

# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, August 17, 2024

www.montcova.com

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

## Town council approves agreement for Blacksburg Museum *Citizens raise concerns about the facilities' leadership*

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG - The Blacksburg Town Council voted to approve a resolution regarding the operating agreement between The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation and the Town of Blacksburg at its meeting Aug. 13, 2024.

The operating agreement between The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation and the Town of Blacksburg states the town owns the property and the facilities on the grounds. This includes the Alexander Black House and the St. Luke Odd Fellows Hall. The agreement is to last five years.

"The parties intend for the general responsibilities," the operating agreement reads, "of the foundation to include (i) providing resources for the renovation and restoration of the facilities through a commitment to fundraising, including capital, endowment, and potential on-going annual fundraising; (ii) serving

as an advocate for other town historic properties; (iii) advising on long-range planning and vision for the facilities and the other historic properties; (iv) serving as an ambassador in the community and region by advocating on behalf of historic preservation, arts and culture; and (v) having members serve on committees or task forces, as needed; more specifically, the foundation plans to develop an ambitious program to study and record the history of Blacksburg, as well as to promote and facilitate the visual and performing arts in Blacksburg."

Citizens were invited to speak openly on this topic during citizen comments and many of the residents who spoke to this agreement said they are disheartened by many of the goings-on regarding St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall and the other facilities. This includes qualms with the public communication and direct communications with committee chairs of the facilities.

"There has been a lack of transparent communication," Jody Daniels, a citizen, said, "with the public regarding

how the museum executes its mission and manages both the Alexander Black House and the St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall equitably. The exclusion of interested parties and community members continues and there seems to be no accountability or effort to address this issue."

Christine King, a descendant of Gordon Mills who helped build the hall, spoke to the town council regarding the treatment and communications she's had with those in charge of the building. King also expressed frustrations with the St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall committee.

"If you don't have a vision for the future of the hall," King said, "perhaps there is a need for a change in leadership. The deed clearly outlines numerous positive outcomes for the building, which she seems to disregard which is unacceptable."

Although this operating agreement was approved, the community members said they would like to see, at minimum, a change in communication and inclusion.

## Virginia Breeze relocates its bus stop in Blacksburg

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation is pleased to announce that its Virginia Breeze Bus Lines will be relocating its Blacksburg stop to the Multimodal Transit Facility (MMTF) on Virginia Tech's campus at 1324 Perry Street, adjacent to the south side of the Perry Street Parking Garage. This move is part of multiple relocations of Virginia Breeze passenger boarding locations, including future stop relocations in Wytheville and Staunton, that will provide passengers a more streamlined and enjoyable travel experience as they embark on their journeys to various destinations across the state and nation.

The Virginia Breeze's previous stop at the Squires Student Center has served the community well with nearly 80,000 riders arriving and departing from this location since the Virginia Breeze's inception in December 2017. However, the planned relocation to the MMTF aligns with the long-term vision of providing a more convenient and efficient transit experience. The MMTF's design plans have always incorporated the Virginia Breeze, emphasizing the importance of this intercity bus service within the community.

The new location at the MMTF boasts

several enhanced amenities that will greatly benefit passengers with improved shelter lighting and accessibility features to provide a safer and more comfortable waiting area for travelers. Additionally, the strategic placement of the MMTF on Virginia Tech's campus allows for easier access by local transit providers, ensuring a seamless connection for passengers traveling to and from the university.

"We are thrilled to be relocating our Blacksburg stop to the Multimodal Transit Facility," said Zach Trogdon, Acting Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. "This move represents a significant step forward in our commitment to providing a top-notch transit experience for our passengers. We are confident that the enhanced amenities and convenient location will greatly improve the overall journey for our valued customers."

The Virginia Breeze's relocation to the MMTF in Blacksburg took effect Aug. 12, 2024.

To learn more about the Virginia Breeze's relocation plans in Wytheville and Staunton, keep an eye on www.virginiabreeze.drpt.virginia.gov for updates.

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPT. OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Virginia Breeze bus line has relocated its Blacksburg stop to the Multimodal Transit Facility (MMTF) on Virginia Tech's campus.

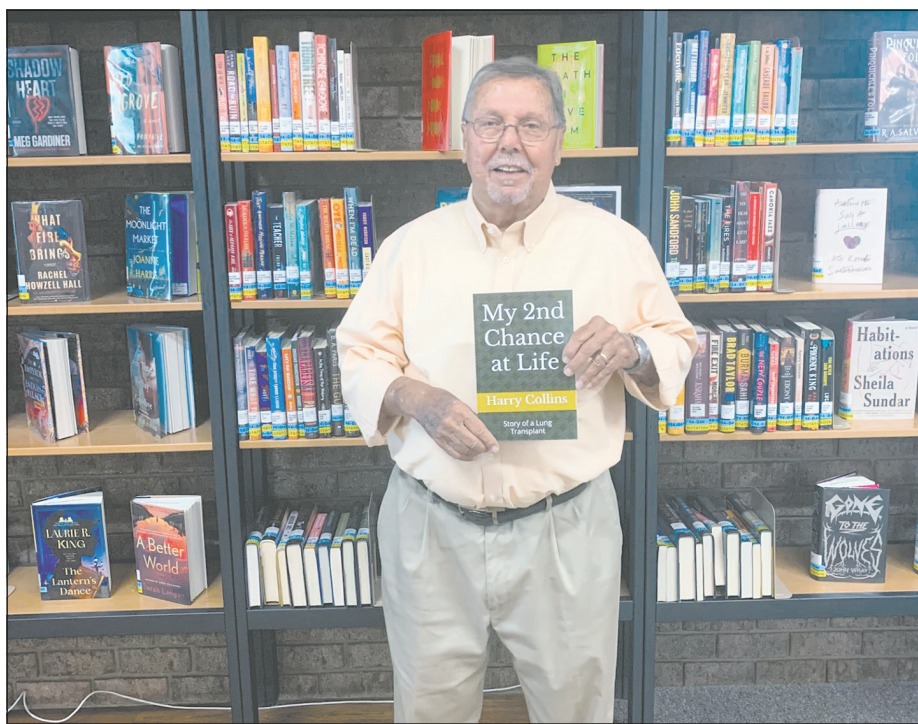


PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRY COLLINS

Harry Collins has given a copy of his short novel, about his battle to receive a lung transplant, to the Christiansburg branch of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library.

## Former council member publishes short stories on life

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

CHRISTIANSBURG - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a common lung disease that causes breathing problems and restricted airflow. Typically, it is caused by long-term cigarette smoking.

Harry Collins was one of those individuals, a long-time smoker where many relatives had died from cancer, including his mother.

"I know smoking was killing me, but I liked it so much I willing to take the risk," he said in a recent interview. "I always thought I could not live without a cigarette when, in fact, the opposite was true.

After a trip to the hospital, Collins was told he might not survive.

Now, Collins is sharing his struggle.

Medical experts say the serious side of COPD will prevent individuals from daily activities like walking and taking care of themselves. Collins was determined to change things.

"I hope my story provides some

encouragement to others who might be going through the same thing," he said.

A lung transplant can be life-changing for people like Collins, who had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Of course, a transplant isn't a permanent cure, but it does help control the symptoms and allows the individual to live longer.

In most cases, the longevity is just averaging five years. Collins has rewritten those numbers. Many people that were in his transplant support group have passed. He says six are still living after going through similar experiences.

"It has been over 14 years since I had my transplant, and a lot of things have happened in that time," Collins says as he opens his narrative.

