



# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, February 10, 2024

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## Work on Merrimac tunnel pushes passenger rail costs upward

Officials from the Virginia Rail Authority say bringing passenger rail service to the New River Valley will be more costly than first expected.

In figures released last week, costs could reach \$1 billion.

At the center of the future plans is a train tunnel that is almost one mile long. The Merrimac tunnel was built in the early 1930's and has undergone some work in the past 10 years to allow "double-stacked" freight cars. But with the increase in speeds from a planned Amtrak service and the need for new safety measures, the tunnel is facing some major improvements.

Under the National Fire Protection Association standard, this would include construction of three ventilation fan banks that would be installed throughout the tunnel. In addition, work would have to be done to widen the tunnel to accommodate emergency walkways at the track level.

Also, a 15-story and a 20-story shaft would have to be driven to the surface to allow for emergency access.

The state of Virginia has purchased the former Virginia Line, which runs from Salem through the tunnel. Any travel westward would still have to progress through the tunnel and in the case of Christiansburg, a secondary track would have to be laid down to allow a train to move into Christiansburg.

The initial plan was to have passenger service up and running to the New River Valley by this year. Now, the earliest any type of service could start is 2028.

When the plan was unveiled, there was talk a train station would be located near the New River Mall. That could also be changing.

During last week's public information, the Virginia agency floated three alternatives.

Alternative A would cost an estimated \$366 million with work on the Slate Hill tunnel with a platform and possible layover facility along Cinnabar Road.

Alternative B would include a mall site with work on both tunnels with a needed connector track that would bring the service to the mall at a cost of \$785 million.

Alternative C would be the costliest at \$951 million with the mall site and a Cinnabar platform.

Officials deeper in western Virginia, including those in Bristol, are hoping the service can be extended all the way there, but again would require some major work to the infrastructure including the Merrimac tunnel.

### MERRIMAC TUNNEL IMPROVEMENTS

**Key Infrastructure:**

- Following National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 130 (industry standard for passenger rail);
- Three ventilation fan banks installed throughout the mile-long tunnel;
- Extend width of tunnel to accommodate emergency egress walkways at track level;
- One 15-story and one 20-story vertical shaft from surface to track level to allow for emergency egress and first responder access.

Merrimac Tunnel

VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

#### ALTERNATIVE A: SERVICE TO CINNABAR ROAD ONLY

**Cinnabar Rd Site**  
Service Start: Q2 2028  
Cost (2027 USD): \$366 million (FY 24 NRV budget \$1.66M)

#### ALTERNATIVE B: SERVICE TO NRV MALL ONLY

**NRV Mall Site**  
Service Start: Q2 2030  
Cost (2029 USD): \$785 million

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

Recent conceptual drawings of the proposed passenger rail service in the New River Valley.

Staff report



One teacher from each school in the MCPS district was selected as a nominee for Teacher of the Year 2023-24.

## Candance Carrier named MCPS Teacher of the Year

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - During the Tuesday, Feb. 6 Montgomery County Public School Board meeting, MCPS Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Barbara Wickham presented awards to the Montgomery County Public School's Teachers of the Year, Candance Carrier, and nominees from each school in the district.

"The program is open to all teachers from Pre-K

See Carrier, page 3



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCPS

Montgomery County Public School Board Chair Linwood Hudson, MCPS Teacher of the 2023-24 Year Candance Carrier, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Barbara Wickham, Superintendent Dr. Bernard Bragen, and Patrick Moran.

## Blacksburg man arrested for child pornography

BLACKSBURG - A Blacksburg man is being held on multiple charges of possession of child pornography.

According to the Blacksburg Police Department, "on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, officers with the Blacksburg Police Department served a search warrant at a residence in the 900 block of University City Blvd. regarding an ongoing investigation into the possession of child pornography."

"During the search of the residence, officers located 20-year-old Jackson John Daughenbaugh, who was taken into

custody," the BPD statement continued. "Daughenbaugh was charged with five counts of possession of child pornography and is being held in the Western Virginia Regional Jail with no bond."

BPD said this an active investigation and anyone with information about the case should contact the Blacksburg Police Department at (540) 443-1400. You can remain anonymous by calling the Blacksburg Police Tip Line at (540) 961-1819 or emailing ciu@blacksburg.gov.

Staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF BPD

Jackson John Daughenbaugh

## Gentry Locke chosen to conduct third-party review of BHS actions

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Gentry Locke Law Firm was unanimously approved by MCPS School Board to conduct a third-party review into administration actions taken in connection with the Blacksburg High School murder-suicide that occurred in November 2023.

The event has left a community asking questions about the handling of teen intimate violence and sexual harassment in the county's

high schools.

