type of drug (abbr.) |
| 15. Desolations | 38. Unwind | 9. They're in the sky | 30. City along the Rhine |
| 16. Accustom to something unpleasant | 39. Believed by some to be the supreme being | 10. Canonized | 31. Animal disease |
| 17. Kubrick, filmmaker | 40. Checks or guides | 12. A politician's official stances | 32. Martini ingredients |
| 18. You might ask this at Thanksgiving | 41. Leak slowly through | 14. It can catch fish | 33. Get away |
| 21. Arkansas city | 42. Top-quality | 15. British thermal unit | 34. Rare species of rodent |
| 22. Gave food to | 43. Midway between south and southeast | 17. Helps little firms | 36. Suppress |
| 23. Request | | 19. Where patients go for treatment | |
| | | 20. Large red deer | |

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Development Engineer sought by TMEIC International Corporation in Roanoke, VA,

to research, dvlp, & deploy control s/ware, graphics, 3D rendering, & computer vision s/ware. Ability to travel, domestically & internationally, up to 25% of the time, often w/ limited notice. Min Req: Bach's Deg in Electrical Engg, or related field or foreign equiv deg. 24 months of related exp dsngng & engg automation or control systems. Demonstrated s/ware prgmg skills using C++ &/or more of the following (OpenCV, DirectX, OpenGL, C#). Proficiency in MS Office. Send resume to recruitment@tmeic.com. Ref#8016.

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 5716 LEE HIGHWAY, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 28, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$173,232.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 220000838. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on February 26, 2024, at 12:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING AT AN IRON STAKE IN THE EAST LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 11 CORNET TO BROWN (FORMERLY MRS. STEVENS), THENCE WITH BROWNS S. 56° 21' 45" E. 303.84 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE LEAVING BROWN AND WITH THE CLERK TRACT S. 35° 36' 00" W. 79.90 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 59° 36' 00" W. 293.05 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF ROUTE 11; THENCE WITH ROUTE 11 ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH A RADIUS OF 3500.00 FEET TO A CHORD OF N. 28° 35' 24" E. 96.78 FEET AND AN ARC DISTANCE OF 96.78 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE AT THE PLACE OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 0.604 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS SET FORTH IN THAT PLAT OF SURVEY BY CHARLES R. MCMURRY, CERTIFIED LAND SURVEYOR, DATED AUGUST 16, 1990. TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO USE THAT CERTAIN JOINT DRIVEWAY SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY DATED JULY 16, 1958, OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 134, PAGE 304, AS SET FORTH IN JOINT DRIVEWAY AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 23, 1968, IN DEED BOOK 184, PAGE 669 (ERRONEOUSLY SHOWN AS PAGE 660 IN PRIOR DEED). TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-367530-1.

Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER SALE OF 101 DRY BRANCH ROAD, BUCHANAN, VIRGINIA, 24066

Pursuant to a Decree of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, made and entered into November 29, 2023 in Case No. 23CL23-00036100, styled Janis P. Barrett (Plaintiff) v. Cherokee Rose Eubank (Defendant), I will, on Friday, January 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the front door of the Courthouse of Botetourt County Virginia, located in its new temporary quarters, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real estate: 101 Dry Branch Road, Buchanan, Virginia, 24066, being 2.56 acres in the Buchanan Magisterial District, Tax Map #53-4, property ID#99013634. A more accurate description can be procured as shown on a plat attached to Deed Book 128 at page 123 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia. Terms of Sale Cash (10% on the day of sale with the remainder at closing within 60 days). For further information, apply to Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner, 2721 Brambleton Avenue, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia, 24015, office telephone number: (540)772-7848, cell phone number: (540) 797-4065. I, Tommy Joe Williams, hereby certify that I have given bond, with surety, as required by the Decree. Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner

I, Tommy Moore, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, hereby certify that Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner, has given bond, as required by the Decree with Surety approved by the Court. Tommy Moore, Clerk Botetourt County Circuit Court

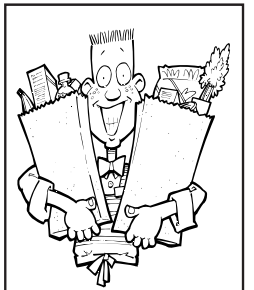
Legals - City of Salem

ABC NOTICE

FRANKLIN MART LLC., trading as Franklin mart LLC, 3001 Franklin Road SW, Roanoke City, Roanoke, VA. 24014.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store, Beer and Wine , OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Krunal Nayak Owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.