"There is nothing special about me. I'm just a regular 59-year-old man who was given the supreme gift in life—another chance," he said.

His story is one of survival and hope. Collins served one-term on the Christiansburg Town Council and remains active in the community.

See SHORT STORIES, Page 2

## Blacksburg Town Council comments on Watson allegations

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG- Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith, during the Blacksburg Town Council meeting, read the statement the town council recently released regarding Council Member Liam Watson's arrest and allegations.

"I'm going to include a statement," Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith said, "that was written a week ago by the Town Council. That is, on August 5th, the town council, in response to questions from the community, released a statement regarding the arrest of Council Member Liam Watson. I thought it'd be appropriate to share the full text of the statement tonight."

Watson was present for the council meeting and participated as he normally would with his fellow council members. The council seemed to be in good spirits throughout the evening, including sharing a laugh when Mayor Hager-Smith fumbled her words later on in the meeting, laughed and corrected herself. The Watson case is under investigation and the town council meetings will continue on their regular schedule.

The statement reads, "Recently the Blacksburg Town Council was made aware, through local news reports, of the arrest of Council Member Liam Watson. At this time the town council has no additional information regarding the allegations beyond what is contained in

the indictment. We trust that our legal system, which is based on a presumption of innocence, will address this matter in a timely and just manner. The town council will take appropriate actions, as necessary, as the process unfolds and more facts become available. The town council is a non-partisan elected body committed to upholding the principles of transparency and integrity. We understand the concerns this situation may raise within our community and assure the community that the town council remains dedicated to serving the best interests of Blacksburg and its residents."

Watson was indicted in July on three counts of felony election fraud and one felony count of illegally voting.

## Christiansburg Town Council receives tourism analysis presentation

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

CHRISTIANSBURG- The Cure Agency gave a presentation on tourism and marketing during the Christiansburg Town Council meeting held Tuesday, Aug. 13.

The Cure Agency was brought in by The Montgomery County Tourism Office to help provide suggestions and analysis on tourism in Montgomery County and the towns within it. The analyses were strategic and are meant to provide recommendations on marketing,

particularly advertising, to show potential tourists what Montgomery County has to offer.

According to the presentation, the Cure Agency conducted research and analysis of "like" communities, meaning communities in other states or counties that are similar to Christiansburg. They also did interviews and community visits with facility members and community members. The Cure Agency found that Christiansburg residents feel as though Christiansburg is not being represented.

The "wayforward" presented by the agency highlighted three pillars that the Town of Christiansburg could

improve upon, capitalize on and highlight to increase tourism and help Christiansburg feel represented. These were Transportation and Connectivity, Innovation and Technology, and Group Getaways.

There is so much Christiansburg has and does that would attract tourists, like drone deliveries and the recreational assets the community has. The Cure Agency explained how the use of keywords by visitors and tourists shows Blacksburg has more awareness in comparison to Christiansburg.

Some of the marketing suggestions the Cure Agency had were to create visitor experience guides

See TOWN COUNCIL, Page 6

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Aug. 17 – Sunday, Aug. 18:

### Blacksburg Community Center closed

The Blacksburg Community Center is closed for annual maintenance. This closure will extend through Sunday, Aug. 18 and will reopen on Monday, Aug. 19. For more information, please call 540.443.1140.

## Saturday, Aug. 17 - Friday, Aug. 23:

### CAC annual maintenance

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center will be closed for annual maintenance to complete work that cannot be completed while the center is open.

## Saturday, Aug. 17:

### Rescheduled Radford Summer Concert

Crowd favorite Cassette Rewind, an 80s cover band, will perform on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Gates open at 6 p.m. and music starts at 7 p.m. Food trucks, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Tickets are \$5 per person, ages 12 and under are free. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

### 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, Aug. 18:

### Faith and Democracy presentation

The local group Defending Democracies will host a special presentation and discussion featuring Chris Crawford, Policy Strategist for Protect Democracy. We'll hear why democracy is important to faith communities and consider actions we can take, both as individuals and as faith communities, to support the defense of our democracy. Join us, 2:30-4 p.m., at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Whisner Building, 111 Church St. SE, Blacksburg (parking in lots off of Lee St.).

### 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/).

## Tuesday, Aug. 20:

### August TRIAD-Artificial Intelligence (AI)

TRIAD/S.A.L.T. is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies (police/sheriffs), senior citizens, and senior organization, focused on reducing crimes against our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors. Presentation on AI will cover the history and what is AI. What is AI being used for in general. What areas you may see it in and how you will be affected by AI. What is coming soon and what is in the future. Followed by Q&A. TRIAD meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1:30 p.m. You are invited to attend.

## Wednesday, Aug. 21:

### 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).

## Friday, Aug. 23 – Sunday, Aug. 25:

### Theater production

Proclamation Theatre and New River Stage present "A Deadly Sunrise: The Tragedy of Lewis & McHenry," a story about the infamous Lewis & McHenry duel, the people, the 1808 time period and the lasting impact on our region and state. This is a new work by local playwright Mark 'Hiram' Curtis. Go to [proclamationtheatre.com](http://proclamationtheatre.com) for advance tickets and best seats. The performance location is Proclamation Theatre at Knights of Columbus Hall in Christiansburg. Showtimes listed on website.

## Saturday, Aug. 24:

### Heritage Day

Sponsored by the Montgomery Museum of Art & History. Immerse yourself in the rich history of Christiansburg, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., in downtown Christiansburg, 4 E Main St. and 300 South Pepper St. Step into the past with over 40 vendors showcasing crafts, artifacts, and more. Indulge your taste buds with a variety of delectable treats from food trucks while enjoying the delightful tunes of live music and dance throughout the day. Keep the little ones entertained with a hayride and specially curated activities just for them.

### Rotary Club of Blacksburg yard sale

The Annual August Yard Sale will be held 7 - 11 a.m. at the Blacksburg YMCA parking lot on North Main Street. Featured will be a wide range of items including household items, kitchen appliances, monitors, furniture, tools, bikes, and much more. Proceeds go to local projects as well as local scholarships for high school students offered each year by the Rotary Club.

## Monday, Aug. 26:

### 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).

### 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.

## Tuesday, Aug. 27:

### 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.

# Virginia State Parks becomes first park system in the nation to install viewfinders for colorblind guests at every park

Virginia State Parks is leading the way in inclusivity by becoming the first park system in the nation to install EnChroma-adapted viewfinders for colorblind guests at each of its 43 locations.

The viewfinders, made by SeeCoast Manufacturing, are equipped with special lenses from EnChroma designed to help those with red-green Color Vision Deficiency (CVD) experience an expanded range of visible color.

While people with normal color vision see over one million shades of color, those with red-green CVD are estimated to see about 10% of hues and shades. To them, colors containing red and green can appear dull, washed out and indistinguishable.

"This initiative underscores Virginia's commitment to enhancing outdoor experiences for all visitors and sets a new standard for state parks nationwide," said Matt Wells, director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, which manages Virginia

State Parks. "We're proud to play a role in opening up a world of vibrant color for colorblind individuals to experience nature like never before."

The installation of EnChroma-adapted viewfinders at Virginia State Parks began in 2023 with Natural Tunnel State Park, an initiative that was led by Chief Ranger Ethan Howes who is colorblind. The remaining 42 locations received their viewfinders in 2024.

The purchase of the viewfinders was funded by donations received through the Round-Up for Parks Program, allowing visitors to donate to Virginia State Parks when making a purchase online or at a park. Since 2018, visitors have donated nearly \$300,000, which has been invested in improving offerings and activities.