The board voted for the review at their Jan. 30 meeting following a petition from BHS students, parents, and other community members. Principal Chris Stewart of Blacksburg High School was placed on a leave of absence from the school. Stewart had only taken the position of leadership at BHS a few weeks prior to the tragic event that resulted in the deaths of two students found in a Blacksburg parking garage. Students

See BHS, page 4

## School calendar, budget discussed at MCPS board meeting

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - The proposed 2024-25 Montgomery County School Board calendar is heading back to committee after discussion at the regular Montgomery County School Board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 6.

James Lyons, of Christiansburg, spoke to the board concerning the school calendar and the calendar committee, of which he is a member.

"My concerns are about two of the changes that were made without our approval, or even our consent with it. First has to do with changing the weeklong spring break. We were given a directive to try to fit that in around Easter and then it was moved to coincide I believe at the end of third quarter, which coincides with Tech and Radford's spring break," Lyons said.

Lyons said that there are many reasons that he believes it is not a good

See MCPS, page 4



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Feb. 10:

### Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will be serving up hot biscuits topped with delicious sausage gravy, or with the latest batch of our "world-famous" apple butter. We will also have scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg; 8 – 10 a.m. This is below the sanctuary, on the lower church parking lot level. This is a fundraiser for our club to help us as we serve our community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. More information at <https://fb.com/MtTaborRuritan>.

## Sunday, Feb. 11 – Sunday, Feb. 25:

### Black History Month speakers

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg, will observe Black History Month each Sunday in February starting at 11 a.m. during church services. The theme "Community - Bringing Hope to a Weary World" will be shared by guest speakers: Feb. 11, 2024- Ms. Stacie Wright; Feb. 18, 2024- Dr. Frederick Douglass Dixon; Feb. 25, 2024- Ms. Demiah Smith. Asbury UMC regular services are each Sunday at 11 a.m. Rev. Lance Presley, Pastor. Please join us! For additional information, please call 540-382-0743.

## 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](http://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.

## Thursday, Feb. 15:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Will Reed will speak on "Animals of the War Between the States". If Montgomery and/or Floyd County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Saturday, Feb. 17:

### Community Garden planning session

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1 – 3 p.m. First meeting for people interested in a community garden in the Shawsville/ Ellison area.

## Sunday, Feb. 18:

### Quaker Open House

What is a Quaker? The Blacksburg Friends Meeting (Quakers) welcome all to find out at our Open House, 9:45 - 11 a.m. Join us at our Meeting house at 404 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, for a tour and question/answer period at 9:45 a.m., short open worship (with activities for children) at 10 a.m. and fellowship. Children are welcome with accompanying adult. Our underlying principles revolve around the belief that there is that of God in everyone. This leads us to promote peace, simplicity, equality, integrity, community and stewardship. For more information about the Blacksburg Friends Meeting and the event, please visit [www.blacksburgfriends.org](http://www.blacksburgfriends.org).

## Monday, Feb. 19:

### The Dinos are coming!

Looking for a fun, family-friendly activity to enjoy together? Join us 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg

Community Center for Dino Squad! Explore fossils, cast replicas and museum models of dinosaurs during this interactive, educational program. \$3/child, \$2/ additional child. Adults free when accompanying a child. Register in advance online, or in-person at the door. Keyword search "Dino Squad", activity number: 201014. For more information, call 540.443.1100.

## Saturday, February 24:

### Soul food tasting event

Celebrate Black History Month and take a step back in time at the 7th annual Soul Food Sampling at historic St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall (SLOFH), where generations met to enjoy delicious food, music, and fellowship. In this spirit, you will receive generous portions of traditional soul foods at dinner table settings, learn about the history of soul food, and enjoy discussions with former New Town residents. There are three time slots for the event, each capped at 18 people: 12 – 1:45 p.m., 2 – 3:45 p.m., and 4 – 5:45 p.m. Tickets \$37 per person and available at the SLOFH Soul Food Sampling Page.

## On-going:

### 2024 Blacksburg Citizens Institute

Do you want to learn more about the Town of Blacksburg? Are you a new resident, retiree, or just someone who wants to get involved in the community? Join us for the 2024 Citizens Institute to meet town staff and to learn about the functions of your local government. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from April – June 6- 8 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and must be residents of the Town of Blacksburg. Space is filling up fast! To register and to learn more, contact the Community Relations Office at [cro@blacksburg.gov](mailto:cro@blacksburg.gov) or call 540-443-1090.

### 2024 business license reminder

Town of Blacksburg business license renewal forms for 2024 are due by Friday, March 1, 2024. Businesses are assessed an annual license tax based on prior year's annual gross receipts. Renewals not filed and paid by March 1, 2024, are subject to a 10% penalty and interest at a rate of 10% per annum. Renewal packets were mailed Jan. 2, 2024. If you have not received the packet, email [businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov](mailto:businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov) or call 540.961.1108.