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Legals - Craig County

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that allows the continued release of treated wastewater into a water body in Craig County, Virginia. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: January 17 to February 19, 2024 PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations.

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Craig-New Castle Public Service Authority (PSA); PO Box 128, New Castle, VA 24127; VA0064599 FACILITY NAME AND ADDRESS: Craig - New Castle Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP); 370 Commerce Ave., New Castle

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The PSA has applied for reissuance of a permit for the WWTP in Craig County, Virginia. The applicant proposes to continue to release treated sewage wastewater at a rate of 175,000 gallons-per-day into a water body. Sludge from the treatment process will be stabilized, dewatered, and transported to Roanoke Valley Resource Authority for ultimate disposal in a sanitary landfill. The facility proposes to release the treated wastewaters into Craig Creek in Craig County in the James River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: organic matter, solids, physical & chemical properties, nutrients, inorganics, and bacteria.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing on the draft permit by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ must receive hand-delivery and postal mail by close of business and email and fax comments by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Susan Edwards; Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem, VA 24153; E-mail: Susan.Edwards@deq.virginia.gov; Phone: 540-562-6700.

Legals - Montgomery County

BWW# VA-360283-2 TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 105 ASTER LANE, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 27, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$190,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2007011289

The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on February 23, 2024, at 3:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING IN THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, BEING DESCRIBED AS LOT 99, PHASE V, NEW RIVER VILLAGE, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "PLAT FOR MICHAELW. AND SHANNON M. HARDWICK OF LOT NO. 99, PHASE V, NEW RIVER VILLAGE, IN THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA" TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-360283-2.

Legals - Montgomery County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 130 HELM DRIVE, ELLISTON, VA 24087.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated November 26, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$77,284.21 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2005014678 . The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on February 23, 2024, at 3:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND IN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF VA, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN BOOK 973 PAGE 241 ID# 59-A-6-5, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 5, MINOR SUBDIVISION FOR E AND V ENTERPRISE, FILED IN PLAT BOOK 973 AT PAGE 243, RECORDED 08/29/1997. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-362029-1.

Legals - Montgomery County

confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-362029-1.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. **CL230020118-00** MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MELISSA JANE MCPHERSON v. JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBI MAZUR The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBI MAZUR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 8, 2024. JANUARY 5, 2024 K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

Legals - Roanoke County

ABC NOTICE

DHRUVIN DESAI, JAPAN DESAI, ARCHANA PATEL, trading as GLENVAR MINUTE MARKET, 4145 WEST MAIN STREET, SALEM, ROANOKE COUNTY, VA, 24153, The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer, OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. DHRUVIN DESAI, OWNER

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK LINEBURG

Mark Lineburg

Lineburg back on the football sidelines

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

This fall, a familiar name will be back on the sidelines at Brookville High School.

Former coach Mark Lineburg has agreed to return to the school's football program. The Radford native led Brookville from 1992 to 1997, compiling a 49-19 record including a 1993 Division runner-up. He was also named the Region III Coach of the Year in 1997.

Following his departure from Brookville, Lineburg served as the principal at Radford High School. He then served as a school superintendent in Bristol, Amherst, Winchester and Halifax.

He admitted the fever is still there - matter of fact it never went away - and that he is crazy about high school football.

"I've always wanted to go back to coach and teach," he said. "It is incredibly exciting to coach high school football. There are so many lessons on the field each Friday night and throughout a season. And, most importantly Brookville is a special place. Lots of tradition."

Lineburg is the son of Radford football legend, Norm Lineburg, who led the Bobcats for over 37 years while compiling a 315-160-

9 record.