"Seeing the world in vibrant color is a gift many of us take for granted," said Virginia State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker. "The EnChroma viewfinders help us create a one-of-a-kind experience

for our red-green colorblind visitors and allow them to better enjoy the breathtaking beauty of our state parks."

To launch this color accessibility initiative on July 26, six red-green colorblind people traveled to Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield, Virginia, to try the EnChroma viewfinder and share their perspectives on the experience. They included a carpenter, policy analyst, medical dispatcher, personal trainer, permit specialist and college student.

"Virginia gives visitors unrivaled access to beautiful forests, breathtaking mountain views, stunning rivers and the renowned colorful leaves in fall," said Erik Ritchie, CEO of EnChroma. "Virginia is truly for lovers of the outdoors but it's also for lovers of color too. That's why we applaud Virginia State Parks for working with EnChroma to make its colorful beauty more accessible to those who are red-green colorblind."

One in 12 men (8%) and one in 200 women (0.5%) are colorblind. In the U.S.

alone, 13 million people are colorblind and 350 million worldwide. With over 8 million people visiting Virginia State Parks annually, approximately 341,000 are colorblind.

Virginia State Parks joins over 400 organizations worldwide in supporting colorblind guests by installing the SeeCoast viewfinders with EnChroma lenses or loaning EnChroma glasses. This includes nearly 100 state and national parks across 25 states. The patented lenses are engineered with special optical filters that help people with red-green color blindness see an expanded range of visible color. EnChroma glasses are for people with deuteranomalous and protanomalous CVD. They work for approximately eight of 10 red-green colorblind people, but are not a cure for color blindness and results and reaction times vary. A study by the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio illustrated the benefits of the glasses.

*Virginia State Parks*

## Short Stories

from page 1

He is now sharing the bigger picture with the release of three short novels that describe that first step of a lung transplant.

"My 2nd Chance at Life" is about the true events surrounding his bilateral lung transplant for a man who had COPD and had six months to live without a lung transplant.

Thankfully a transplant came about after four dry runs, and this book is about the true trials and tribulations of this journey. It goes through details that he thought would interest the reader.

When he had his lung transplant, there were no books to be found like this. He goes through the friendships he made with the other 25 or so people needing a transplant and the ups and downs with these folks. He even talks about one of his best friends getting his transplant and then passing away tragically. It's a great short read for information on what actually happens when you get a lung

transplant when you swap out one set of problems for another set of problems.

"Since lung transplants are becoming much more prevalent, this information has become more important," Collins said.

He joined the Lung Transplant Foundation in 2010 because he felt the need to help find a cure for BOS, which is rejection. He organized the First Annual Lung Transplant Foundation Golf Tournament in June 2011 and has completed 7 tournaments since then. He has served as Vice President and since the death of our Founder, Jeff Goldstein, he has served as CEO and Chairman of the Board for this organization.

Of course, all the drugs that have helped to make his transplant somewhat successful has caused many other problems.

"The steroids we take for our immune system affect our body in many ways," he said.

One of those side effects is "Avascular Necrosis", which has attacked his bones and joints. He spent several weeks earlier this year fighting this. He has had two hips and a shoulder replaced. He is waiting for a knee and ankle replacement, but doctors have warned that be troublesome because of his lung transplant.

Those same drugs have drastically affected his kidneys, and he is now on dialysis.

The most important thing in his life, according to Collins, is his family, wife, children and grandchildren. He has four children, two stepchildren, and 13 grandchildren.

When he had his transplant, he only had two grandchildren.

"That shows what great things happen with transplants," he said.

Collins had the chance and honor to meet 11 more grandchildren after his

transplant.

"I just hope people learn not to give up," he said.

But his writings didn't stop there. He has also written a short story about his battle with stuttering.

In the book, "I Was a Child Stutterer," he lets the reader into the world of how people treat stutterers. He talks about how stuttering can affect your future plans and how it affects your present-day life.

He gives examples of how people truly treat those with speech problems.

"For some reason some people think stuttering is funny," he said. "This book shows them it's not funny."

This past week, Collins released his third short novel, which discussed his third chance at life after kidney failure. "I just feel very lucky," he said.

All three books can be found on Amazon.

# 35 students named to summer 2024 President's and Dean's Lists at NRCC

At New River Community College, 35 students were recently named to the President's List and Dean's List in recognition of their academic excellence during the summer 2024 session. Certificates will be mailed to the recipients in the coming weeks.

To be placed on the President's List, a student must have taken 12 college-level semester hours or more, attained a grade point average of 3.5 for any one semester, and earned a minimum of 20 semester hours

at NRCC. Dean's List requirements include 12 college-level semester hours of credit or more and a grade point average of 3.2 for any one semester.

Those named to the President's List include Renee Albert; Anchal Bishop; Damon Brewer; Braden Burrus; Ana Cox; Stephanie Fox; Brennan Grimshaw; Jessica Hart; Dana Johnson; Emma Leggett; Russell Pauley; Jordan Penrose; Tasha Phillips; Hannah Pratt; Abigail

Raines; Sharla Salyer; Jade Simpson; Carly Taylor; and Christopher Watford.

Those named to the Dean's List include Peter Dorrell; Victoria Duncan; Lance Elkins; Kelly Fitzgerald; Nathaniel Gribbin; Joshua Martin; Rikhil Menni; Lindsey Pendleton; India Quesenberry; Nathanael Remington; Kelsey Rotruck; Karlie Rugh; Sheffin Sam; Alexis Thompson; Parker Trahan; and Cordero Vigil.

*New River Community College*

# Tickets for Moss Arts Center 2024-25 season now on sale

Tickets are now available for the Moss Arts Center's 2024-25 season performances. Filled with bold voices, legendary performers, and soul-stirring rhythms from around the world, the season has something for everyone — classical favorites, Broadway blockbusters, jazz and global sounds, innovative dance and theatre works, and fantastical family-friendly worlds of imagination.

Complementing the center's performances and exhibitions are a lineup of free experiences offering deeper connections with artists and their work, including artist panels and talks, post-performance question-and-answer sessions, and hands-on workshops. Virginia Tech students will have exclusive access to master classes and other special on-campus engagement events with artists and ensembles, and school-age students from across Southwest Virginia will be treated to free school-day matinee performances, including 1,2,3 Andrés with "Across the Americas," an interactive concert for prekindergarten through second grade that explores geography, culture, and music from around the world.

Moss Arts Center 2024-2025 performances:

**Plena Libre**  
Free outdoor concert, Moss Arts Center lawn  
Friday, Sept. 6, 6 p.m.

Master of the plena and bomba styles, the group brilliantly infuses traditional and contemporary music with Afro-Puerto Rican rhythms, bringing an



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDER DIAZ

(From left) Keturah Stephen and Jamaal Bowman are dancers with A.I.M by Kyle Abraham. The contemporary dance company is part of the Moss Arts Center's 2024-25 season lineup.

electrifying outdoor dance party to the Moss lawn.

**"An Evening with Renée Elise Goldsberry"**

2024-25 Season Opener  
Friday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Original "Hamilton" cast member Renée Elise Goldsberry, who has delivered award-winning performances both on Broadway and on screen, opens the Moss season with a memorable evening of Broadway hits and American songbook classics.

**Ontroerend Goed**

"Fight Night"  
Tuesday, Sept. 17, and Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Belgian theatre company Ontroerend Goed performs "Fight Night," a rumination on democracy and elections that gives the audience the power to vote for fictitious candidates in real time.