### Call for Coaches: 2024 spring season

Blacksburg Parks and Recreation is seeking coaches for the following sports during the 2024 spring season (March – July): Boys Majors baseball, ages 11-12; Boys Minors baseball, ages 9-10; Girls softball (No majors), ages 9-12; Girls coach pitch softball, ages 7-8; Coach Pitch baseball, ages 7-8. If interested, please contact Marty Gordon at 540-443-1105 or [mgordon@blacksburg.gov](mailto:mgordon@blacksburg.gov).

## Service sorority to honor Valentine Queen

The Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority in Christiansburg will honor Lillian VanLear as their 2024 Valentine Queen on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 at Bull and Bones, Christiansburg.

VanLear has been an active member of the Sorority since pledging to a Clifton Forge Chapter in 1969. She joined the Alpha Mu Master Chapter when her family moved to Christiansburg.

During her 55 years of membership, VanLear has served in a variety of offices and on numerous committees. She has been honored as Woman of the Year and Valentine Queen. VanLear is known for her creative and informative cultural programs.

A highlight of her membership was when she was honored with the Golden Circle Ritual, recognizing her 50 years of active membership at an impressive candlelight Ritual.

VanLear has contributed to the betterment of the Chapter and has given special participation to the varied Service Projects which help members of our community in many ways. She made and donated a handmade quilt to the Montgomery Relay for Life and has donated many handmade items for Operation Christmas Child and other missions that assist others. She is a gifted seamstress, needle worker and a very skilled quilter.

VanLear will be crowned by Doris Caldwell, last year's queen, following a welcome from Carolyn K. Sowers of the Social Committee.

She is a retired history and geography teacher with the Montgomery County Public Schools and resides in Christiansburg.

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority



Lillian VanLear

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI

## NRCC hosting student art and poetry contests

New River Community College (NRCC) is hosting poet laureate and visual artist competitions for students this spring, along with 21 other Virginia Community College System (VCCS) institutions.

Supported by the VCCS Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Culture, the theme for the competitions is "I Belong." The winner of the college poetry contest at each college will be considered for honors as the "Poet Laureate for Virginia's Community Colleges."

The art and poetry competitions are open to students who are enrolled at least

part-time in adult education, workforce credential, certificate, or degree programs at NRCC and live in the NRCC service region. Dual enrollment or early college students under age 18 must secure parent or guardian permission to participate in the competitions. Students may enter original work for either or both competitions at NRCC and will need to complete an application.

Those applying for the college poet laureate must submit three original poems, including one tied to the theme, and be prepared to give a live performance of the theme-related poem. Students vying for the art Luminary award through the visual arts competition will submit one original piece. Works accepted for the visual arts competition are limited to drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture.

Dr. Tammy Parks, NRCC professor of art, is the college's competition coordinator. Those who

See NRCC, page 3

# Business REVIEW

Time to Brag About **YOUR** Business!

YOUR story - YOUR employees - YOUR message in our Business Review Edition on February 28-29 Write your own story & advertisement with pictures of your staff and/or business - Deadline February 21st

TO ADVERTISE,

Call Wendi Craig (276) 340-2445

[advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

## 118th ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER



February 13, 2024 • 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
Grace Episcopal Church  
210 Fourth Street, Radford, VA

Proceeds will benefit Radford/Fairlawn Daily Bread. Cash or card donations accepted at the door.

# DMV, Virginia State Police remind drivers to make a game night game plan

## Plan a sober ride and never drink and drive

RICHMOND – The big game is right around the corner and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Virginia State Police (VSP) urge drivers to have a game plan to ensure a safe and sober ride home.

“You often hear people say, ‘the best defense is a good offense’ and when it

comes to preventing drunk driving that is so true,” said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor’s Highway Safety Representative. “If you choose to go out and celebrate with alcohol, please make sure you have a plan before you go out, to get home safely. And never drink and drive. We want to make sure that

when the game is over everyone makes it home safely.”

On Super Bowl Sunday 2023, in Virginia there were 28 crashes involving alcohol and two fatalities (12 p.m. Feb. 12, 2023 - 3 a.m. Feb. 13, 2023). For the past three years, at least one life was lost in an alcohol-related crash the night of the Super Bowl. Twenty-three drivers were charged with driving while intoxicated on Super Bowl Sunday by VSP Troopers last year. DMV and VSP urge Virginians to work together to make this Super Bowl Sunday a night of zero alcohol related fatalities or DUIs.

State and local law enforcement will be out helping keep drivers and vulnerable road users safe. VSP

Troopers will be increasing visibility on the roads around game time to ensure people can watch and get home safely.