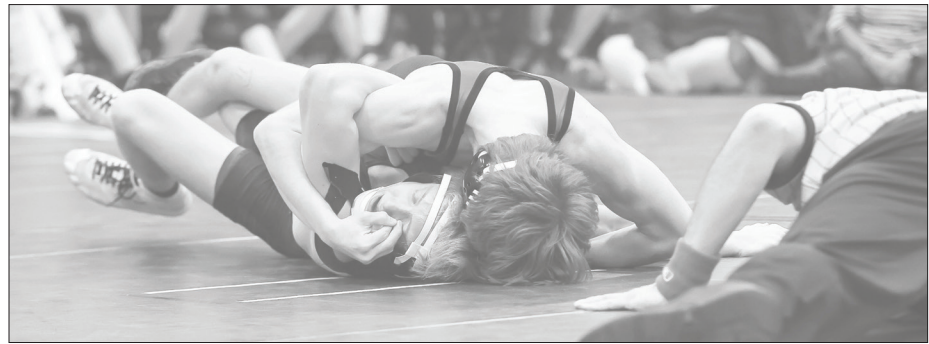
"It's been a long time since a Lineburg coached high school football," Mark said. "Dad's legacy speaks for itself. He was never known for the offense he ran or the defense he ran. But what you did know was that he inspired his teams and they played with incredible passion."

Brookville High School is a high school in Campbell County, Va. and has a current enrollment of 925 and plays athletics in the AA Region III Seminole District. Since 1988, the school has had three state runner-ups and the 1999 championship along with two in back-to-back 2011 and 2012.

"Brookville is one of those schools that is very special," Lineburg said. "It has tradition and pride. In addition, there are several members of the staff that played for me in the 90s. I love Brookville. I can't wait to go back."

He met with his new team on Friday afternoon. Lineburg replaces Jon Meeks, who stepped down following the 2023 season. He will teach English at the school. Of course, when he became a school administrator, he added the title of "Dr." to his name. So, Brookville will have a doctor on its sidelines this coming fall.

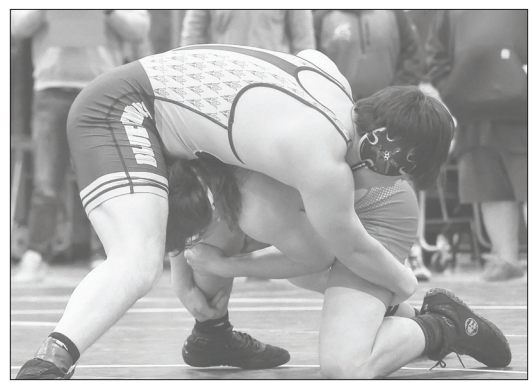
Local wrestlers compete at Big Blue Wrestling Tournament



Braden Henderson of Blacksburg took first place in the 132 class over Cameron Noell of Salem with a pin in 4:38 at Saturday's Big Blue Wrestling Tournament held at Christiansburg High School.



Holden Keller of Blacksburg took second place in 106 class, pictured wrestling Evelyn McDowell of Glenvar in a preliminary match.



Zach Cummings of Christiansburg took second place in the 175 class. He is pictured wrestling in a preliminary match with John Smith of Giles County.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Jake Robie of Christiansburg took first place in the 165 class with a pin in 1:52 over West Wingate of Cave Spring Saturday at the Big Blue Wrestling Tournament. Pictured wrestling Tolin Saul of Salem in a quarterfinal match.

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Salem High School is the 2024 Big Blue Wrestling Tournament champs. Salem had eight wrestlers in the in the finals this weekend in Christiansburg to take the team title with 220 points.

Cave Spring finished second with 209 points, Powhatan was third at 204 and Blacksburg fourth with 168.5 points.

Glenvar finished fifth with host-Christiansburg in seventh.

Defending state champ Brady Hand, of Christiansburg, won the team championship at 138 pounds. Hand downed Talan Harness of Powhatan.

Hand's teammate, Jacob Robie took the title at 165 pounds in a win over West Wingate of Cave Spring. Zachary Cummings finished as runner-up at 175, and Brandon Bevens was third at 190.

