

## Local talents from Blacksburg to perform with New York City Ballet

BLACKSBURG – In an extraordinary testament to their prodigious talent, Savannah Beasley and Fiona Jackson from the LEAP Performing Arts Academy have been selected to perform with the illustrious New York City Ballet this summer. This exceptional duo will grace the stage in Saratoga, New York, in the renowned ballet “Coppélia,” showcasing their artistry alongside some of the world’s preeminent dancers.

The selection process was fiercely competitive, with over 300 young dancers auditioning and fewer than 30 making the final cut.

Savannah and Fiona’s achievement underscores their extraordinary dedication, skill, and passion for ballet, nurtured through years of disciplined training and unwavering commitment.

Nine-year-old Fiona Jackson, who

performed with the children’s corps de ballet in “Swan Lake” with the New York City Ballet last summer, is thrilled to return to this esteemed stage. Her previous experience with the company has finely honed her skills for this exciting opportunity, marking another significant milestone in her burgeoning career.

Savannah Beasley, 14, who was chosen to perform in “Swan Lake” last year but was unable to participate, is eagerly anticipating her debut with the New York City Ballet. Her journey, marked by remarkable perseverance and steadfast dedication, culminates in this richly deserved opportunity to shine on one of the ballet world’s most prestigious platforms.

The duo will be performing in George Balanchine’s “Coppélia,” considered one

See LOCAL TALENTS, Page 8



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEAP PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

Fiona Jackson (left) and Savannah Beasley have been selected to perform with the New York City Ballet this summer.

## County, towns approve opioid abatement agreement

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY- The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, the Christiansburg Town Council and the Blacksburg Town Council all voted to approve a resolution regarding a settlement involving Kroger’s distribution of opioids.

According to county attorney Marty McMahon, the settlement is a national settlement housing opioid related claims

against Kroger and its other entities as a corporation. McMahon explained to the Board of Supervisors on June 24, 2024 that multiple states have been affected by this national settlement, including Virginia. Kroger is to issue the state of Virginia 28 million dollars due to claims of Kroger issuing opiates through their pharmacies.

“All the additional money,” McMahon said, “would then go into different pots. We get 30 percent directly to

us [Montgomery County]. Another 50 [percent] goes to the authority that then localities, can work together to seek grants.”

The Montgomery County resolution regarding this issue reads, “The County of Montgomery has been required and will continue to be required to allocate substantial taxpayer dollars, resources, staff energy and time to address the damage the opioid epidemic has caused and continues to cause the citizens of

Montgomery County; and a settlement proposal has been negotiated that will cause Kroger to pay over a billion dollars nationwide to resolve opioid-related claims against it; and the County has approved and adopted the Virginia Opioid Abatement Fund and Settlement Allocation Memorandum of Understanding (the “Virginia MOU”), and affirms that this pending settlement with Kroger shall be considered a

See OPIOID ABATEMENT, Page 4



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

Water features equal fun at Buddy Camp, held at Huckleberry Park.

## Jill’s Buddy Camps combine at Huckleberry Park for fun-filled day

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

CHRISTIANSBURG- For the first time in many years, Christiansburg



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

A little camper and his buddy get some climbing time in on the playground equipment.

Jill’s Buddy Camp and Salem Jill’s Buddy Camp have come together for summertime fun.

Jill’s Buddy Camp is a one week summer program for children with special needs where they are paired with a “buddy” who is a teenage volunteer. Jill’s Buddy Camp was originally founded as “Buddy Camp” by Dr. Tommy Barber in 1981 and was brought to Salem in 1984. “Buddy Camp” wasn’t renamed until 2013 after a former “buddy” who had gone on to become a teacher and reading specialist for hearing-impaired children in Washington D.C, Jill Bailey Chenet, had passed away tragically. Dr. Barber and his team renamed it “Jill’s Buddy Camp” and started the “Jill’s Buddy Camp Foundation” in 2013 in her honor.

With the help of Christiansburg Parks and Recreation through Montgomery County Public Schools, Jill’s Buddy Camp has a Christiansburg branch as well. For the first time in 10 years, according to Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Director Brad Epperley, the Salem and Christiansburg branches held their first combined camp day at the new Huckleberry Park on June 26, 2024. This combined event hosted both chapters and their buddies, a petting zoo, fun in the sun on the splash pad, smiles and laughter on the playground and plenty of pizza for lunch. Mayor Micheal

See BUDDY CAMPS, Page 8

## NRV destinations and businesses win Best of Virginia 2024 Awards

NEW RIVER VALLEY – Virginia Living magazine recently recognized 69 destinations and businesses in the New River Valley with Best of Virginia 2024 awards for Southwest Virginia.

This annual contest invites the magazine’s readers to vote for the top destinations and businesses across the five regions of Virginia. The impressive number of winners from the New River Valley highlights how the NRV is a natural fit for anyone looking to live like a local.

The Best of Virginia 2024 award winners from Virginia’s New River Valley are listed below in their respective categories.

- Best Food & Drink
- Best Barbecue Restaurant – Bluegrass BBQ, Pembroke
- Best Breakfast/Bruch Restaurant – Palisades, Eggleston
- Best Burger Joint – Dude’s Drive In, Christiansburg
- Best Coffee shop or Roaster – Sugar and Flour, Pearisburg
- Best Fine Dining – The Palisades Restaurant, Eggleston
- Best Food Truck – Cabo Fish Taco, multiple Locations

Best Ice Cream Shop – Scoops Arcade, Pembroke

Best Indian Restaurant – Indian Garden Restaurant, Blacksburg

Best Italian Restaurant – Sal’s Italian Restaurant, Radford

Best Mexican Restaurant – LaBarranca Mexican Grill, Pearisburg

Best Outdoor Dining – The Farmhouse, Christiansburg

Best Pizzeria – Sal’s Italian Restaurant, Radford

Best Sandwich Shop – Macado’s, multiple locations

Best Steakhouse – The Farmhouse, Christiansburg

Best Vegan, Vegetarian or Gluten Free – Gillies, Blacksburg

Best Chocolatier – Sugar Magnolia, Blacksburg

Best Community Supported Agriculture – Glade Road Growing, Blacksburg

Best Farmers Market – Blacksburg Farmers Market, Blacksburg

Best Specialty Gourmet Food Shop – The Bread Basket, Floyd

See BEST OF VIRGINIA, Page 6

## Christiansburg Town Council hears amendment on subdivisions

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

CHRISTIANSBURG- The Christiansburg Town Council held a public hearing on June 25, 2024 regarding subdivisions of property to align with the Code of Virginia.

According to a staff report provided by the Planning Commission, a request was made in 2023 to amend a Chapter 40 of the town code regarding subdivision of lots. The staff report claims that the amendment aims to “streamline the approval process” and align the code with current Code of Virginia standards.

The amendment, according to the ordinance, now defines ‘plat’ as “a schematic representation of land which is to be or which has been divided.”

The amendment also states, “The town council may appoint an agent to administer this chapter. The agent shall review subdivision plats as described in this section Final approval of disapproval

shall be made by the town council through the agent of the planning commission, unless otherwise stated in this chapter. The agent or planning commission may approve lot line revisions, lot line vacations, and accept on the behalf of the town publicly dedicated easements including, but not limited to, utility, access, and drainage easements.”

According to the presentation given to town council, the agent appointed can approve subdivisions up to ten lots and approve lot line adjustments. This also allows the planning commission to potentially approve preliminary subdivisions up to 49 lots and approve public rights-of-way. The presentation also stated that the town council would be able to approve streets less than 50 feet in width, all new one-way streets, and may require subdividers of residential lots to set aside land for public or semipublic use like parks. The idea behind the

See TOWN COUNCIL, Page 4



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, June 29:

### Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

### Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

## Sunday, June 30:

### Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit [blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/](http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/).

## Wednesday, July 3:

### Blacksburg Farmers Market

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

### Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The Jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit [blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam](http://blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam).

## Thursday, July 4:

### Blacksburg Fourth of July

Fourth of July parade, organized by the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club, "A Child's Fourth of July" parade starts at 2 p.m. on Eheart Street, runs through downtown on Main Street, and ends on Alumni Mall. The Town of Blacksburg will have music and fireworks at the Municipal Park, near the Rec. Center: Live music 6 -9:30 p.m. and fireworks at 9:30 p.m. (even if raining).