“We understand people want to celebrate the game with family and friends, and that those celebrations may include alcohol,” said Col. Gary Settle, Superintendent of Virginia State Police. “We want Virginians to choose to find a safe way home if one’s Super Bowl party includes alcohol. Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs puts yourself and others at risk. Avoid this by having a plan in advance that involves a sober driver or alternative transportation.”

If caught drinking and driving, you

See Drivers, page 6

# NRCC

from page 1

have questions about the contest may contact Parks at [tparks@nr.edu](mailto:tparks@nr.edu).

For more information, visit [https://www.vccs.edu/blog/poetry-and-](https://www.vccs.edu/blog/poetry-and-arts-contests-launched-at-most-vccs-colleges/)

arts-contests-launched-at-most-vccs-colleges/. Students can submit entries online at <https://bit.ly/NRCCartscontest>. The deadline for entry

submissions is March 1.

New River Community College

# Carrier

from page 1

through grade 12 including school librarians, school counselors and reading specialists. Candidates must be dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled, and plan to continue in an active teaching status,” Wickham said. “The program provides school divisions the opportunity to recognize outstanding teachers, and to focus positive public attention on education and the teaching profession.”

Mr. Patrick Moran, of Horace Mann, accompanied Wickham during the presentation. Moran provides the glass apples that are presented to each winning teacher of the special award.

The school level winners for Teacher of the Year are:

- Pre-K Teacher Kara Thurman, Auburn Elementary School
- 4th Grade Teacher Haley Conner, Belview Elementary
- 4th Grade Teacher Melissa Howes, Christiansburg Elementary

Reading Specialist Peggy Kincaid, Christiansburg Primary

3rd Grade Teacher Sherri Kinley, Falling Branch Elementary

Kindergarten Teacher Carly Hansen, Gilbert Linkous Elementary

Librarian Lisa Gay-Milliken, Harding Avenue Elementary

4th Grade Teacher Allison Dinkle, Kipps Elementary

2nd Grade Teacher Megan Ridgley, Margaret Beeks Elementary

3rd Grade Teacher Lori Mefford, Price’s Fork Elementary

Health/P.E. Teacher Kelley Surphin, Eastmont Elementary

Reading Specialist Stacy Hollandsworth, Auburn Middle

History Teacher Jessica Ratcliffe, Blacksburg Middle

History Teacher Joseph Caldwell, Christiansburg Middle School

6th Grade English Teacher Harley McCain, Shawsville Middle

Special Education Teacher Becky Gosney, Auburn High School

Science Teacher Emilyne Danielson, Christiansburg High School

Reading Specialist Kearah Donato, Eastmont High School

English Teacher Angie Whitt, Montgomery Central

“Division superintendents are invited to nominate one teacher for state level recognition. These nominees will then be considered for regional teacher of the year awards and the Virginia Teacher of the Year will be selected from among those eight regional teachers of the year. Our division teacher of the year has submitted a portfolio to the Virginia Department of Education for consideration,” Wickham said.

A video Carrier was presented to the audience.

Carrier is the instructor of courses in Small Engine

Repair and the Dual-enrolled Welding program that includes three different welding courses available to MCPS students through New River Community College. Carrier reflected on her goals as a teacher in the video.

“I tell [the students] all the time ‘progress not perfection,’” Carrier said. “The goal is to get better and better every day.”

Students that spoke in support of Carrier during the video expressed how she has helped them to not only see different ways of doing things but also to grow as an individual.

“I feel like if you can build a relationship with a kid, you can teach them anything,” Carrier said.

As a woman in the agriculture teaching field, colleagues, and students both expressed her inspiration to other women considering this area of work.

Other awards during the

school board meeting recognized Seniors of the Month for

February 2024 in their dedication to hard work and contributions to their high schools through involvement in academics, clubs, arts, and athletics as well as support to fellow students.

Principal Mr. David Hurd from Auburn High School presented Madison Litton with the February Senior of the Month award.

Mrs. Guylene Wood-Setzer, Acting Principal for Blacksburg High School, acknowledged Lucas Carl Mertes as the February Senior of the Month.

Rylie Grace Horning of Christiansburg High School was named February Senior of the Month by Principal Shane Guynn.