**Riyaaz Qawwali and the Harlem Gospel Travelers**  
"Singing Together: Qawwali and Gospel"

Thursday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.  
"Singing Together" is a qawwali and gospel music collaboration between Houston-based Riyaaz Qawwali and New York's Harlem Gospel Travelers that interweaves musical elements from both ensembles into a resoundingly joyous, boundary-crossing evening of praise.

**Lightwire Theater**

"Dino-Light"  
Sunday, Sept. 29, 2 p.m.  
Audiences of all ages are welcome for this visually stunning, glow-in-the-dark adventure as "Dino-Light" tells the story of a playful dinosaur who wanders away from home with an unforgettable blend of puppetry, technology, and dance.

**Mariza**  
Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.  
With enchanting charisma, an unparalleled voice, and profound emotional depth, Mariza is the premier performer of the proud, soulful Portuguese musical tradition fado.

**Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn**  
Friday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Legendary banjo musicians Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn team up for a fun evening of traditions and incredible virtuosity. Together, they showcase America's rich musical heritage and completely new realms for the banjo.

**"Voices from the Urban Indigenous Campfire"**  
Monday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Poetry, creative writing, and rich stories interlace in this specially curated celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

See MOSS ARTS CENTER, Page 4

# Marketplace

ourvalley.org

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

## Legals - Montgomery County

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on August 26, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor'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

## Legals - Montgomery County

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

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on August 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor's intention to act on the following requests:

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 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, at the intersection of Prices Fork Road (State Route 685) and Brunswick Drive (State

## Legals - Montgomery County

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 Prices 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 Prices 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 portion of 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 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, at the intersection of Prices 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 Prices 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 Prices 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>.

## Legals - Montgomery County

### Town of Christiansburg Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that on August 27, 2024 the Town Council of Christiansburg, Virginia (the "Town") will conduct a public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, as required under applicable law, in accordance with Section 15-2-2606 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, with respect to the adoption by the Council of a resolution or resolutions, as may be necessary or convenient, regarding the proposed financing of the development, renovation, equipping and improvement of the Town's waste water treatment facilities located at 2557 Crab Creek Rd., Christiansburg, VA.

The Town proposes to fund the project in part by the issuance of a general obligation bond to be issued in a principal amount not to exceed \$18,600,000. The purpose of the financing is to pay for the costs of improvements needed and required as described above.

The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be conducted at 7:00PM or as soon thereafter as they matter may be heard, by the Town Council in Council Chambers at the Town Hall located at 100 E. Main St, Christiansburg, Virginia.

Interested persons may appear at such time and place and present their views whether orally or in writing or submit written comments prior to the hearing.

The Town may set time limits on speakers and other rules and procedures for the conduct of this public hearing. Any persons with disabilities are urged to contact the Town Manager's Office at (540) 382-6128 prior to the public hearing to arrange for any necessary accommodations.

## Legals - Montgomery County

For additional information, please contact the Town Manager's Office.

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

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated November 26, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$77,284.21 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2005014678. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on September 23, 2024, at 2:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND IN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF VA, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN BOOK 973 PAGE 241 ID# 59-A-6-5, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 5, MINOR SUBDIVISION FOR E AND V ENTERPRISE, FILED IN PLAT BOOK 973 AT PAGE 243, RECORDED 08/29/1997. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the

## Legals - Montgomery County

deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). VA-362029-1.

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

Classified Advertising

# News Messenger

(540) 389-9355 | www.montcova.com

# Moss Arts Center from page 1

featuring three Indigenous creatives. Programmed by guest curator Andre Bouchard.

## Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

**"13 Tongues"**  
Wednesday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.  
With training in meditation, martial arts, modern dance, and ballet manifesting in its choreography, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan transforms ancient aesthetics into a thrilling and modern celebration of motion.

## "An Evening with Ta-Nehisi Coates"

Friday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
The author of the New York Times bestseller and National Book Award winner "Between the World and Me" delivers a reading of his work, participates in a moderated conversation, and answers audience questions.

## United States Air Force Heritage Brass

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, 7:30 p.m.  
Featuring 10 brass players and a percussionist, the pioneering symphonic brass ensemble Heritage Brass presents a diverse repertoire, featuring orchestral transcriptions, patriotic favorites, jazz standards, new compositions, and distinctive arrangements.

## Cirque Kalabanté

**"Afrique en Cirque"**  
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Inspired by daily life in Guinea, this spirited cirque performance features daredevil acrobatics, lively drumming, vibrant costumes and staging, and lots of audience interaction. Cirque Kalabanté will delight the entire family.

## Roanoke Symphony Orchestra

**"Holiday Pops Spectacular"**  
Saturday, Dec. 7, 4 p.m.  
The magic of the season comes alive during this can't-miss holiday tradition, featuring traditional carols, timeless classics, contemporary holiday favorites, and audience participation with sing-alongs and interactive moments.

## Jaha Koo

**"Cuckoo"**  
Friday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Cube  
South Korea-born theatre maker Jaha Koo uses video to closely interweave politics, history, and his own personal stories as "Cuckoo" focuses on how the inescapable past tragically affects our lives today.

## "Beowulf: The Epic in Performance"

Benjamin Bagby, voice and medieval

harp  
Thursday, Feb. 6, and Friday, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church  
Medieval vocalist Benjamin Bagby accompanies himself on harp to deliver a gripping solo performance of the epic tale of "Beowulf" in the most epic way — reverberating through the chapel of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

## Lakecia Benjamin

Friday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
From New York City, trailblazing three-time Grammy nominated jazz saxophonist Lakecia Benjamin makes her Blacksburg debut with her sizzling band to share her latest recording, "Phoenix."

## Czech National Symphony Orchestra

Maxim Lando, piano  
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Recognized as one of Europe's first-rank ensembles, the Czech National Symphony Orchestra returns to the Moss, joined by pianist Maxim Lando, to perform two of the most beloved works from the Romantic repertoire — Dvořák's famed Symphony no. 9, "From the New World" and Liszt's monumental Piano Concerto no. 1.

## Kodo

**"One Earth Tour 2025: Warabe"**  
Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.  
Exploring the limitless rhythms of the traditional Japanese taiko drum, Kodo has forged new directions for this vibrant artform for more than 40 years. From the thundering giant drums that shake the rafters to colorful traditional dances, Kodo enralls audiences with its athleticism and energy.

## The Dante Quartet

Brian Thorsett, tenor  
Thursday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.  
For its Moss debut, premier string ensemble The Dante Quartet is joined by Virginia Tech faculty member Brian Thorsett in the world premiere of a new work created by British composer Ian Venables, along with works by Beethoven and Elgar.

## A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

Saturday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.  
One of the world's most visionary contemporary dance companies returns to the Moss. Led by the acclaimed choreographer and artistic director, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham mixes social dance and postmodern movement, including a poignant piece set to the songs of Nina Simone.

## "An Evening with Charles Yu"

Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.  
Author of the genre-bending National Book Award winner "Interior Chinatown," as well as a television screenwriter including HBO's "Westworld," Charles Yu delivers an entertaining and thought-provoking discussion of the Asian American experience and the unique power of science fiction to address the human condition.

## Circa

**"Opus"**  
Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.  
With a bold and sophisticated approach to cirque, Australian-based Circa is joined live by the Debussy String Quartet for a red-hot fusion of acrobatics and lyrical movement set to Shostakovich quartets.