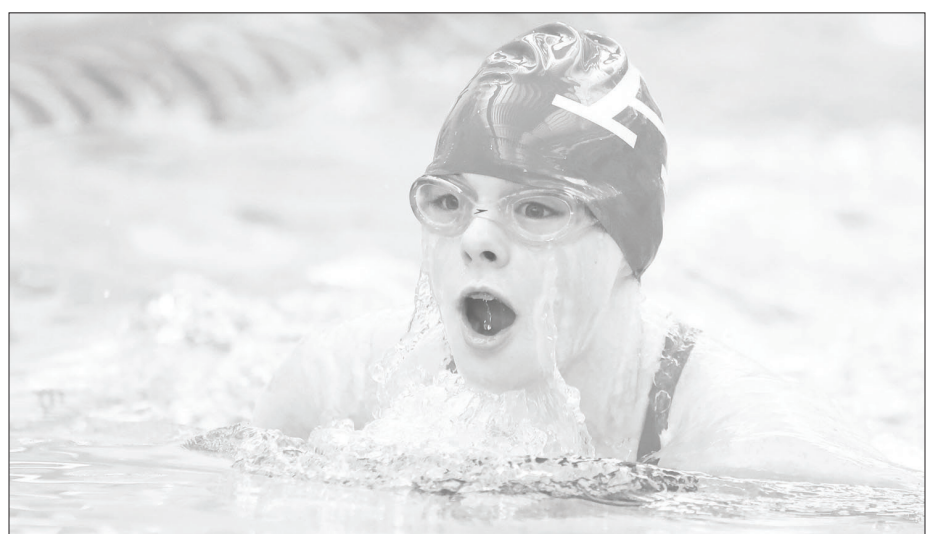
Christiansburg's Brady Hand was also named the Dean Underwood 2024 Outstanding Wrestler for the event. Christiansburg's Evan Mefford was third at 114.

On the Blacksburg side of the mat, Braden Henderson took the 132 title. Holden Keller was a runner-up at 106 and Tyson Brown at 215. Blacksburg's Hudson Beeken also received the Jackie Toney Memorial Scholarship. Jackson Mann finished third at 165 pounds, and Cyrus Wheeler was third at 113.

Christiansburg Aquatic Center hosts swim meet



Christiansburg's Marcus Gallagher placed fourth in the 200-yard IM during Thursday's swim meet hosted by the Blue Demons.



Auburn's Jovie Phelps swims breaststroke for the Eagles' 200-yard medley relay during the meet held at the Christiansburg Aquatics Center.



Christiansburg's Gavin Winn swims in the 200-yard freestyle during a Thursday night home meet.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Christiansburg's Viktoria Zeff won the 200-yard freestyle during a Thursday night meet hosted by the Blue Demons.

Tech men break pool records on senior day

Virginia Tech swept the tri-meet against Princeton and Penn State at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center for Senior Day on Jan. 20. On the women's side, Tech defeated Princeton 162-138 and toppled Penn State 218-82. For the men, the Hokies beat Princeton 198-102 and Penn State 208-92.

Before the meet, eight seniors were honored for all their hard work. Congratulations to Abraham Apfel, Emma Atkinson, Lauren Barakey, Caroline Bentz, Allison Henry, Alex Neff, Collin Myburgh and Chase Travis.

Tech Women

Starting out, the relay team featuring senior Emma Atkinson, Fanni Gyurinovics, Emily Claesson and Carmen Weiler Sastre placed second in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:39.40.

Travis blew the competition out of the water, winning the 1000 Freestyle by 17 seconds with a time of 9:43.61. Travis then won the 500 free, swimming a 4:47.74.

Atkinson won the 200 free with an impressive time of 1:46.78. Atkinson also won the 200 backstroke, swimming a 1:54.40. In second for the 200 back was Weiler Sastre, swimming a 1:56.12.

Weiler Sastre swam a 53:35 in the 100 backstroke, taking first place.

In the 100 breaststroke, Charlotte Rigg finished in second with a time of 1:03.09. Later, Rigg placed third in the 200 breast, swimming a 2:16.56.

Bentz took first place in the 100 freestyle with a time of 48:73. Bentz also won the 50 free with a time of 22.43. Brooke Zettel placed third in the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:00.72.

To finish out the day, the Hokies placed second and third in the 400 free relay.

Tech Men

The meet was highlighted by a pool record 200 medley relay, set by Youssef Ramadan, Carles Coli Marti, William Hayon and Brendan Whitfield with a time of 1:23.81. They hold the sixth-fastest time in the country.

The Hokies earned two top spots in the 1000, Nico Garcia winning with a time of 9:05.35 and Lee Naber in third with a time of 9:07.56.

Luis Dominguez Calogne placed second in the 200 freestyle, swimming a 1:34.49. Brendan Lee placed third with a time of 1:35.78.