Senior of the Month for February also, Ashton Lafon of Eastern Montgomery High School was presented with her award by Principal Todd Lewis.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Shah Development LLC, Property Owner, and Kevin Conner, Applicant, to allow single-family dwellings at a maximum of one single-family dwelling on each of three lots meeting the Residential District (R-3) standards on approximately 0.430 acres located at 685 Liberty St., NE; identified as Tax Parcels 528-(2)-46A; 528-(2)-48A; 528-(2)-50A; Parcel IDs 160387, 002758, 160388; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. B. Conditional Use Permit request by Last Resort, Inc., Property Owner, and Joseph L. Simmons, Applicant, to allow multiple-family dwellings (apartments) meeting the Residential District (R-3) standards on approximately 4.841 acres located on the south side of Cambria St. NW, West of the Town of Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1600 N Franklin St. NW; identified as Tax Parcels 466-(A)-8C, 466-(A)-8C2; Parcel IDs 032702, 210032; zoned General Business District B-3. There is not a proposed number of units for the development. The maximum permitted residential density is 20 dwelling units per acre. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. C. Conditional Use Permit request by Roger Woody,

### Legals - Montgomery County

Registered Agent, RWW 36 LLC, Property Owner, and Denise E. LaCour, Managing Director, Denstock LLC, Applicant, to allow a Planned Housing Development of 206 multi-family residential dwelling units on approximately 18.82 acres located at the terminus of Farmview Road NE, consisting of all of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-41, Parcel ID 017576; a portion of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-36, Parcel ID 021677; all of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-37, Parcel ID 032861; a portion of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-38, Parcel ID 021678; all of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-39, Parcel ID 021679; all of Tax Parcel 436-(A)-40, Parcel ID 021680; and a portion of 436-(6)-35, Parcel ID 033701; 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 applications, 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](mailto: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 County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on February 12, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St.,

### Legals - Montgomery County

Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors’ intention to act on the following request: A request by Shah Development, LLC (Agent: Foresight Design Services) to rezone 5.57 acres from Conservation (C-1) to Planned Unit Development - Residential (PUD-RES) and 21.148 acres from Manufacturing (M-1) to Planned Unit Development - Residential (PUD-RES), to allow for the development of a total of up to eighty-eight (88) single-family residential and two-family residential (duplex) dwellings, and twenty (20) single-family attached residential (townhomes) dwellings. The property is located on Houchins Road (State Rt. 758), approximately 0.15 miles east of the intersection of Houchins Road and Brammer Lane. The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-A 46 (Parcel ID: 018437), 13.586 acres, and Tax Map 080- A 44 (Parcel ID: 018441), 13.132 acres, in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property lies in an area designated as Urban Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on February 12, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the

### Legals - Montgomery County

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 request: A request by Shah Development, LLC (Agent: Foresight Design Services) to amend the proffered conditions approved as part of the rezoning of the property located at 3966 Prices Fork Road, originally approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 11, 2019. The proposed amendments would allow any of the following by-right uses, as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, to be permitted on the property: automotive, light truck, sales, service, rental, and repair, without motor fuel sales; bed and breakfast inn; cabinet shop, furniture, upholstery, craft industry of less than one thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet; church; civic club; community center; conference or training center; day care facility; farm machinery sales and service; financial services; fire, police, rescue facility; garden center; general, convenience store less than three thousand (3,000) square feet, without motor fuel sales; library; medical care facility; office, administrative, business or professional less than three thousand (3,000) square feet; park, unlighted; pet, household; post office; printing service; public use, public facility; public utility lines, other; public utility lines, water and/or sewer; restaurant; retail sales and services less than three thousand (3,000) square feet; roadside stand; school; school of special instruction; or telecommunication tower, attached. The proposed amendment to the proffered conditions also includes proposed conditions related to site improvements, landscaping, and lighting. The property is located at 3966 Prices Fork Road (State Route 685), at the intersection of Prices Fork Road and Kyle’s Way. The property is further identified as Tax Map Numbers 052-A-32A (Parcel ID: 017475), totaling 1.5 acres, currently zoned Community Business (CB) in the Price’s Fork Magisterial District.

### 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 Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Code Amendment request by Joe Simmons, Applicant, and Jack Martin, Registered Agent, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-9 – Lighting and minimum off-street parking (a) Specific requirements by use. The request is to include additional language to the “Retail Store or personal service establishment and banks” minimum off-street parking spaces requirement to exclude non-public areas such as stock rooms and storage areas from the overall minimum parking calculation for a building. A copy of the application and the Town’s Zoning Ordinance 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](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

**MAKE AN “A” IN ADVERTISING!**  
Call 389-9355

### 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 Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 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. Rezoning request by Radford Development of Virginia, LLC, Property Owner, and Hy-Tek Collision, LLC, Applicant, to rezone property located on the East side of the intersection of Badger Street NW and Elk Drive NW, identified as Tax Parcel 525-(A)-44A; (Parcel ID 026060), consisting of approximately 2.265 acres, from B-3 General Business District to I-1 Limited Industrial District. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. B. Conditional Use Permit request by Radford Development of Virginia, LLC, Property Owner, and Hy-Tek Collision, LLC, Applicant, to allow for automobile and truck or recreation vehicle assembling, painting, upholstering, repairing, rebuilding or reconditioning, body or fender work, including a commercial garage, towing service, or automobile body shop in the I-1 Limited Industrial zoning district on property located on the East side of the intersection of Badger Street NW and Elk Drive NW, identified as Tax Parcel 525-(A)-44A; (Parcel ID 026060), and consisting of approximately 2.265 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use

### Legals - Montgomery County

Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, 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](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

**Classified Advertising DELIVERS**

# BHS from page 1

have petitioned for Stewart to return to his position at BHS, citing that he was not the administrator at that school when the event occurred.