## Les Arts Florissants

**"Vivaldi's Four Seasons at 300"**  
Théotime Langlois de Swarte, violin  
Wednesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

The internationally renowned early music ensemble takes the stage with one of today's most sought-after young early music stars to perform Vivaldi's masterpiece, "Four Seasons."

## george emilio sanchez

**"In the Court of the Conqueror"**  
Thursday, April 24, and Friday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Cube  
Writer, performance artist, and social justice advocate george emilio sanchez confronts how the courts have historically diminished the tribal sovereignty of Native nations. Programmed by guest curator Andre Bouchard.

## Chucho Valdés and Irakere 50

2024-25 Season Closer  
Saturday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.  
The legendary Cuban jazz master

Chucho Valdés returns to the Moss to celebrate the golden anniversary of Irakere, the Cuban band whose bold fusion of Afro-Cuban and jazz marked a before and after in Latin music. His musical tribute, Irakere 50, will heat up the stage with a phenomenal next generation of Cuban musicians.

## Broadway in Blacksburg

Broadway returns to Southwest Virginia with the Moss Arts Center's "Broadway in Blacksburg" series, featuring two performances:  
**"Dear Evan Hansen"**  
Monday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale for the six-time Tony Award-winning musical "Dear Evan Hansen," a deeply personal and profoundly contemporary story that takes a groundbreaking look from the point of view of both parents and young people — at our complex, interconnected, and social media-filled lives.

## "The Book of Mormon"

Tuesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets go on sale on Thursday, Dec. 5, for "Book of Mormon," the irreverent and hilarious musical that garnered nine Tony awards. The New York Times calls it, "The best musical of this century," and Jimmy Fallon said, "Genius. Brilliant. Phenomenal."

Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300. Subscriptions for the 2024-25 season offer discounted prices, priority seat selection, and first access to major events, including pre-sales for Broadway performances, before they go on public sale.  
*Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech*

# DMV unveils new ad campaign to boost motorcycle safety training

Virginia Rider Training Program teaches motorcyclists skills to ride safely

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has launched a new advertising campaign to promote motorcycle safety training.

This initiative seeks to increase awareness of the Virginia Rider Training Program and encourage motorcyclists to enhance their skills through this vital training.

The campaign's centerpiece is a compelling new ad that highlights the importance of proper motorcycle training. The ad features a skilled motorcyclist enjoying a perfect ride on a quiet, scenic road. The serene atmosphere is suddenly disrupted when a car pulls out in front of him, leading to a dramatic crash. The motorcyclist, now a seasoned rider training coach, later shares his experience with a group of students, underscoring the message: "If it can happen to me, it can happen to you. So, let's learn the skills it takes to handle it."

The Virginia Rider Training Program, certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, offers comprehensive courses designed for riders at all levels. These courses provide an opportunity to master essential riding techniques and safety skills in a controlled environment. Successful completion of the program not only enhances rider safety but also enables participants to earn their Virginia motorcycle endorsement.

"As a rider myself, I know training isn't just a precaution, it's a necessity. It transforms instinct into skill and uncertainty into confidence, making the difference between a close call and

a disaster," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "This campaign is a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to improve motorcycle safety across the Commonwealth. By encouraging more riders to participate in the Virginia Rider Training Program, we aim to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities on our roadways."

As of July 31 this year, Virginia has experienced over 1,200 motorcycle crashes, resulting in 976 injuries and 63 deaths. The jurisdictions with the highest number of fatalities include Fairfax County, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Clarke County, Virginia Beach, and Augusta County. Last year, 3-out-of-4 motorcyclists involved in crashes on Virginia roadways had not completed the Virginia Rider Training Program.

DMV urges all motorcyclists, whether new or experienced, to take advantage of this valuable training opportunity. For more information about the Virginia Rider Training Program and to find a course near you, visit [dmv.virginia.gov/vrtp](http://dmv.virginia.gov/vrtp).

The new motorcycle safety campaign, developed by Two Tango Collaborative and produced by Spang TV with director Trevor Paperny, with audio by In Your Ear, will run throughout Virginia through September 2. For more highway safety information, visit [dmv.virginia.gov/safety](http://dmv.virginia.gov/safety). To view the ad, visit DMV's YouTube page.

*Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles*

## News Messenger

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

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

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*  
advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view: [editor@ourvalley.org](mailto: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.

CROSSWORD grid with clues across and down.

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Hyrax, 4. Considerateness, 8. Expressed pleasure, 13. 1896 Ethiopian battle, 15. Hawaiian dance, 16. Khaki colors, 17. Southern soldiers, 18. Musician Clapton, 19. 58703 ND, 20. Letterman's hometown, 23. Fr. Riviera resort, 24. Wrath, 25. Put up with something, 27. Divertimento, 32. Comportment, 33. Toward the mouth, 34. Take in marriage, 35. Composer of Rule Britannia, 36. Central parts of fruits, 38. Ice hockey goal, 39. Lair, 40. A citizen of Denmark, 41. Algeria's 2nd largest city, 42. Buildings, 44. Extensive landed property, 46. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!, 47. Cereal grass spikelet bristles, 48. Gives you instant long locks, 55. Umbrian industrial city, 56. Cheremis language, 57. Wm. the Conqueror's burial city, 58. Beach (French), 59. 7th Hindu month, 60. Tightly curled hairstyle, 61. Niches, 62. Connects the keel & sternpost, 63. Take a seat, CLUES DOWN: 1. Persian dialect, 2. Yemen port & gulf, 3. Switchboard (abbr.), 4. From that place, 5. Invisible emanations, 6. Shear, 7. Mexican tortilla dish, 8. Highly regarded, 9. Said of a city that "rose up", 10. Turkish district, 11. Of a very dark black, 12. Fall back time, 14. Inanely foolish, 21. Furnish with help, 22. Former Italian monetary units, 25. Made public by radio or television, 26. Aka sesame, 27. Skin infections, 28. Before, 29. Being cognizant of, 30. Ballet dancer impressionist, 31. Eve's garden, 32. Produced, 36. Hiding place for storage, 37. A single unit, 38. Napoleon's birthplace, 40. Daily journals, 43. Hanging threads edging, 44. A canvas canopy, 45. Central nervous system, 47. Nest of an eagle, 48. Assist, 49. Father of Aeraethrea, 50. Yuletide, 51. A piece of work, 52. Clods, 53. St. Philip, Patron of Rome, 54. Arrogant & annoying person, 55. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

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.
News Messenger
Serving Montgomery County Since 1869
DIGITAL ONLY: One Year Digital Subscription (recurring) \$29.00
DIGITAL & PRINT: Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$67.00
PRINT ONLY: Yearly Print Only Subscription \$46.00 Montgomery County, \$55.00 Virginia, \$59.00 Out of State
Subscribe online at 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

## Ayers Jr., Grover Woodrow

Grover Woodrow (Woody) Ayers Jr., 81, of Dublin, passed away unexpectedly Monday Aug. 12 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Woody was born Oct. 22, 1942 to Grover Sr. and Pauline Ayers in Radford, but grew up in Ramp, W.Va.

He graduated from Sandstone High School in 1960, and then enlisted in the US Army, volunteering for Airborne School and Special Forces. Sergeant Ayers served with distinction in Vietnam with the Fifth Special Forces Group as a demolitions specialist and earned several decorations.

After the Army, Woody went to work at the Radford Arsenal in the Hazards department and then later helped open the Volvo Truck plant. He later returned to the Radford Arsenal and worked as the Supervisor of the Calibration Lab until his retirement in 1998. After retirement he spent his time golfing, fishing and hunting.