### Christiansburg Fourth of July Celebration

Come out and celebrate our nation's Independence Day by attending the festival on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be live music performances by Lonesome Heart (10 a.m.), Solacousix (noon) and Isaac Hayden (2 p.m.) Food trucks and arts and crafts vendors will be along Main Street and a special kids' zone with Touch-A-Trucks will be available, too. Enjoy this free event with your family and friends all day, and at 9:15 p.m., go to the Uptown Mall or Walmart parking lots to watch the fireworks!

### Radford's Spirit of America Celebration

At Bisset Park, 49 Berkley Williams Dr., Radford, 1 - 10 p.m. This is a free event. Dog show, kids' zone, vendors and food trucks, live music, including Cat 5, Motown Revue and The Embers, and fireworks.

### Shawsville 4th of July Parade and festival

Shawsville Ruritan Club's 4th of July Parade will begin at 4 p.m. After the parade, there will be a concert with Big Daddy Ray and special guest Jerry Wimmer before the Independence Day fireworks show. There will also be a car show by E&E Automotive and a cornhole tournament by Shawsville Ruritan Club during the in-field concert festivities. The Shawsville Ruritan's will host the 4th of July Cornhole Tournament, sponsored by First Bank and Trust, on Old Town Fields at 6 p.m.

## Monday, July 8:

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are normally held 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.

### 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. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. See the agenda at [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov).

## Tuesday, July 9:

### 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.

## On-going:

### Applications open for healthcare workshop for people with disabilities

Individuals with disabilities who live in Radford City and Floyd County can apply for a program presented by the New River Valley Disability Resource Center. "Improving Health Literacy Through Technology" is a program help people with disabilities gain better access to healthcare. Participants receive a free iPad after completing six weekly, one-hour workshops exploring how to use technology to take better control of health and social support needs. Workshops run Aug. 1 through Sept. 5. Applications available at [www.nrvdc.org](http://www.nrvdc.org) or by calling 540-266-1435 or email at [outreach@nrvdc.org](mailto:outreach@nrvdc.org), and at the Radford and Floyd libraries. The application deadline is Fri., July 12.

## Recognizing heat-related illness signs and symptoms

While heat is the number one weather-related cause of death in the United States, many of these deaths are preventable, says an emergency medicine doctor at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

Dr. Stephanie Lareau says it is vital to recognize signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

"Understanding the symptoms of exposure to extreme heat and managing the effects is crucial and that includes knowing early signs of heat exhaustion to prevent progression to heatstroke," said Lareau.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were more than 2,300 heat-related deaths in 2023, compared to just over 1,600 in 2021. "Being prepared and educating yourself on the effects of heat are key to prevention," says Lareau.

### Heat exhaustion vs. heatstroke

"The CDC considers heat exhaustion a less severe precursor to heatstroke," said Dr. Lareau. "To help an individual suffering from heat exhaustion first prevent further exposure by getting them into the shade or air conditioning if possible. Then begin cooling them with immersion in cold water or misting them with cool water."

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Feeling faint or dizzy
- Sweating profusely
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Vomiting, nausea
- Rapid pulse
- Muscle cramps

"The hallmark of heatstroke is an altered mental state, such as confusion or inability to walk," said Lareau. "This is a potentially

life-threatening medical emergency, so you should call 911 and work on cooling the person down. Simple things such as getting them out of direct sun, spraying them with cool water, and immersing them in water (if they are awake and able to help) can help while you are awaiting more aid. The fastest and preferred way to cool someone is immersion in cold water."

Symptoms of heatstroke include:

- Pulsating headache
- Loss of consciousness
- Hot, red, dry skin
- Temperature above 103
- Vomiting, nausea
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Keeping hydrated

"If you're working outdoors under the summer sun, it's important to stay well hydrated," says Lareau. "Make sure you have water available and are drinking it at regular intervals. A good rule of thumb is to make sure your urine looks light yellow to clear. Take frequent breaks and get out of the sun. If possible, try to get your work done during early morning or late evening when the temperatures are lower."

### Exercise early to avoid the midday heat

Dr. Lareau stresses that just as with work, get outside early for workouts to avoid midday heat. "Wear light-colored, breathable clothing and be sure to drink plenty of fluids. Exercise tolerance can decrease when it's hot, so plan accordingly. Slowly increase exercise to help your body become acclimatized to increasing temperatures. On a day with a high heat index, consider going for a swim or running on a treadmill indoors instead of running outdoors."

If you plan to hike or

participate in another longer outdoor activity, remember that in hot weather, you need more water than usual. "If you expect to rely on streams or creeks for your water supply, talk to those familiar with the area to make sure they aren't dry. If you'll be doing strenuous activities, it's essential to bring electrolyte drinks as well to avoid exercise-induced hyponatremia, which is low sodium or salt levels that can lead to confusion and even seizures."

"As with any outdoor activity, it's also helpful to get acclimated to the heat before embarking on ambitious adventures. If you are on medications for blood pressure, heart

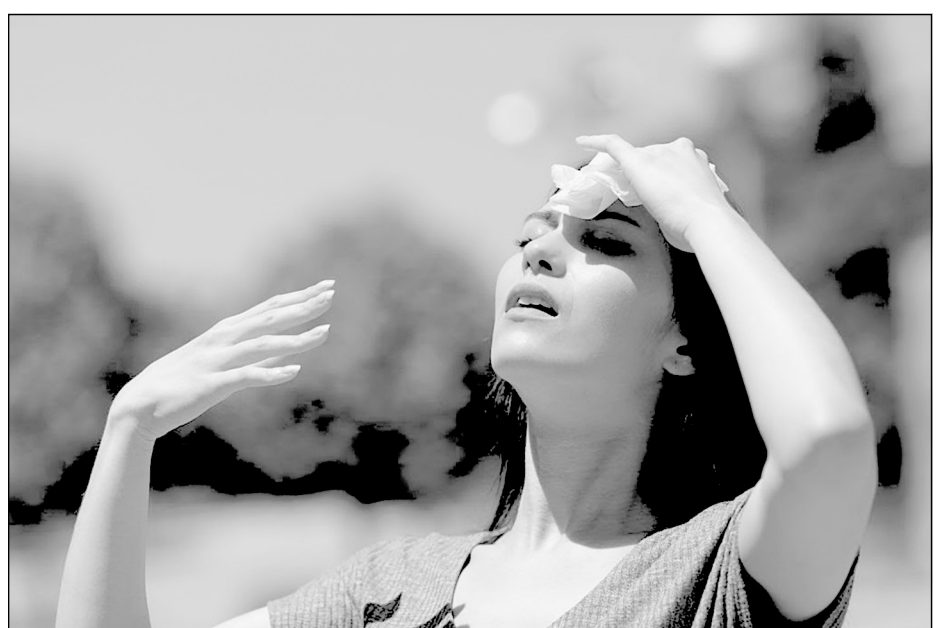


PHOTO BY PHEELINGSMEDIA / ADOBE STOCK VIA VIRGINIA TECH

problems, or psychiatric conditions, you should talk to your doctor about these medications and your outdoor plans. Some medications can predispose individuals to heat illness or dehydration," says Lareau.

In addition to her work in the Carilion Clinic emergency department and teaching at Virginia Tech, Dr. Stephanie Lareau is a board member of the Wilderness Medicine Society, which helps medical professionals

get additional training in environmental emergencies such as hypothermia, hyperthermia, and other weather-related outdoor problems. More here.

Margaret Ashburn for Virginia Tech

## Lightning Safety Awareness Week: Keep yourself and your property safe

RICHMOND—With lightning five times hotter than the surface of the sun and reaching temperatures of 50,000°, the effects of a lightning strike can be devastating.

That's why the National Lightning Safety Council is sharing information on how to stay safe during thunderstorms and lightning events during National Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 23-29.

"Lightning is the weather threat that affects most people, most of the time, in most regions of the U.S.," said Kimberly Loehr, a lightning protection specialist and NLSC member. "Although approximately 90% of lightning victims survive being struck, injuries can be severe and debilitating."

The NLSC warns that no place outside is safe during a thunderstorm, and June, July and August are peak months for lightning activity across the U.S. This time of year also is peak time for outside summer fun, and almost two-thirds of lightning deaths from 2006-2023 occurred when people were enjoying outdoor activities.

To help keep yourself safe both outside and indoors, take the following precautions:

If you hear thunder, quickly get to a substantial building or hard-topped metal vehicle.

Avoid open areas, and don't be the tallest object.

Stay away from isolated tall trees, towers, utility poles and metal conductors like wires or fences.

When with a group of people, spread out.