In the public address portion of the Tuesday, Nov. 6 regular meeting of the Montgomery County Public School Board, Natasha Croy of Christiansburg

addressed the Board concerning a no-contact order that her eighth grade son was "forced to sign without parental notification".

According to Croy, the order was requiring her son to stay away from a previous sixth grade girlfriend whom she says he has not had contact with for

over a year. According to Croy, her son was reported by other students to the bullying tip line. The letterhead of the no-contact order her son signed also does not reflect accurate information about the current police department, she said.

The resource officer that signed the document along with her son, was said to

have stated that it is not a legal document and has no legal bearing on students. The document is supposedly used as a tool of intimidation to curb behavior. Croy has requested her son's discipline records through the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) process but has yet to receive them.

# MCPS from page 1

idea to schedule spring break at the same time as the local universities but did not state what they were during the meeting.

Additionally, Lyons said that he agrees that a 180-calendar year

for students is a great idea. He asked that the committee be allowed to continue to reassess and make changes to the calendar before it is decided on.

MCPS Board discussed

the concerns of having a weeklong spring break and the impact it has on getting students back on track after a lengthy break. Board members also examined reducing the number of teacher workdays or moving a teacher workday to create more balanced non-instructional days for teachers. Additionally, School Board Member Jamie Bond shared concerns about starting the school year a day earlier on August 12, 2024.

The Board decided to send their top choice of the two calendar options back to the committee for further changes, with parameters of what they have discussed.

Blacksburg teacher and resident Glen Chilcote shared concerns for the FY 2024-25 MCPS proposed budget, which may still be many months from a final decision.

"I've been doing this long enough now to know that the Board of Supervisors will probably give us less than what we're asking for," Chilcote said. "They always do. So, if we don't get what we need, what then?"

Chilcote did not wish to see additional healthcare costs added to Montgomery County School employees that might take away from the 5% proposed that he feels is "so deserved."

Bob Beard of Christiansburg echoed thoughts of the loss of learning that the 180-calendar year for MCPS is trying to address as a good idea.

During the business

portion of the business meeting, Dr. Bernard Bragen gave the Superintendent report.

National School Counseling Week was first on Bragen's agenda, which occurs Feb. 5-9 this year. The school board unanimously voted to approve acknowledgment of this national week of attention to the importance of counseling for our students.

Auburn Middle School teacher Philip Ashby has applied and been accepted into the Virginia Space Grant Consortium by the Institute of Competitive Sciences. His classes will be competing in the Plant the Moon challenge. The program encourages students to imagine the habitation of the moon and Mars, considering necessary accommodations for explorers to safely live in space. More information about the program can be found at [www.planthemoon.com](http://www.planthemoon.com)

"To enhance the instruction he was doing in his technology class, he became aware of a grant that was mostly related in northern Virginia, but they didn't have enough recipients to complete it, so he applied," Bragen said. "When he applied, he got accepted, and now our students are going to be competing in this nationwide activity. It's something we should be very proud of."

Bragen was very impressed by the excitement of the children when he made a recent visit to Auburn Middle School while

they conducted a rocket experiment.

Auburn High School also wishes to develop an eSports arena for this fast-growing and popular electronic team sport. The Blacksburg High School also currently has a team as well and Bragen feels that this is an important opportunity to offer to County students. A supplemental appropriation had been included on the agenda for approval of \$40,000.

"Over 600 colleges offer teams as well as scholarships," Bragen said. "It is a humongous trend globally."

"I think it's going to be a wonderful opportunity for our students; however, as we are in the middle of budget and we know that our support staff is not compensated as they should be, and that we may be trying to put extra burden on our employees with the healthcare plan, I think we should hold off on this and put this money towards our budget," Board member Penny Franklin said.

"If I could just clarify that these are capital appropriations and the capital funds are already designated to capital that we couldn't improve in our, we couldn't put them in our operating budget," Board Chair Linwood Hudson said.

"Okay, so, let's put it somewhere else in the budget with capital," Franklin said.

Jamie Bond voted yes on eSports appropriations of funds. Bond said that it is important to provide opportunities

for all students in the county with a variety of extracurricular activities. Dana Partin felt that the use of capital funds for student activities would be appropriate since it cannot be used for other specific things in the operating budget and voted yes as well.

The funds were approved with only one nay from Franklin.