Woody was preceded in death by



his father, Grover W. Ayers Sr.; mother, Pauline Shaffer Ayers; and sisters Barbara Carol Ayers and Lila Ann Ayers.

He is survived by his brothers, Monty Ayers and Ranny Akers; son, Grover W. Ayers III (Anitra); daughter, Michelle Ayers (John Robertson); grandchildren, Jesse Perez (Juan), Able Loreda, and Brian Loreda; and great grandchildren, Rosa Perez and Roque Loreda.

He is also survived by his girlfriend Brenda Weeks who is going to miss his great humor and their many daily phone calls.

The family will receive guests for visitation starting at noon Monday, Aug. 19 and the funeral will begin at 2 p.m. at the Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Pulaski County Humane Society.

The Ayers family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

## Alderman, Shirley Leftwich

Shirley Leftwich Alderman, 87, of Elliston, died Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024, at her home.

She was born in Washington, DC Feb. 8, 1937, to the late Walter Martin and Gladys Clifford Routh. She was also preceded in death by her first husband, Charles Howard Leftwich, and her second husband, Robert Allan Alderman.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Jeri "Tobi" and Ronnie Carbonneau, Laurie and Kenny Wood,



and Wendy Leftwich Croy; sons and daughter-in-law, Tim and Kim Leftwich and Darren Leftwich; stepchildren, Carrie Reed, Bonnie Booth (Scott) and Robert A. "Bobby" Alderman, Jr. (Danielle); numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Dewey O. Weaver, Jr. officiating.

Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

## Whitlock, Valerie Hall

Valerie Hall Whitlock, 58, of Shawsville, graduated to Heaven, Monday, Aug. 12, 2024. She was born in Christiansburg on Nov. 16, 1965. She was preceded in death by her father Cecil R. Hall, Sr., and a brother-in-law, Eddie Davis.

She is survived by her daughters, Crystal Wirt and Bridget Wirt; mother, Patricia R. Hall; sisters, Priscilla "Penny" Davis and Sandy Davis (Dale); brother,



Cecil R. Hall, Jr. (Rhonda); grandchildren, Shae Davis, Michael Twiggs, Jr., Isabella "Izzy" Tinsley, Emma Hinkley, and Charlie Whitlock.

A memorial service will be conducted Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Seneca Baptist Church with Pastor John Collins officiating. The family will receive friends from 5 - 6 p.m. at Seneca Baptist Church.

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

### BAPTIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### 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.

**St Thomas Episcopal Church**, 103 East Main Street, Christiansburg VA, 24073. Worship and communion

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## Peace in the Chaos

Read Luke 21:1 through 22:71

Do we ever look at our world and ask, "What happened?"

The moral climate seems to have plunged. Sin is rampant. Nuclear war threatens. A bad economy has become the new way of life. And what's with all these record-breaking natural disasters?

It's easy to wonder if the end of world is near and become so afraid that we panic.

"When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away" (Luke 21:9).

Many times through the past two thousand years, people have panicked over the state of the

world. Jesus had a word for them and for us: "Do not be frightened."

The world may change, but God is still in control.

Bad times can bring good results. As society disintegrates people tend to turn to God, and revival can occur. Challenges even make believers depend on God more. Our survival plan should be to prepare ourselves spiritually for whatever God brings—in good times or bad.

Challenge for Today: Think of a way to point people to Jesus when they express their fears about the future.

Quicklook: Luke 21:5-18

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 [luthermemorialchurch@gmail.com](mailto:luthermemorialchurch@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](https://www.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 ¼-quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email [hope@stmlc.us](mailto:hope@stmlc.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. All are welcome. Website: [www.stpaulvaumc.org](http://www.stpaulvaumc.org)

### WESLEYAN

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

# OBITUARIES

## Wilson, Juanita Marie Thompson

Juanita Marie Thompson Wilson, 81, of Dublin, went home to meet her Lord and Savior Aug. 10, 2024, in her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Wythe County on June 30, 1943, and was the daughter of the late Drewery Thompson and Sylvia Ogle Thompson. Juanita attended New River Community College and Radford University where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work. Juanita worked as a social worker for 34 years. Juanita was a devoted member of the Fairlawn Church of God for over 37 years. She was kind, loving and generous to others. And especially had a love for all animals. Juanita had a gentle spirit and nurturing heart which made this world a better place. Whether it was through her selflessness, generosity, or compassion, these qualities are what made her truly special.

Juanita was preceded in death by three of her siblings, James Lee Thompson, Pauline Whittington, and Junior Thompson as well as her special niece, Tina Durham Viers.

She is survived by her husband, Harvey Wilson and her two sons and their spouses, Mark A. and Crystal Quesenberry Williams of Pulaski and



Jeffrey Michael and Tanya Fatony Thompson of Beckley, W.Va.; her grandson and his wife, Nathan and Mattie Donnelly Williams and her granddaughter, Morgan Williams; her stepdaughter, Valerie Harris and her step-granddaughter, Sierra Harris Obenchain; her three brothers, Richard Thompson of Pulaski, Robert "Bob" Thompson of Christiansburg, and Gary

Thompson of Richmond and her two sisters, Betty Thompson Gallimore of Shiloh and Linda Thompson Durham of Pulaski. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews with two very special nieces, Jodi Worrell of New Castle and Sherrie O'Dell of Dublin, who were especially close to her because they "grew up together."

Juanita is especially proud of her three great grandchildren, Ryker, Beckett, and Cohen and one great grandson due in December 2024.

A celebration of Juanita's life was held Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, at the Fairlawn Church of God with Rev. Marcus Harrison officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

## Reese, Larry Dean

Larry Dean "Punk" Reese, 82, of Max Meadows, passed away Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024, at LewisGale Pulaski Hospital.

He retired from White Motor and attended Galax First Assembly Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Louise Reese; brothers, Paul Jr., Donald, and Colin; and sisters, Wanda Green, Patsy Raines, Doris Zipperer, and Micky Childress.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon Reese; son, Perry Reese; grandson, Corey Reese; sisters, Judy Whitt, Janice Dix (Cecil), and Sybil Zipperer; and



many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Curtis Christian and Pastor Mike Ingo officiating. Interment followed in Thornspring UMC Cemetery in Pulaski County.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to your local A.S.P.C.A.

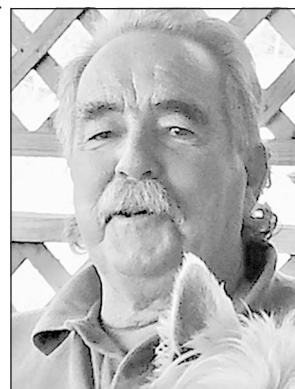
The Reese family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Albert, Jon Ray

Jon Ray Albert, 80, of McCoy, went to be with the Lord, Monday, Aug. 12, 2024.

He was born in Christiansburg on Aug. 1, 1944, to the late Alva Lee and Florence McCoy Albert. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Nyoka Albert, and a brother, Jack Albert. Jon was a mechanic at M&M Garage and retired from the Radford Arsenal after over 30 years of service. His passion for automobiles led to many connections throughout the community.

He is survived by his son, Lee Albert (Valerie Willis); daughter, Linda A.



Massie (Robert Allen); grandchildren, Haylee Massie, Melissa Albert, Cameron Albert, and Landen Massie; great-grandchild, River Rae Ward; sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Gary McCoy; brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy and Bonnie Albert; mother of his children, Daphne Bradley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be conducted today, Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Centennial Christian Church Cemetery with Rev. Gary McCoy officiating.