Avoid contact with water, plumbing and anything plugged into an electrical outlet.

Stay away from outside doors and windows.

Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before returning outside.

Additionally, lightning is a leading cause of property loss in the U.S. The Insurance Information Institute reported there were over 62,000 lightning claims in 2022, totaling \$950 million. Virginia ranked in the top 10 states for homeowners insurance lightning loss claims.

"In our experience handling lightning-related claims, the one

thing we see is the damage is always catastrophic," said James Walker, senior claims investigator for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. "From causing fires in structures to destroying electrical systems and electronic equipment, the effects of lightning are costly."

Lightning can strike directly or strike nearby structures and travel underground into phone, cable and electrical lines. To protect houses, property and the people inside, homeowners can have lightning protection systems professionally installed to ground and dissipate lightning's electrical discharge.

"Lightning just wants to get to the ground, and a safety standard-compliant lightning protection system helps it get there without harmful impact to the structure, contents or building systems," Loehr said.

For more information on lightning facts and safety, visit [lightningsafetycouncil.org](http://lightningsafetycouncil.org). To learn about lightning protection systems, visit the Lightning Protection Institute at [lightning.org/technical/#how-system-works](http://lightning.org/technical/#how-system-works).

Virginia Farm Bureau

# Blacksburg welcomes new committee appointees

**Angelica Ramos**  
Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG- The Blacksburg Town Council welcomed new appointees for various committees and approved capital funds for sewer projects at its meeting June 25, 2024.

The Blacksburg Town Council voted to approve \$110,000 to support water and sewer projects. According to the memo for Resolution 6-D-24, it was a resolution to transfer \$110,000 to the Harding Avenue Sewer Upgrade project. "The funds are necessary," the

memo reads, "to fund a change order to the existing DCI Shires Contract Phase I contract. The change order will construct a 12-inch relief sewer line that will eliminate the need for the sewer replacement along College Avenue."

The Blacksburg Town Council also appointed new members and reappointed returning members to 12 local boards and committees. The Blacksburg Housing and Community Development Advisory Board and the Corridor Advisory Committee received three new members each. Other boards that received new and returning members were ones such as:

the Blacksburg Planning Commission, the Board of Building Code Appeals, the Public Arts Committee, and many more. Current Deputy Town Manager, Steve Ross, was appointed the town's new

representative for the New River Valley Home Consortium Board where the resolution states he will serve until June of 2027. All of the new appointments were approved unanimously.

# AARP Virginia fraud alert: Lost wallet? What's next

We've all been there; you reach for your wallet and find nothing in your pocket or purse. The panic we feel in that moment is real because our wallet can be a treasure trove for criminals, who can go on to perpetrate credit card fraud or identity theft. Most times that feeling is short lived but sometimes that wallet really is gone. Here's what to do if this happens to you.

First, cancel all debit or credit cards. By reporting them lost or stolen ASAP you may be able to avoid illegal charges. This is especially important for debit cards which are gateways to your bank account.

Next, file a fraud alert. With your

driver's license in hand, identity thieves can do a lot of damage. You can request that the credit bureaus — Experian, TransUnion and Equifax — place a fraud alert on your credit. (Contact one and the others will add the fraud alert, too.) A fraud alert notifies creditors, lenders or anyone viewing your credit report that someone may be trying to apply for credit in your name.

Lastly, if you think your wallet has been stolen, call your local precinct to get a police report on record. Even though the police may not be able to recover your missing wallet, it's a crucial piece of documentation to have on hand.

AARP Virginia

# Business REVIEW

## Time to Brag About YOUR Business!

**YOUR story - YOUR employees - YOUR message in our Business Review Edition on July 24 & 25**  
**Write your own story & advertisement with pictures of your staff and/or business - Deadline July 17th**

**TO ADVERTISE,**  
**Call Wendi Craig (276) 340-2445**  
**advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com**



THE FINCASTLE HERALD | The Vinton Messenger | THE NEW CASTLE RECORD | SALEM TIMES REGISTER | News Messenger | RADFORD News Journal

### Help Wanted - Crew Leader

**Green Roof Maintenance Crew Leader,**  
F/T. (Riner, VA) Min. Req.: 2 yrs exp. as crew leader or landscaper.  
Mult. positions.  
To apply send resume to Riverbend Greenroofs, 1295 Mt. Elbert Road, Riner, VA 24149. No phone calls

### Legals - City of Radford

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1800 and 15.2-1813, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on July 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed grant by the City to the Economic Development Authority of the City of Radford, Virginia that property commonly known as the "West Radford Commerce Park Property," located in the City of Radford, Virginia, identified as Tax Map Number 17-(1)-1B, containing 80.668 acres, more or less, and described in Instrument No. 202300638, recorded in the Radford City Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

Copies of the proposed ordinance to approve the disposition of real property may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603 or Jenni.Webb@radfordva.gov

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board hereby schedules a public hearing for July 8, 2024 to hear citizen comments on the Boards' intent to consider an Ordinance establishing a Voter Satellite Office in the Multi-Purpose Room located in the Blacksburg Community Center at 725

### Legals - Montgomery County

Patrick Henry Drive, located in the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia, to be used in Montgomery County, Virginia for absentee voting in person for the November 5, 2024 General Election only.

A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Angela M. Hill  
County Administrator

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, July 8, 2024 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the Board of Supervisors intent to adopt a resolution amending the FY 2024-2025 budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget by adding carryover funding appropriated in FY 24 for county ARPA funds, donations and grant funds, encumbrances, various projects, one-time county projects, county capital funds and various school capital projects that were not completed at year end, not to exceed \$155 million.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Angela M. Hill  
County Administrator

**MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!**  
  
**To place your ad, call 389-9355**

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following request:

A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Michael Gay, P.E.) to rezone 49.17 acres from Agricultural (A-1) to Rural Residential (R-R), to allow for the development of a fourteen (14) lot single-family residential subdivision. The property is located at the end of Brammer Lane, approximately 0.50 miles east of the intersection of Houchins Road (State Route 758) and Brammer Lane. The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-5 1 (Parcel ID: 033688), in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan.

AND  
A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Michael Gay, P.E.) to allow the construction of private streets to service the proposed fourteen (14) lot single-family subdivision. The proposed private street network would connect to Brammer Lane, approximately 0.50 miles east of the intersection of Houchins Road (State Route 758) and Brammer Lane. Section 8-152 of the Code of Montgomery County requires approval of all private streets by the Board of Supervisors.

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>.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Jonathan L. Yates for Arcola Towers for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a 197-foot monopole wireless telecommunications tower, freestanding. The property is owned by Reginald L. Duncan and is located at 3936 Childress Road, northeast of Fairview Church Road (State Route 669) and southwest of Piney Woods Road (State Route 600). The property is further identified as Tax Map 127-A 3, 4 (Parcel ID: 019114), 50.4383 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

**BAG**  
**A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**  
**To place your ad, call 389-9355**

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following requests:

A request by RWW36, LLC and RWW34, LLC (Agent: Balzer & Associates) to revise the proffered conditions approved previously as part of the rezoning of 9.035 acres located at the intersection of Tyler Road (US Route 177) and Meadow Creek Road (State Route 658) from Agricultural (A-1) to General Business (GB), originally approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 14, 2009. The revised proffer amendments update the proposed master plan for the development of the site to allow construction of a general store, convenience store with motor fuel sales, and an attached restaurant with drive through. The revised amendments to the proffered conditions also include proposed conditions related to public water and sewer, entrance improvements, architectural design and standards, and excludes the development of certain other by-right uses permitted in the General Business (GB) Zoning District. The property is located at the intersection of Tyler Road (US Route 177) and Meadow Creek Road (State Route 658), identified as Tax Parcel No(s). 104-4-47 and 104-A 27A-B (Parcel ID Numbers 002244, 008938, and 008939), in the Riner Magisterial District. The property is currently zoned General Business (GB) and lies in an area designated as Urban Expansion in the Comprehensive Plan and Planned Commercial in the Route 177 Corridor Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County

### Legals - Montgomery County

Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinances:

A request by Steve Graham Living Trust (Agent: Balzer & Associates) to rezone a 20.7 acre portion of 30.1 total acres from Agricultural (A1) to Planned Unit Development, Commercial (PUD-COM), with proffered conditions, to allow a planned mixed-use commercial development. The property is located at 3720 Pricess Fork Road, Blacksburg, at the intersection of Pricess Fork Road (State Route 685) and Brunswick Drive (State Route 1140). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 052-A 14,12,13 (Parcel ID: 007287), 30.1 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Pricess Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Low Density Residential in the Pricess Fork Village Plan.