Additionally, current before and after care programs for elementary schools in the County has given notice that they will stop offering services. Heart and Hand Early Development Center has been selected from a committee after a broad search and review of submitted bids. Heart and Hand offered the most affordable option and happened to also be a local business, Bragen said.

A supplemental appropriation of \$60,000 for Eastern Montgomery's track facility has been unanimously approved. The Board was very excited about this approval and voiced their consent readily that this was a long time coming.

In new business, the Board agreed that a future discussion should happen surrounding cell phone usage in the county's school system.

"I think it is incumbent on this district to take up this issue," Board member Edward Gitre said.

Partin agreed with this suggestion and felt that illegal activity and social media issues happening at the hands of students with cell phones has been a problem for some time.

## News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: [www.ourvalley.org](http://www.ourvalley.org)

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

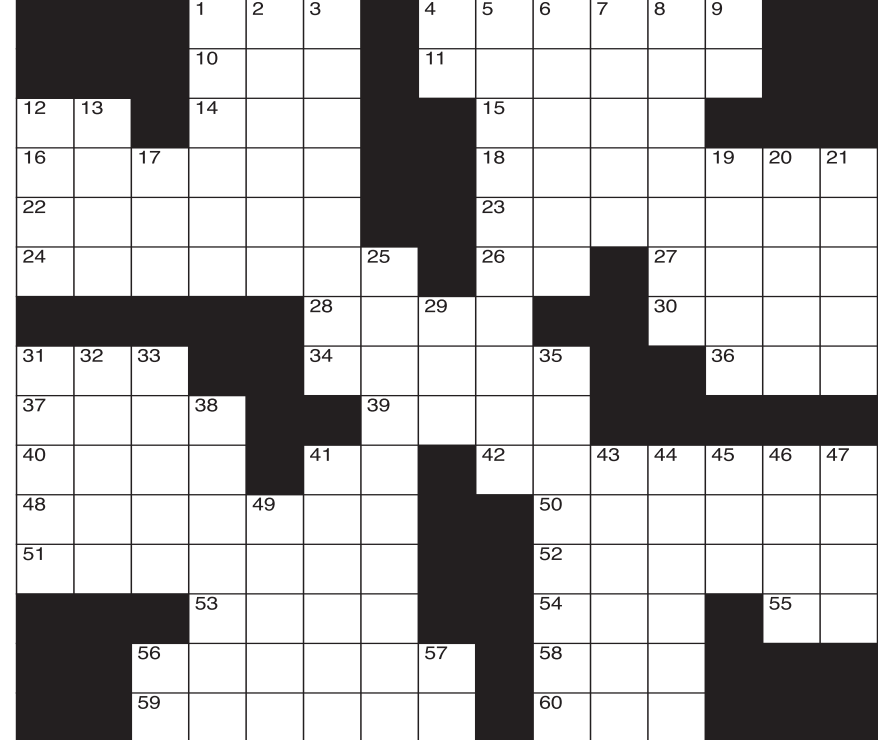
### Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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 \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 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.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point east of due south
- 4. City in Maine
- 10. Inquire too closely
- 11. Make dirty
- 12. Small Greek island
- 14. Bitterly regret
- 15. Millisecond
- 16. \_\_\_ the ante
- 18. Without value
- 22. Eurasian ryegrass
- 23. Authentic
- 24. Having a mournful quality
- 26. Not out
- 27. Salvador \_\_\_, Spanish artist
- 28. Cargo (abbr.)
- 30. This (Spanish)
- 31. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. One of the four seasons
- 2. Its sultan is famous
- 3. A lens for correcting defective vision in one eye
- 4. College degree
- 5. Soldiers need it
- 6. Japanese car manufacturer
- 7. A way to address
- 8. Obstruct
- 9. Atomic number 45
- 12. Ill-mannered
- 13. Opaque gem
- 17. Indicates before
- 19. Remove
- 20. Populous Argentine city

### CLUES ACROSS

- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Helps you hear
- 37. Steer a boat
- 39. British School
- 40. Genus of olive
- 41. Computer term (abbr.)
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Give off
- 50. A type of salt
- 51. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 52. One who watches birds
- 53. Sailboat
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. American state
- 58. Soak in water
- 59. Thin decorative covering of fine wood
- 60. Affirmative

### CLUES DOWN

- 21. More cunning
- 25. Rich dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Footwear
- 32. Famed Alabama city
- 33. Sheep's cry
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. Clergical vestment
- 41. Serving no practical purpose
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. Industrial German city
- 49. Scottish island
- 56. Early multimedia
- 57. Atomic number 18



# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

<p><b>DIGITAL ONLY</b></p> <p>One Year Digital Subscription <b>\$29.00</b></p>	<p><b>DIGITAL &amp; PRINT</b></p> <p>Yearly Print &amp; Digital Subscription <b>\$72.00</b></p>	<p><b>PRINT ONLY</b></p> <p>Yearly Print Only Subscription <b>\$55.00</b> <del>\$59.00</del>                  \$46.00 Montgomery County                  \$55.00 Virginia • \$59.00 Out of State</p>
--	---	--