## Brewster Jr., Edwin Blair

Edwin (Ed) Blair Brewster Jr., of Claytor Lake in Pulaski County, passed away Aug. 11, 2024. He shared a beautiful life on the lake with his high school sweetheart and wife of 63 years, Margaret Johnson Brewster. Ed spent his early years in Bluefield, Va., before moving to Pearisburg and eventually settling at Claytor Lake.

Ed was a proud graduate of both Bluefield State College and Virginia Tech. For over 25 years, he was a beloved Drafting/Architecture teacher at Giles County Vocational School. After retiring from teaching, he started a small construction business with the help of grandson Logon. Ed and Margaret enjoyed camping, boating, playing cards, reading and traveling. They spent their winters in Myrtle Beach and returned to Claytor Lake for the spring, summer, and fall.

Ed was a devoted father who loved spending time on Claytor Lake. Whether it was taking his kids fishing early in the morning in his jon boat, pulling them tubing or water skiing, or enjoying long floats with his wife in the cove, he cherished every moment. He was beloved by many of his students and others. Ed never met a stranger and if you were a stranger, you were his best friend before finishing talking to him. He always had a joke to tell you.

Ed had a passion for football, playing as a G-man at Graham High School and later cheering for Giles and Virginia Tech. He proudly watched his grandson Elliott followed in his footsteps, playing football for Pulaski County and then for the VMI Keydets. He was also a regular at his other grandchildren's school and sporting



events, which included cheering on Logon and Morgan playing basketball for Christiansburg and AAU teams.

Ed is preceded in death by his parents, Betty (Ratliff) and Edwin Blair Brewster, Sr., and his brother, Col. Robert B. Brewster.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Johnson Brewster and his dog, Ore; his daughter, Valerie Shrader and her husband Todd; his sons, Todd Brewster and his wife Leigh Ann, and Ted Brewster and his wife Sherry; his sister, Kathryn Brewster Wolford and her husband Robert; his sister-in-law, Linda Brewster; his nieces, Jennifer Wolford Phillips and her husband Adam; and his nephews, Derek Brewster and his wife Jennifer, and Adam Brewster and his wife Stacey.

One of the greatest joys of Ed's life was his grandchildren and great-grandson. He passed on his love of the lake, carpentry, cards, games, sports, and the value of education to them. His granddaughters are Morgan Shrader and Madison Brewster. His grandsons are Logon Shrader, Gage Brewster, Chase Brewster, and Elliott Brewster. Finally, he loved to spend time with his great grandson Joey.

A small family memorial will be held Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Mountain View United Methodist Church in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Friends of Claytor Lake in his name. (<https://www.focl.org/>)

The Brewster Family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Brusseau, Judith Marie Southern

Judith Marie Southern Brusseau, 82, of Christiansburg, passed away Aug. 12, 2024.

Judy was born Aug. 22, 1942, to Henry Blair Southern and Juanita Lily Price of Blacksburg. She grew up in Toms Creek with her two sisters and two brothers. Judy completed her education at Blacksburg High School. After graduation she moved

to Florida where she met her husband of 33 years, Elliot "Rusty" Foster Brusseau Sr. Together they made their home in Goffstown, New Hampshire with their eight children. In 1972 they moved to Virginia where they opened their business Master Upholstery and Refinishing.

Judy enjoyed living a simple life gardening, canning, making preserves, and quilting. She loved passing these skills down to her many grandchildren. On most weekends you would find Rusty and Judy camping, fishing, or at a Bluegrass Festival surrounded by family. After the passing of her husband in 1998, her true independence and strong spirit continued on. She immersed herself in the lives of her children, grandchildren and family. From camping, Saturdays at the lake, girls' trips to Nashville, and family vacations at Holden Beach, she lived a full and happy life surrounded by the people she loved.

Judy is survived by her siblings Darlene Southern Vaden of Blacksburg, Larry



Southern (Betty Southern) of Eggleston and Wanda Southern Geske (Rob Geske) of North Carolina; and children and stepchildren Richard Brusseau, Frederick Wayne Brusseau (Joyce Brusseau), Harold Everett Brusseau, Deborah Brusseau Hale (Walter Hale), and Melanie Brusseau (Brian Bell). Together Judy and Rusty are survived by 22 grandchildren, 35

great grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren, two soon to be born great grandsons, and special family friends Margret Crigger, Allison Crigger DePoy, and Peggy Williams.

She was preceded in death by her husband Elliot Foster Brusseau, Sr.; parents Henry Blair Southern and Juanita Lily Southern; father and mother-in-law Harold Everett Brusseau, Sr. and Hazel Williams Brusseau; grandparents John Wesley Southern and Grace Mae Southern; grandparents Cloyd Palmer Price and Maude Beulah Price; brother and sister in law Phillip Dale Southern and Barbara Williams Southern; stepson Elliot Foster Brusseau, Jr., stepson Gary Lee Brusseau; and stepdaughter Audrey Elizabeth Riley Brusseau.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024 at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. John Hopkins officiating. Burial will follow in the North Fork Baptist Church Cemetery, Ellett.

## Ailing toy poodle recovers, delivers healthy puppies with Veterinary Teaching Hospital care

A five-pound toy poodle already doesn't have much weight margin if it stops eating, especially a five-pound toy poodle that is ready to give birth.

"A bigger dog can handle more days of not eating, a smaller dog will be in trouble faster," said Julie Cecere, clinical associate professor of theriogenology — animal reproductive science — at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

Jennifer Anders of Wytheville noticed in the pre-dawn hours earlier this summer that her toy poodle Senna was suddenly deteriorating with gastrointestinal issues, low blood sugar, and dehydration as she approached her delivery date.

"I called Virginia Tech to bring them

here, because I knew that if anybody could take care of them, you guys could," Anders said.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital, located at the veterinary college on Virginia Tech's main campus in Blacksburg, took Senna in and put her in intensive care for 48 hours.

While the puppies' heartbeats were readily detected and appeared healthy, the mother was struggling and needed immediate help.

"What I teach students and tell the owners is that you've got to take care of the vessel before you worry about the cargo," Cecere said.

The theriogenology team and intensive care staff were able to get



PHOTO BY ANDREW MANN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Toy Poodle puppies during a checkup, shots and micro-chipping at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Senna the nutrients she needed plus stop her diarrhea and vomiting. She was then able to deliver four healthy puppies, all naturally.

"Thanks to Dr. Cecere and her team I have a healthy mama at home and four beautiful babies," Anders said.

"As soon as all her babies were out, she turned the corner, and started taking care of her babies and eating on her own and just doing a great job, so we sent her home on the third day," Cecere said.

There was some concern that the smallest puppy might not make it through, but "she's been the sassiest one," Cecere said.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Blacksburg provides primary, specialty, and emergency patient care to small animal clients within a 35-mile radius

of Blacksburg and referral service to practitioners in the region.

The teaching hospital has two board-certified reproductive specialists and the facilities for 24-hour, 7-day-a-week care of difficult cases such as Senna's. A planned expansion and renovation, partially supported by donors' gifts, will enable the hospital to modernize and grow its services in the next few years.

"This is a great story of a good, dedicated owner who recognized that there was a problem, and then getting them here, and we just helped the process along a little," Cecere said.