Marti won the 100 breaststroke with a time of 54:48. AJ Pouch placed third, with a time of 54.10. Pouch also won the 200 breast, with a time of 1:54.84. Joseph Hong placed third in the event, swimming a 1:59.34.

Carl Bloebaum won the 200 fly, swimming a 1:46.58.

Ramadan won the 50 free at 19:51, and Hayon placed third in the event with a time of 20.26. Garcia showed his versatility in the water today, winning the 200 back with a time of 1:45.28.

In the 500 freestyle, the Hokies took first and second place: Dominguez Calogne swam a 4:23.35, and Naber swam a 4:46.17.

In the 100 fly, Ramadan earned first with a time of 45:58. William Hayon placed third in the event with a time of 47:25.

The Hokies ended well, winning the 400 free relay with a time of 2:52.48 by the quartet of Ramadan, Whitfield, Dominguez Calogne, and Mario Molla Yanes.

Diving

On the boards, the Hokies didn't disappoint. Grace Austin earned first place in women's platform with a score of 244.50. Austin then earned second in the women's 3 meter with a score of 295.50. Miah Fisher won the women's 1 meter with an overall score of 268.00.

Up Next

The Hokies host the Virginia Tech Invitational Feb. 2-4 at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Appalachian Christian downs Dayspring



Dayspring's Nathaniel Delp shoots a layup during a Thursday night game against Appalachian Christian Academy. Delp would score seven points for the Lions.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Dayspring senior guard Caedman Williams led his team with 24 points in a 53-64 loss to the Appalachian Christian Academy Eagles in a Thursday night home game.

EMHS Baseball holds fundraising cornhole tourney



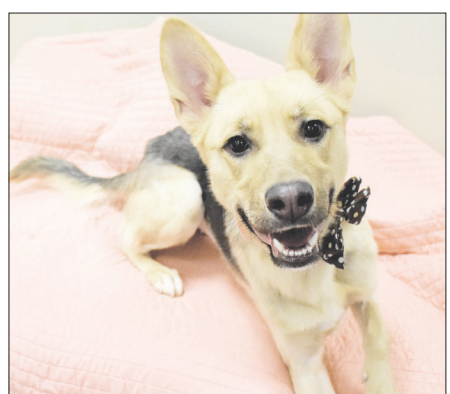
PHOTO COURTESY OF EMHS

Eastern Montgomery High School baseball held a cornhole tournament on Saturday, Jan. 20 as a team fundraiser. The double-elimination tournament included 22 teams. Glen Stallard and Robbie Lewis (pictured) were the overall winners.

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Conservation

from page 4

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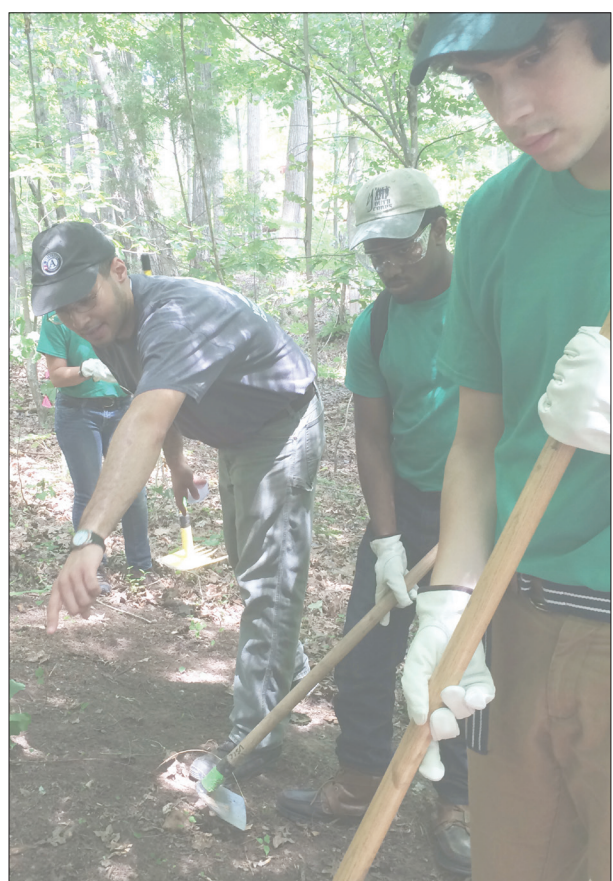


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Crew Leader working with crew members on park project.

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