Subscribe online at [montcova.com](http://montcova.com) or mail to address below

## SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER,  
P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

# OBITUARIES

## Brim, Kenneth Wayne

Kenneth Wayne Brim, 83, of NASCAR, especially Dale Earnhardt Christiansburg, passed away Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph C. and Janie Mae Brim; brothers-in-law, James "Jim" and Harold Thomas "Tom" Blankenship. Survivors include his wife, Rebecca Brim; sisters-in-law, Barbara, Jean and Michelle Blankenship; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Kenneth was a member of Mt. Tabor UMC, the A.L.P.C.A. (Automobile License Plate Collectors Association), McDaniel Masonic Lodge #86; Grand Chapter of Royal Brick Masons, Bland Chapter #41 O.E.S.; and the Mechanicsburg Ruritan Club.

He enjoyed watching and attending



and Dale, Jr., bowling and the Kansas City Chiefs.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Bland VFW Post #7969, c/o Stephen Kelley, 3505 E. Blue Grass Trail, Bland, VA 24315 or to the Christiansburg Rescue Squad.

The family received friends Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Kenneth Farrar and Pastor Shake Smith officiating. Interment with full military honors followed at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

## Claxton, Brenda Gay

Brenda Gay (Bea) Claxton, 75, best friend of Elliston, went to be with the Lord Thursday Feb. 1, 2024.

She was born July 13, 1948. She was a lifelong and dedicated member of the First Baptist Church of Elliston where she served as an usher and a member of the church choir. She will be remembered for her selfless dedication to her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Hattie and James Claxton, brother, Ronnie Ford and nephews Bill Ford and Reggie Ford.

Left to mourn are her nieces, Darlene (Rev. Tyrone) Carter of Salem and Kathy Ford and nephew Kenny Ford of Elliston; great nieces and nephews, Dominique Ford, Jennifer Ford Papenfuse, Ty Carter, T'Neece Ford, Stacey Carter, Alica Ford, KJ Ford, Jason Ford, Ron Ford and Maria Ford; special cousin Doug Dow;



Gerri McGarry Janzef; goddaughters Eliza Janzef and Isabella Janzef; and a host of great-great nieces and nephews and cousins.

Brenda was a dedicated Virginia Tech Hokie fan. She retired from Volvo in Dublin. The family would like to express gratitude to all the doctors and nurses at Richfield Living, Salem.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to First Baptist Church, PO Box 568, Elliston, Virginia 24087.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at the First Baptist Church in Elliston. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. Rev. Vivian Simmons officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

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

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

See Obituaries, page 6

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 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](http://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](http://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](http://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: [fbcradford.org](http://fbcradford.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](http://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](http://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](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](mailto: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](http://www.eck-va.org), [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences](http://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

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### WORDS OF RELIEF

Read Job 15:1 through 22:30

Justin sat in Caleb's apartment, hoping his big brother could provide some words of encouragement. An official letter from his college had arrived, announcing that Justin was on academic probation. Justin never realized those two words would cause his parents so much pain, anger, and disappointment.

Caleb was frustrated. He knew the sacrifices his parents made so that Justin could attend college. College loans, scholarships, and money did not come easy. His parents worked hard at obtaining all the financial aid they could gather. His dad picked up extra shifts at work to cover the cost of books. Now, to hear that Justin "blew it" was more than Caleb could bear. He wanted to explode, but the Holy Spirit urged him to listen. After several moments, Caleb sat down beside Justin and placed his arm around him. Caleb whispered, "Mind if I pray for you?"

Justin grinned, "Thanks, man. I sure could use it!"

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief (Job 16:5).

Do your words bring comfort or condemnation?

Challenge for Today: Provide comfort and encouragement to someone close to you.

Quicklook: Job 16:4-6

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)**

**WELCOME.** Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and [www.graceradford.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCb>. Please visit our website at [www.oslc-cburg.org](http://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 we 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." You'll love our minister, The Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison, who engages us in God's word. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Caring Initiative which includes Micah's Backpack, Soup for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email [hope@stmcl.us](mailto:hope@stmcl.us); Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

### MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on

facebook and Instagram  
**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. [pastorhall29@gmail.com](mailto: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 11:00a.m. Child care is provided. [www.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com).

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship at 10a.m. with Children's Church at the same time, Sunday School at 9 a.m. Worship is in-person and Live-streamed on our YouTube Channel: StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA. All are welcome. Website: [www.stpaulvaumc.org](http://www.stpaulvaumc.org)

### 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](http://christwesleyanchurch.org)