AND  
A request by Steve Graham Living Trust (Agent: Balzer & Associates) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Contractor Service Establishment with Outdoor Storage on a 20.7 acre portion of 30.1 total acres, a use type that is not included in the existing permissible uses in PUD-COM. Contractor Service Establishment with Outdoor Storage is not listed as a permissible use, but could be allowed if it is

### Legals - Montgomery County

determined through the Special Use Permit process to be appropriate and compatible with the proposed development and surrounding uses in the PUD-COM Zoning District. The property is located at 3720 Pricess Fork Road, Blacksburg, at the intersection of Pricess Fork Road (State Route 685) and Brunswick Drive (State Route 1140). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 052-A 14,12,13 (Parcel ID: 007287), 30.1 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Pricess Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Low Density Residential in the Pricess Fork Village Plan.

AND  
A request by Steve Graham Living Trust (Agent: Balzer & Associates) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow for Multi-family Dwellings on a 20.7 acre portion of 30.1 total acres, a use type that is not included in the existing permissible uses in PUD-COM. Multi-Family dwellings are not listed as a permissible use, but could be allowed if it is determined through the Special Use Permit process to be appropriate and compatible with the proposed development and surrounding uses as permitted in the Zoning Ordinance in the PUD-COM Zoning District. The property is located at 3720 Pricess Fork Road, Blacksburg, at the intersection of Pricess Fork Road (State Route 685) and Brunswick Drive (State Route 1140). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 052-A 14,12,13 (Parcel ID: 007287), 30.1 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Pricess Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Low Density Residential in the Pricess Fork Village Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.



# New residency program to enrich medical education at Carilion Clinic, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Carilion Clinic recently received accreditation to start an orthopaedic surgery residency program that will enhance the academic learning environments among its other residency programs as well as clinical rotations for students at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

“It’s the next progression of our commitment to education as well as training our future generations of orthopaedic surgeons,” said Joseph Moskal, professor and chair of the Carilion Clinic and the medical school’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. “The new residency program will enrich the academic learning environment across our graduate medical education programs [GME] and will foster collaboration and enhance educational opportunities for all residents.”

Four residents have been accepted to the five-year residency in July. Four additional residents will be added each year for a total of 20 orthopaedic surgery residents at any given time.

Medical students rotate through nine clinical areas at Carilion during the final two years of medical school. This is

an integral transition from theoretical learning to practical, hands-on medical practice. After graduation, students pursue residency programs that last from three to seven years depending upon the specialty. Last May, eight graduates matched to do their residencies at Carilion.

The new residency adds to an already robust program at Carilion that has its roots back to the early 1970s, when Roanoke Memorial Hospital established one of the nation’s first family practice residencies. This will be Carilion’s 30th residency program.

“Educating new doctors keeps the GME faculty at the top of our game, too,” said Jesse Seamon, program director, assistant professor, and orthopaedic surgeon. “It’s good for us. It helps make us better doctors and helps us train better doctors.”

Seamon said the program is good for the community because some of the residents will want to stay in the region after residency. About a quarter of Carilion’s residency graduates stay in the area each year.

“Residency programs help us attract



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE CASTIGLIONI, CARILION CLINIC

Orthopaedic surgeons at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital perform a brachial plexus procedure.

and keep talented people in this region,” he said.

“We have great teachers here and a strong academic environment,” said Arthur Ollendorff, professor of OB-GYN

and associate dean for graduate medical education. “It drives the quality of care for our patients in Southwest Virginia.”

*Josh Meyer for Virginia Tech*

# Virginia farmers brace for drought as hot, dry weather persists

RICHMOND—While summer drought conditions are not uncommon in pockets of Virginia, farmers statewide are expressing concern about the forecast. An ongoing string of hot days with low humidity will likely affect their crops.

Those abnormally dry drought conditions are persistently throughout the commonwealth, according to a recent crop progress report from the National Agricultural Statistic Service’s Virginia Field Office. Temperatures are expected to reach highs in the upper 90s in coming weeks.

“We were getting rain, rain, rain every weekend,” said Danielle Bappert, regional crop agent for Virginia Farm

Bureau Crop Insurance. “Then it just cut off. The farmers I talk to are nervous, looking at their weather apps, with not a drop of rain in sight.”

However, some crops thrive in this weather.

“There was a very good first cutting of hay around the state, and some farmers have already gotten a good-quality second cutting,” noted Robert Harper, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation grain division manager.

Since Virginia’s wheat and hayfields received significant rain in the spring, they are faring well.

“Everyone is telling me it’s their best hay crop in years,” explained Bappert.

“And it’s ideal for wheat to be dry when it’s cut. Last year it rained a lot during that time frame, which lowers quality. But for most farmers, corn and soybeans are the big money makers.”

With long summer days, “photosynthesis is wide open,” Harper said. “When water cuts off, it puts those crops under stress.”

The lack of rain already has prevented some growers from double-cropping—growing two or more crops in the same area during a single crop year, like planting soybeans after harvesting winter wheat.

“Farmers are telling me they are not planting them,” Harper said. “They are waiting for rain because they can’t

hammer seed into ground that’s hard as a brick!”

The unusual weather may be attributed to the shift from El Niño to La Niña.

The summer will bring a climatic pattern change, said U.S. Department of Agriculture meteorologist Brad Rippey. El Niño is the climate phenomenon warming equatorial waters in the Pacific.

“The transition has already begun to the opposite conditions, known as La Niña, with colder-than-normal waters in the same region,” he said. “The shift is coming.”

The climate transition can result in “super-dry conditions” followed by a highly active hurricane season predicted this year, Bappert noted.

## News Messenger

Established 1869  
(540) 389-9355  
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153  
USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
Heather Bell, *Editor*  
hbelle@mainstreetnewspapers  
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*  
a Boyd@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 \$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.

## Opioid Abatement

from page 1

“Settlement” that is subject to the Virginia MOU, and shall be administered and allocated in the same manner as the opioid settlements entered into previously with the Distributors, Janssen, Teva, Allergan, Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens.”

The Board of Supervisors, Christiansburg Town Council and Blacksburg Town Council all voted unanimously to approve this abatement agreement for a settlement from Kroger. County attorney McMahon explained that these funds would be paid over a time period of 11 years.

## Town Council

from page 1

amendment is to help make it more efficient for the town to approve or disapprove subdivision of land.

Council Member Kim Bowman spoke to some citizen concerns regarding the amendment and what that would mean. She said she will not be voting to approve this amendment.

“Some of them have said,” Bowman said, “that they don’t want, first of all, the elected officials giving over the power that they appointed you [the town council] to. Some of them have said they’ve had trouble in other areas and they don’t want power going to one person if that person does not favor them for any reason.”

Christiansburg Town Council is scheduled to vote on this amendment July 11, 2024.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12			13		14			15				
16			17		18			19				
20					21			22				
			23		24			25				
26	27	28	29			30						
31						32						
33							34	35	36	37	38	
			39	40	41		42	43				
			44	45			46					
	47						48					
49				50			51		52	53	54	55
56				57			58					
59				60				61				
62				63					64			

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Volunteer school groups
  - 5. Cash machine
  - 8. Title of various Muslim rulers
  - 12. Indian hand clash cymbals
  - 14. Scarf
  - 15. Easily manageable
  - 16. Cry
  - 18. Financial term
  - 19. Reactive structure in organic chemistry (abbr.)
  - 20. Clean out a riverbed
  - 21. Seaport (abbr.)
  - 22. English seascape painter
  - 23. Bring back again
  - 26. Subtracted from
  - 30. Related on the mother's side
  - 31. Mooches
  - 32. Commotion
  - 33. Boer War general
  - 34. Silklike nylon fabric
  - 39. CNN's founder
  - 42. Sarcastic in a bitter way
  - 44. Minute reproductive unit
  - 46. Nourishment
  - 47. Large predatory tropical fish
  - 49. Small, rich sponge cake
  - 50. Drink a small amount
  - 51. Golfer Rodriguez
  - 56. Norse personification of old age
  - 57. Large flightless bird
  - 58. Capsized
  - 59. Convicted American spy
  - 60. Music genre
  - 61. Makes tractors
  - 62. Undergo cell disintegration
  - 63. Patti Hearst's captors
  - 64. Selfs
  - CLUES DOWN
  - 1. Post-traumatic stress disorder
  - 2. Goat-like mammal
  - 3. Swiss river
  - 4. Slithered
  - 5. Humiliate
  - 6. Tumbled
  - 7. Popular alcoholic drink
  - 8. Small round hole in a leather cloth
  - 9. Fertilizer
  - 10. State of affairs that seems deliberately contrary
  - 11. Count on
  - 13. One who discriminates against
  - 17. New Hampshire city
  - 24. One who cares for teeth
  - 25. Sent off
  - 26. Mutual savings bank
  - 27. Initial public offering
  - 28. Denial
  - 29. Northeastern institution of higher learning (abbr.)
  - 35. A doctrine
  - 36. Consumed
  - 37. Trent Reznor's band
  - 38. Perform in a movie
  - 40. Schoolhouse implements
  - 41. Mathematical term
  - 42. Man who behaves dishonorably
  - 43. Expression of regret
  - 44. Martens
  - 45. Approval
  - 47. Pleasantly warm
  - 48. The Eurasian hoopoe
  - 49. NBAer Bradley
  - 52. Engineering organization
  - 53. Horsefly
  - 54. Type of sandwich
  - 55. A day in the middle of the month

# FREE FLY SWATTER

(WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION)

**The News Messenger is not simply a newspaper. It can be a useful device to help get household pests under control. Sure we keep you informed of news in your area, but we do more! Your copy of The News Messenger is one heck of a way to swat a fly or nail a mosquito ... simply roll it up and give it a try (after you have finished reading, of course). And best of all, we'll send you a new fly swatter every week for a year with your subscription!**

# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

**DIGITAL ONLY**

One Year Digital Subscription (recurring)

**\$29.00**

**DIGITAL & PRINT**

Yearly Print & Digital Subscription (recurring)

**\$49.50 Radford**  
**\$58.50 Virginia • \$62.50 Out of State**

**PRINT ONLY**

Yearly Print Only Subscription

**\$35.00 Montgomery County**  
**\$44.00 Virginia**  
**\$48.00 Out of State**

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.



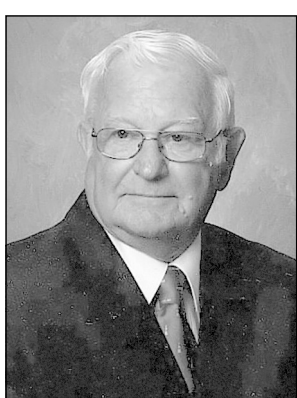
# OBITUARIES

Dr. Douglas Delano Warren passed away peacefully at home with his wife of 61 years by his side Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 83 years old.

Born Aug. 2, 1940, Doug met the love of his life, Lydia Lee Harley, at Claytor Lake State Park while he was "studying" with fellow Virginia Tech students who had been friends since childhood. He and Lydia married in 1963 and lovingly raised three sons. As a young father, Doug gave his life to Jesus Christ who always remained his Lord and Master.

Most of Doug's childhood was spent in Blacksburg, and he graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1958. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech, Doug began his long teaching career instructing math, English, and blueprint reading. While teaching both day and night classes to support his family, Doug pursued his master's degree, also from Virginia Tech. He then accepted the opportunity to further his education with a doctoral degree in Vocational Administration at Auburn University.

Doug was respected by many in the community beginning with his service to the area's students through



## Warren, Dr. Douglas Delano

his career with New River Community College. He began as one of six faculty members at New River Vocational-Technical School, served as Chief Executive Officer in the transition as it developed into the community college, eventually serving as a dean until his retirement in 1996. His service to the community didn't end there, as he also served on the Pulaski County Planning Commission (1986-2021), Pulaski County Public Service Authority (2003-2020), New River Valley Resource Commission (2010-2024), the Board of Directors for the Pulaski County Fair, and as an integral member and technician of the sound board at First Baptist Church of Radford. He served people beyond his own community on mission trips to South Dakota and Czech Republic, and on the Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief Team, serving as a lead kitchen chief in disaster-stricken areas such as Brooklyn, N.Y.; Toronto, Canada; Punta Gordo, Fla.; Picayune, Miss., and several locations in W.V.

Beyond his career and service, Doug was a man of many talents and hobbies. He built his own home in Snowville, Va., known to many for the pick-your-own Blueberry Hill Farm - bushes he planted over 40 years ago. He learned to weave, filling their home with beautiful rugs. Never one to sit still, Doug could play an assortment of musical instruments: piano, guitar, autoharp, banjo, harp, violin, trumpet, and clarinet. Always an adventurer, he completed a cross-country

bicycle trek from Seattle, Wash. to Asbury Park, N.J., and he was co-owner and pilot of a small plane, with which he enjoyed flying family and friends to various parts of the country.

Doug is preceded in death by his parents and two grandsons, Bryson Hall and Jacob Pedigo. He is survived by his loving wife, Lydia Warren; three sons, Douglas "Rusty" Warren, Jr. (Shanda), Brandon Warren (Jill), and Travis Warren (Sarah); six grandchildren, Colleen Warren Bays (Robert), Victoria Pedigo, Ben Warren, Bergren Cliff, Elliott Pedigo (Shelby), and Phoebe Warren; great-granddaughter, Adalynn Pedigo; and sister, Joyce Ellis (Chris).

A celebration of life is scheduled for today, Saturday June 29 at First Baptist Church in Radford, at the corner of Third and Downey St. The family will receive visitors from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Dr. Douglas D. Warren Endowed Scholarship fund at New River Community College. Contributions may be made online ([www.nr.edu/giveonline](http://www.nr.edu/giveonline)) or by mail (New River Community College, Educational Foundation, 5251 College Drive, Dublin VA 24084). Please reference "Doug Warren" on your gift.

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

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

### EPISCOPAL

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

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## Avoid the Mistakes

Read Judges 7:1 through 8:35

Does the following scenario point to any common details in people's lives?

Do people often pray hard and study Scripture in order to seek God's provision when struggling financially? Do these same people attend church weekly and ask other believers to pray for their needs. As their accounts increase to a comfortable amount, do they begin getting an early start on their workdays to put in more hours at the office. Do they cut back on prayer and Bible study.

Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family (Judges 8:27).

Gideon, as a young and inexperienced warrior, was called by God to engage a vast invading army. Gideon's life had been tough, and his circumstances forced him to draw close to God. But, with the enemy's defeat and the rich spoils of the battle, Gideon misused his blessing.

Prayer Suggestion: When you enjoy a season of success, pray even harder that God will keep you in a deep relationship with himself.

Quicklook: Judges 8:22-27

**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)**

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: [mysthomasoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:mysthomasoffice@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. Celebrate Word and Sacrament as we worship with varied liturgy, hymns and music. Join our inclusive community in person or online Sundays at 10:00 am ([youtube.com/@OSLCCburg](http://youtube.com/@OSLCCburg)), followed by refreshments and fellowship. Ministries include Bible study, choir, food ministry, and crafters. Little Free Pantry and Library available 24-7 by the parking lot. Parent's Morning Out offers faith-based activities and play for children 16 month - 5 years select weekdays. Wheelchair accessible. Learn how you may contribute to our ministries at [www.oslc-cburg.org](http://www.oslc-cburg.org). 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

**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).

**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.

**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](http://StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA). All are welcome. Website: [www.stpaulvumc.org](http://www.stpaulvumc.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)



# OBITUARIES

## Akers, Donald "Bub" Eugene

Donald "Bub" Eugene Akers, 75, of Christiansburg, passed away Sunday, June 23, 2024.

Bub was an auto mechanic for over 50 years and had owned his own shop at one time. He was very involved in auto racing and passed his love of that down to his son "Bubby." Don loved farming and raising cow/calf pairs. He loved watching his grandson, Tayt, rodeo and rope and loved nothing more than being around his loving family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Archie Ervin and Frances Lytton Akers; and his brother, Ronald Dean Akers.

Survivors include his loving wife of 56 years, Carolyn Lester Akers; son, Don "Bubby" Akers; daughter and son-in-law, Tracy Trump (Ricky); grandson and his pride and joy, Tayt Trump; step-grandchildren, Katie Trump (Seth)



and Ellie Trump; great-grandchildren, Arcadia, Liam and Ava; beloved canine companion and farm buddy, Gracie; siblings and their spouses, Dana Lester (Tommy), Dale "Brown" Akers (Sarah) and Teresa Hall (Perry); special nephew, Zach Thornton (Jamee); special niece, Emily Duncan (Dylan); sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Kathy and Steve Thompson; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and special friends.

The family received friends Thursday, June 27, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor T. Michael Bond and Perry Hall officiating. Burial followed in Lytton Cemetery in Walton.

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



PHOTO BY MAX ESTERHUIZEN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**Sydney Johnson (at left) and Pablo Sobrado found a way to synthesize on a large scale a naturally occurring compound that hasn't previously been used for antibacterial applications.**

## There's more to blue cheese than just the stench

Marbled veins of blue line the otherwise antique white surface.

As you approach, the pungent smell fills your nostrils, akin to gym socks for some.

But there's far more to blue cheese than just the stink. The marbled veins of blue, which are edible *Penicillium* molds, produce compounds with antifungal, antibacterial, and other biological properties in high doses also known as natural products.

Virginia Tech researchers found a new, efficient way to synthesize some of these beneficial blue cheese compounds in a way that avoids the use of harmful chemicals. Previously, the synthesization of these compounds was either extremely low in yield or required the use of harmful or dangerous chemicals.

"This discovery explains the mechanism behind a new reaction in our field, filling a knowledge gap," said Sydney Johnson Ph.D. '24, the lead author who earned her doctorate in biochemistry.

Antibacterial resistance has become a growing problem for society, which was caused by the overuse of natural products used on the market for decades, Johnson said.

By finding a way to synthesize on a large scale a naturally occurring compound that hasn't previously been used for antibacterial applications, Virginia Tech researchers were able to evade the existing antibacterial resistances.

"We work with an enzyme that can help create a natural product that has a unique structure that would make it very difficult for pathogens to become resistant," Johnson said. "Existing pathogens would have to evolve to be resistant to this new compound."

The paper was recently published in *ACS Biochemistry*.

"This publication lays the foundation to utilize the enzyme to synthesize the natural products," Johnson said.

"This publication lays the foundation to utilize the enzyme to synthesize the natural products," Sydney Johnson said.

"I like to train innovative scientists that work on trying to move the science

forward by developing projects that move the entire field forward," said Pablo Sobrado, professor of biochemistry who leads the Sobrado Lab and is also a researcher on the paper. "Sydney achieved that with this research."

Enzymes are proteins that help speed up chemical reactions. For their experiment, researchers used an enzyme that produces something called roquefortine L. Parts of its chemical structure are biologically active, which means that it can have beneficial properties such as antimicrobial activities.

In addition, the production of roquefortine L is central to the production of other molecules called glandiclone, melegranin, and oxaline, which have been shown to have broad antimicrobial properties and promising anticancer effects against human breast and leukemia cancer cells.

This enzyme attaches two hydroxyl groups to a nitrogen atom, which are functional groups found in sugars and alcohols. A hydroxyl group consists of one hydrogen and one oxygen atom. Through a complex chemical process, the hydroxyl groups then develop an entirely different functionality.

"This has not been studied in detail before, and Sydney showed how the enzyme holds on first to the product that has the one hydroxyl group, attaches the second group, and then obtains the final product," Sobrado said.

Many fungal species make this compound naturally, and it's relatively new in the biochemistry field to research how to synthesize these processes at a large scale. According to the researchers, the reaction mechanism and the actual chemistry that takes place on the involved nitrogen atom is completely novel from other publications.

"This publication lays the foundation to utilize the enzyme to synthesize the natural products," Johnson said. "The improvements make this process much more marketable. Eventually, we could get a drug containing one of these compounds or something similar to it to the market."

Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech

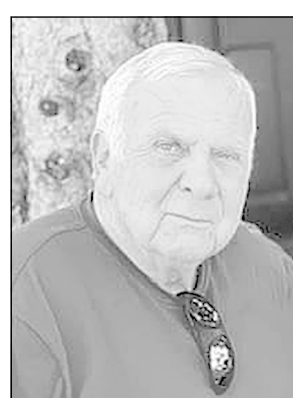
## Slusher, Sr., James "Jim" Phillip

James "Jim" Phillip Slusher, Sr., 76, of Radford, passed away at his home surrounded by his family Saturday, June 22, 2024. He was a Class of '65 graduate of Radford High School where he was an outstanding athlete and defensive end who was selected to represent the State of Virginia in the Virginia-West Virginia All-Star Football Game. He was a graduate of New River Community College and completed his four-year electrician apprenticeship at Lynchburg Foundry. Over the years he was employed with AT&T, Volvo, and retired as maintenance manager at the VA Western Regional Jail.

He was a longtime member of Grace Episcopal Church where he served as Jr. Warden for many years, taking care of the buildings and grounds and upgrading the facilities.

In his youth, Jim was a guitarist for "Little Dave and the Chancellors," a local band loved by the area teenagers. Music, especially bluegrass, was always a part of his life. He never met a stranger, was humble, kind, quick-witted, and so very proud of his growing family. He adored his wife, three children, and nine grandchildren, excitedly waiting for grand #10 in October. He worked hard to provide for his family and only missed five days in a 58-year career! A gentle giant and funny dad to his children's friends.

He loved his church family, fishing, golf, and, most of all, playing with and teasing his grandchildren. A master electrician who could fix anything and was always willing to help someone else.



Jim fought major illnesses for the last five years, but never complained and always said, "Some folks are in worse shape than I am." He will be greatly missed by all who loved him!

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jake C. and Frances T. Slusher; and brother, Jake R. Slusher.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Lee Jordan Slusher;

daughters, Beth Slusher Davis (Bobby) of Radford, and Dr. Jennifer Slusher (Annie) of Roanoke; son, James P. Slusher, Jr., P.E. (Kim) of Charlotte, N.C.; granddaughters, Lauren Shifflett (John) of Radford, Haley Davis (Daniel) of Dandridge, Tenn., Livie Harvey-Slusher of Roanoke, Rae Harvey-Slusher of Roanoke, Jordan Harvey-Slusher of Roanoke, Maggie Slusher of Charlotte, N. C., and Allie Slusher of Charlotte, N. C.; great grandsons, Clayton Shifflett and Cooper Tweed; sister-in-law, Julie Slusher of Roanoke; nephew, Richie Slusher; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Friday, June 28 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A celebration of Jim's life will be held at 11 a.m. today, Saturday, June 29 at Grace Episcopal Church in Radford with Rev. William Yagel officiating. A reception will immediately follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Jim's memory to Grace Episcopal Church, Fourth Street, Radford, VA 24141.

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

## Best of Virginia from page 1

- Best Wine Shop – Vintage Cellar, Blacksburg
- Best Brewery – Eastern Divide Brewing Company, Blacksburg
- Best Cocktails – Lush Lounge, Floyd
- Best Distillery – Salty Stash Distillery, Dublin
- Best Winery – Iron Heart Winery, Allisonia
- Best Living and Recreation
- Best Annual Charity Event – Cancer, Kids, and Christmas, Narrows

- Best Art Event – Steppin' Out, Blacksburg
- Best Art Gallery – Moss Arts Center, Blacksburg
- Best Entertainment Center for Adults – McClain's at First and Main, Blacksburg
- Best Festival – Steppin' Out, Blacksburg
- Best Love Sign – LOVEwork in Pearisburg, Pearisburg
- Best Movie Theater – The Lyric, Blacksburg

- Best Music Venue – The Floyd Country Store, Floyd
- Best Special Event Venue – Mountain Lake Lodge, Pembroke
- Best Dog Groomer – M & J Pet Grooming, Pearisburg
- Best Veterinary Hospital – Town and Country Veterinary Clinic, Christiansburg
- Best K-12 Independent School – Blacksburg New School, Blacksburg
- Best Bed & Breakfast – Lily Valley Inn, Pearisburg
- Best Historic Site – Mabry Mill, Blue Ridge Parkway
- Best Resort – Mountain Lake Lodge, Pembroke
- Best State Park – Claytor Lake State Park, Dublin
- Best Tourist Attraction – Blue Ridge Parkway
- Best Golf Course – Castle Rock Golf Course and Recreation, Pembroke
- Best Services
- Best Counseling or Therapy Practice – New River Valley Community Services, multiple locations
- Best Dental Practice – Radford Family Dental, Radford
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Practice – NRV Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Blacksburg, and Radford
- Best Pediatric Practice – New River Valley Pediatrics, multiple locations
- Best Cosmetic Surgery Practice – New River Dermatology, Blacksburg
- Best Dermatology Practice – New River Dermatology, multiple locations
- Best Hair Salon – The Hair Loft, Radford
- Best Spa – Allure Spa and Skin Health Boutique, Blacksburg

- Best Greenhouse and Nursery – Crow's Nest Greenhouses, Blacksburg
  - Best Kitchen and Bath Design Firm – Dublin Home Store, Dublin
  - Best Landscape Design – Back to Nature Landscaping & Construction, Blacksburg
  - Best Retirement Community – Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg
  - Best Accounting Firm – Darryl Gillespie P.C., CPA Christiansburg
  - Best Auction Company – Linkous Auctioneers, Blacksburg
  - Best Bank – Truist, multiple locations
  - Best Car Dealer – Shelor Motor Mile, Christiansburg
  - Best Financial Planning Firm – Plott & French Financial Advisors, Radford
  - Best Funeral Home – Kendall Funeral Home, Pembroke
  - Best Law Firm – Patrick K. Moore, Blacksburg and Radford
  - Best Shopping
  - Best Bookstore – Blacksburg Books, Blacksburg
  - Best Consignment Shop – Treasure Trove Thrift Store, Christiansburg
  - Best Fine Jewelry Store – P.R. Sturgill Fine Jewelry, Radford
  - Best Florist Shop – Northside Flower Shop, Radford
  - Best Flower Farm – Stonecrop Farmers, Newport
  - Best Men's Clothing – Tractor Supply, Pearisburg
  - Best Sporting Goods or Outdoor Outfitter – Tangent Outfitters, Pembroke
  - Best Women's Clothing Store – Fringe Benefit, Blacksburg
- In addition to these winners, 83 destinations and businesses from the NRV were recognized with second or third place awards.

Onward NRV

# Looking for Some Good News?

Your Newspaper Subscription Includes Puzzles, Local Stories, Events & More

Great Ways to Start Your Day!

**Subscribe Today for Print & Digital Access.**

Local News Is Just the Beginning  
 Subscribe • Support • Advertise  
 (540) 389-9355

# News Messenger



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Kanipe headed to diamond at Butler

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

A former Radford High School ('21) hurler is on the move.

Alex Kanipe will play this coming fall at Butler.

He spent last season at Bluefield State, where he pitched 72.2 innings with an 8-3 record, 3.84 earned run average, 89 strikeouts and only 27 walks. The 6-2, 200-pound rightie also held opposing batters to a .252 clip.

Kanipe cited the Butler coaching staff for a recent in choosing the school.

"They (the coaches) can help me to get where I want to be, and also, Butler is a very good academic school," he said.

Kanipe, who previously started his career at Patrick



**Alex Kanipe**

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX KANIPE

Henry Community College, has summer league experience with the Martinsville Mustangs. So far this season, he has pitched 22.2 innings with a 1-0 record, 4.36 ERA and 24 strikeouts.

Butler University is a private university in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Butler's athletic teams, known as the Bulldogs, compete in Division I of the NCAA. In 2013, Butler became a founding member of the reconfigured Big East Conference.

The baseball team finished 20-25 this past spring with only a 5-16

record in the conference.

"My goals on the diamond are to help Butler win a Big East title, get to the professional level and impact my teammates and people around me in a positive way," Kanipe said.

At Butler, Kanipe plans on majoring in either engineering or business.

## Light MED player of year

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Auburn High School dominated almost every Mt. Empire District Spring all-star teams announced on Wednesday.

Katie Light was player of the year for girls' soccer, while Brody Hensel was the player of the year for baseball.

In addition, Adam Ritchie was the MED's girls' soccer coach of the year, while Eric Altizer took the similar honor for baseball.

Light was joined on the first-team All MED girls' soccer list by teammates Grace Harris, Kenleigh Smith, Logan Mundy and Jillian Tucker. Second team honors were given to Stacy Lewis, Kristen Pack, Beverly Warner, Rowan Price, Allison Funk and goalkeeper Kennedy Marshall.

Hensel was joined on the first-team all-MED baseball by pitcher Josh Givens, first baseman Zac McGlothlin, outfielder Jared Lavergne and DH Brady Hale. Graham Alley and Mitchell Hale were named to the second team.

Four players from Auburn were named to the first-team boys' soccer squad. The list included Jared Bradley, Nick Millirons, Cole Jones and Jude Miar.

Seven players from Auburn were named to the All-MED softball squad. First teamers included pitcher McKenzie Booth, second base Kayle Ramrattan, outfielder Ariel Mullins and Hope Wilson.

The second team list included pitcher Faith Wilson, outfielder Johnnie Gaynor and Leah Wimmer.

## Teams vie for spring softball tourney championship



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG REC DEPARTMENT

The BJCC team finished second in the spring softball tournament completed Wednesday night by the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation department.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG REC DEPARTMENT

Team Laser took the championship in the spring softball tournament completed Wednesday night by the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation department.

## 'Enter Sandman' electric entrance in college football

It's a Saturday night in Lane Stadium, just minutes before kickoff.

Players begin filing into the narrow tunnel. Anticipation is building among the thousands of excited fans packed in the stands. Cheerleaders hold up "LET'S GO" and "HOKIES" signs as the crowd chants.

Then, the first note of heavy metal band Metallica's 'Enter Sandman' plays, and the crowd erupts with excitement as the entire stadium jumps in unison. The Hokies' head coach takes a deep breath, reaches up to touch the

legendary Hokie Stone above the tunnel's exit, and finally – it's time.

The team bursts out of the tunnel and onto the field while fireworks and pyrotechnics ignite, electrifying the crowd and sending waves of exhilaration and goosebumps through every person in the stadium.

"It's just a different type of feeling," wide receiver Ali Jennings explained when describing the experience. "I get chills every time I think about it — the stadium actually shakes."

Regarded as college

football's greatest entrance, 'Enter Sandman' dates back to Aug. 27, 2000, when Virginia Tech installed the first videoboard in Lane Stadium. A new videoboard means a new walkout song, and 'Enter Sandman' won out over 'Welcome to the Jungle' by Guns N' Roses and 'Sirius' by The Alan Parsons Project.

However, the first time the team actually used it in a game was against Georgia Tech, and the game itself was delayed then canceled due to thunderstorms. In fact, ESPN analyst Lee

Corso's rental car was struck by lightning as the announcer was preparing for the game.

'Enter Sandman' got its "jump" start a few years later on a chilly night when one band member started jumping to warm up. Before long, several other band members joined in, and the spontaneous act evolved into the legendary entrance.

"The next thing you know, the whole band is jumping up and down, and then the next thing you know, the whole stadium is jumping up and down," former director of the Marching

Virginians David McKee said in an interview with the Washington Post in 2009. "It was one of those accidental traditions."

What started as a few band members jumping up and down led to an entire stadium of 66K bouncing fans – and seismographs have actually registered the shaking and noise.

In 2011, against major ACC rival, Miami (Fla.), a seismograph detected noticeable activity centered on when the team entered the stadium. Similar situations occurred in 2015 during a game against Ohio State and again in 2021 during the home opener against the nationally ranked North Carolina.

While the readings weren't quite at the level of an earthquake, it's safe to say that Hokie fans were loud.

'Enter Sandman' eventually carried over to both the men's and women's Virginia Tech basketball teams, and even some graduations. The excitement behind the movement took a turn when the Hokies hosted the first round of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament at Cassell Coliseum in 2023.

Due to the NCAA tournament being viewed as a neutral site game, 'Enter Sandman' was banned from being played by the NCAA at the event to keep the game as neutral as possible. However, that

didn't stop Hokie Nation from singing the lyrics themselves to create a home-court advantage.

Even Metallica has expressed its support for the iconic tradition. Prior to football's 2011 Miami game, the band recorded a video that was placed alongside the entrance hype video and music.

"The stadium was ... probably as loud as it has ever been," Virginia Tech football's legendary former coach Frank Beamer said. "I appreciate that part."

Now entering its 25th year of existence, the iconic 'Enter Sandman' has become synonymous with Virginia Tech football and Hokie pride. The hype-filled walkout energizes the crowd of Hokies, intimidates opponents and helps create a gameday experience unlike any other.

"It all starts with 'Enter Sandman,'" current head coach Brent Pry said. "There's no better entrance in college football."

Virginia Tech Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY VT ATHLETICS

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

P	T	A	S		A	T	M	E	M	I	R
T	A	A	L	S		B	O	A	Y	A	R
S	H	R	I	E	K	A	P	R	E	N	O
D	R	E	D	G	E	S	P	T	L	U	N
						R	E	D	E	L	I
M	I	N	U	E	N	D	E	N	A	T	E
S	P	O	N	G	E	S		D	I	N	
B	O	T	H	A				Q	I	A	N
		T	E	D		C	A	U	S	T	I
		S	P	O	R	E		A	L	I	M
B	A	R	R	A	C	U	D	A	S		
B	A	B	A	S	I	P		C	H	I	C
E	L	L	I		E	M		K	E	E	L
A	M	E	S		R	A	P		D	E	E
L	Y	S	E		S	L	A		E	G	O



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Boyer appointed CHS cheer coach

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The new cheer coach at Christiansburg High School brings lots of experience to the sidelines. Lindsey Boyer, who is a counselor at the school, started cheerleading at a very young age as a Christiansburg little league cheerleader.

From there, she said she was fortunate enough to have a family who allowed her to do All-Star Competitive cheerleading. During her time in All-Star, she was on two local teams, while also continuing to cheer for Christiansburg Middle School and Christiansburg High School.

She now has come full circle. "I applied to be the head Varsity Sideline and Competition Coach at CHS because I believe in the program," she said. "I have had the honor of watching the CHS Cheer program grow and rebuild after COVID hit. These girls have so much talent and are amazing athletes."

Unfortunately, many people still have the belief, according to Boyer, that cheer is not a sport.

"However, these girls embody what it means to be a true athlete," she said. "I want to make sure that gets showcased. Whether that be under the Friday night lights, or on the competition mat. CHS is capable of becoming a powerhouse in the cheer world, and I feel

honored to be a part of it." Boyer looks back on her former mentors. "I had so many amazing coaches along the way, and my family has always been so supportive, which has allowed me to take my love for cheer and share that with the current CHS cheerleaders. I have been a cheer coach at CHS for the past three years as the Assistant Coach for the CHS Competition Cheer team. Additionally, for the past 1.5 years, I have also been the head JV sideline coach. I love my cheer family and I'm very honored to continue being a part of it," she said.

As a counselor, Boyer works directly with the school's current seniors, the class of 2025.

"It's pretty amazing to be able to work alongside my seniors during the school day and be in the position to support them through athletics outside of school hours. I am very proud of the class of 2025, and I will always be their biggest cheerleader," she said.

The new coach hopes to take the cheer program to a higher level, both on and off the mat.

"I want my athletes to be all around positive influences on the world, showcase true sportsmanship, and represent the core values of CHS: respectful, responsible, connected, while also growing as athletes. I want to elevate their cheer skills so when people hear Christiansburg High School Cheerleading they will respect our name and our abilities. As our theme for the year states, "unleash your champion."

## Lady Hokies part of Florida tip-off

South Carolina, winner of two of the last three national championships, headlines the eight teams participating in the 2024 Elevance Health Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off.

This year's event will be held Nov. 28-30 on the campus of Florida Southwestern State College.

South Carolina, Iowa State, Purdue and Middle Tennessee make up the four teams of the Island Division and Virginia Tech, Michigan, Belmont and Davidson are the quartet making up the Shell Division. The teams of the Island Division will play two games each against pre-determined opponents while the Shell Division will be a traditional bracketed tournament.

Additionally, it was announced that Elevance Health will continue as the title sponsor of the event, agreeing to a multi-year extension that first began with the launch of the Elevance Health Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off in 2022.

The Lady Hokies will play Davidson on Friday, Nov. 29.

The collective power of the programs will make the Elevance Health Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off one of the strongest early season tournament fields this year. The teams have combined for 122 NCAA Tournament appearances. The four teams of the Island Division combine for 90 NCAA berths and four national titles between them – South Carolina owning three and Purdue having claimed one. In addition to the Gamecocks, Iowa State, Middle Tennessee, Michigan and Virginia Tech were selected to the NCAA Tournament last year.

Travel packages for fans looking to join their favorite team at the Elevance Health Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off will be available on July 16 at [www.womensfortmyerstipoff.com/travel](http://www.womensfortmyerstipoff.com/travel). The Westin Cape Coral and Marina Village and the Marriott Sanibel Harbour are the event's host hotels and fans will have the opportunity to stay where the teams stay and experience resort life to the fullest.

Virginia Tech Athletics

## Holiday Hoopfest vs. Saint Joseph's

Virginia Tech and Saint Joseph's are set to clash in the 2024 Holiday Hoopfest, December 21, at The Palestra in Philadelphia, Pa., as announced by tournament officials Monday afternoon.

It will mark the seventh all-time meeting between the two former Atlantic 10 Conference rivals. Each side has won three times. Tech last squared off against SJU on Dec. 22, 2015 in Brooklyn, N.Y. The Hokies dropped a 79-62 decision. Tech returns to The Palestra for the first time since it went 1-1 in the 2009 Philly Hoop Group Classic. VT is 5-16 all-time in the City of Brotherly Love.

"Playing Saint Joseph's at The Palestra in December as part of Holiday Hoopfest is a tremendous opportunity

for our team," Tech head coach Mike Young said. "It's a historic venue with such great basketball tradition, and facing a quality opponent like St. Joe's will be a great test for us. We're excited for the challenge and look forward to competing in the cathedral of college basketball."

Senior point guard Hysier Miller, a Philly native, will get an opportunity to play in his hometown for the Hokies' 2024 nonconference finale. Prior to transferring to Tech, Miller competed for three seasons at Temple.

The Hawks finished the 2023-24 season at 21-14 overall and 9-9 in A-10 play. Like the Hokies, they advanced to the NIT where they suffered a 75-72 overtime loss to Seton Hall in the opening round.

Virginia Tech Athletics

## Buddy Camps from page 1



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

### Camper gather for a group photo after a fun day at Buddy Camp.

Barber was in attendance and enjoyed spending the morning with the buddies on the playground and even enjoying some pizza himself.

With Christiansburg Parks and Recreation's mission including accessibility and inclusivity, their involvement with Jill's Buddy Camp aligns with that as the events and camp activities both branches host have a long lasting effect on children with special needs and the volunteers that care for them.

"This camp is very special to me," said Epperley, "as it provides an opportunity for children with disabilities to enjoy the camp experience and form lifelong friends with their buddies. This is our 10th year in Christiansburg. When we started the camp 10 years ago, my plan

was for the camp to make a great impact on the campers. What I have found over the past 10 years is that the campers have made just great of an impact on the buddies, teachers, staff and myself. Being able to share today with Salem's Jill's Buddy Camp was very special for me. Tommy Barber and I worked on this for a while and even spoke at the NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association) and VRPS (Virginia Recreation Parks Society) about the camp and the impacts it can make within the community. We were able to get other similar camps started in other areas as our ultimate goal is to see growth of the camp. Having both of our camps together today [June 26] really brought a great deal of joy to me."



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

### A camper and their buddy feed the sheep during the camp day.

## Local Talents from page 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEAP PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

### Fiona Jackson (left) and Savannah Beasley. The duo will be performing in George Balanchine's "Coppélia."

of the greatest comedic ballets of the 19th century.

"Coppélia" premiered in Saratoga in 1974 and was co-commissioned by the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC). Choreographed by George Balanchine and Alexandra Danilova after Marius Petipa, it has remained one of the most beloved classical works in the ballet repertory. Savannah and Fiona will participate in the program on Friday, July 12, and Saturday, July 13, in addition to the opening night's NYCB On and Off Stage program on Tuesday, July 9, at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC).

The New York City Ballet is revered as one of the foremost dance companies in the world, known for its unparalleled artistic excellence, innovative choreography, and influential repertory. Performing with the NYCB is a distinguished honor, a dream realized by few, and a testament to the exceptional caliber of Savannah and Fiona's talents. This opportunity places them among the elite, providing a platform to perform

at a level synonymous with the highest standards of the ballet world.

"We are immensely proud of Savannah and Fiona for their outstanding achievements," said Heather Leeper, Director of the LEAP Performing Arts Academy. "Their selection to perform with the New York City Ballet is a profound reflection of their hard work, dedication, and passion for dance, as well as the exceptional guidance of our teaching staff. It is an honor for our academy to see our students recognized on such a prestigious stage."

This remarkable opportunity not only highlights the exceptional talent cultivated at the LEAP Performing Arts Academy but also serves as an inspiration to young dancers everywhere. The achievements of Savannah and Fiona exemplify the heights that can be reached with determination, support, and a nurturing community.

For further information about Little Leapers & LEAP Performing Arts Academy, please visit [www.thelittleleapers.com](http://www.thelittleleapers.com).

LEAP Performing Arts Academy