"I'm absolutely ecstatic with the team and everything they've done," Anders said. "If I hadn't come here, I thoroughly believe I would have lost the mama and possibly her babies too."

Andrew Mann for Virginia Tech

## Town Council

from page 1

for incoming visitors to know what Christiansburg has to offer, how to find it, etc. This would show visitors that Christiansburg is not just a place to stay when you're in town for a Tech game, but also has fun and cool things to do in conjunction with Blacksburg as well as outside of its relationship to Blacksburg. To jumpstart this, they created a 30 second commercial during the Olympics TV broadcasts. Highlighting Blacksburg and Christiansburg together as assets to Montgomery County.

"As you guys go," Alex Brito, a partner

at the Cure Agency and the presenter of the evening, said, "and look to make next decisions around tourism, I greatly appreciate the decisions you all will have to make, but the stories have to be told and right now they can't be told. Each town is on pause until we figure out if the story being told in the future is one of collaboration or one of separation."

This presentation opened up the opportunity to questions and showed how passionate the Christiansburg Town Council is when it comes to discussions of tourism.

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Revamped sports network announced for Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech Athletics and Playfly Sports has announced ESPN Blacksburg will become the new radio home of the Virginia Tech Hokies. The multi-year partnership will bring fans across the New River Valley live broadcasts of Hokie football, men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball and coaches shows. Additionally, Bill Roth, Mike Burnop, Zach Mackey and Evan Hughes will continue in their respective roles with the Virginia Tech Sports Network.

As Virginia Tech's flagship station, ESPN Blacksburg will air Hokie sports on 93.1 FM, 97.1 FM and 810 AM. In addition, Hokie football and men's basketball programming will be simulcast on WZFM 101.3 FM, 105.9 FM and 1430 AM.

ESPN Blacksburg has recently been acquired by Underdog Media LLC, out of Burlington, N.C. The owner, Chuck Marsh,

says he is committed to a successful relaunch of ESPN Blacksburg, with Virginia Tech as its foundational team. ESPN Blacksburg will embrace the Hokies with new daily shows that will debut soon.

"As longtime fans of Virginia Tech Athletics, we are thrilled to be part of the Virginia Tech legacy and put these heritage stations to work for Virginia Tech and Playfly Sports," said Marsh.

On-air talent will remain familiar, with Bill Roth entering his 30th season as the radio play-by-play voice of Virginia Tech football. He will continue his role on game days, alongside Hall of Fame broadcaster Mike Burnop. Burnop, the former Hokie standout, is in his 42nd season as the color analyst for both Virginia Tech football and men's basketball broadcasts.

Joining the duo on the football sidelines again will be Zach Mackey, who will also

be entering his third year as the play-by-play voice of Virginia Tech men's basketball. Evan Hughes will continue as the play-by-play voice of both Virginia Tech women's basketball and baseball.

"Virginia Tech remains committed to reaching our fans wherever they are and however they listen – whether in Blacksburg or elsewhere, whether by radio, satellite, internet or app – fans can always stay connected with the Hokies," said Brad Wurthman, Executive Associate AD/External Affairs and Advancement at Virginia Tech.

The Virginia Tech Sports Network will broadcast football, men's basketball and Tech Talk Live on more than 35 radio affiliates statewide. Broadcasts are also available on Sirius XM satellite radio and streamed live on Hokiesports.com and the Hokiesports app. Fans can find

the complete list of listening options on Hokiesports.com.

Video elements will be added to several broadcasts, including a livestream of the Football Hokie Tailgate Show and Tech Talk Live, giving fans an inside look.

"We're excited to announce ESPN Blacksburg as the new home for Hokie sports in the NRV. With new and revamped programming, we look forward to working alongside Underdog Media, LLC to keep Hokie fans up to date on all things Virginia Tech," said Sam Schauf, General Manager of Virginia Tech Sports Network.

Earlier this year, Virginia Tech and Playfly Sports – the emerging leader in sports marketing, media, and technology – announced a new multimedia rights agreement in which Playfly serves as Virginia Tech's exclusive multimedia rights holder and sponsorship sales arm.

Virginia Tech Sports Properties is the locally-based, exclusive multimedia rights holder for Virginia Tech Athletics.

As a part of the Playfly Sports Properties portfolio of nearly 40 collegiate and high school state association properties, the Virginia Tech Sports Properties team connects brands to Virginia Tech's passionate and deeply-rooted fanbase.

Through broadcast, in-arena, experiential, and technology-based marketing and media solutions, Playfly Sports Properties' fully scalable platform provides marketers unparalleled access to the most highly engaged audiences on a local and national level. Playfly Sports Properties is a division of Playfly Sports. Connect with the Virginia Tech Sports Properties team by visiting [www.playfly.com/properties](http://www.playfly.com/properties).

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

## Blacksburg High wins River Ridge golf tournament



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Christiansburg's Josh Cummins fires a shot off the first tee at the Blacksburg Country Club during a Monday RRD tournament match. Cummins shot a 72 to lead the Blue Demons to a 315 total for third place, one stroke behind Salem.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Jake Albert hits a short approach shot to the first green at Blacksburg Country Club. Albert carded a 71 to help the Bruins to a 284 team total to win an early season River Ridge District tournament match.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Grayden Laird putts during a Monday RRD tournament hosted by the Bruins. Laird recorded a 70 to lead the Bruins to the team win.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Christiansburg's Carter Dudash lines up his putt from the fringe at BCC during an early season RRD tournament on Monday.

## Sports notes: Effect games announced at Virginia Tech

**Marty Gordon**  
[NRVsports@ourvalley.org](mailto:NRVsports@ourvalley.org)

Virginia Tech Athletics announced on Wednesday the effect games for Virginia Tech football's upcoming season, with four contests having color schemes. Hokie Effect is a program through the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS) that designs and sells spirit shirts for multiple sporting events at Virginia Tech. The Hokie Effect games encourage fans to wear a certain color in order to show school spirit and create a blanketed color effect throughout the

venue. The best way to participate is by wearing the official Hokie Effect T-shirt designed specifically for each game. **Virginia Tech vs. Rutgers, Saturday, Sept. 21- White Effect** **Virginia Tech vs. Boston College, Thursday, Oct. 17- Orange Effect** **Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech, Saturday, Oct. 26- Maroon Effect** **Virginia Tech vs. Clemson, Saturday, Nov. 9- Stripe Effect** To date, two of Tech's six home games are sold out and limited inventory remains for the other four matchups. Cardona on watch list

Virginia Tech's Willie Cardona was named to the 2024 ACC Preseason Watch List, as announced by the league on Wednesday. Cardona, a native of Fort Mill, S.C., has appeared in 24 games for the Hokies, including 11 starts, since transferring from Winthrop ahead of the 2022 season. Originally a midfielder, Cardona found his footing in an outside back role last season and started 10 matches for Tech. The senior logged 90 minutes in seven. Wrestling schedule set The Virginia Tech wrestling team finalized

their 2024-2025 schedule on Wednesday, August 14, announced head coach Tony Robie. The pre-season No. 9 ranked Hokies will face yet another formidable schedule including duals against perennial powerhouses Missouri and Oklahoma State in addition to entry in the prestigious Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational. Tech will kick off the season traveling the next town over in Salem with back-to-back competitions at Roanoke College's Cregger Center – a dual opener against University of Tennessee-

Chattanooga on November 1 followed by the Southeast Open on November 2. The following weekend will see the Hokies send a contingent to the Mountaineer Invitational hosted by App State in Boone, NC on November 09. Tech opens their home dual season with a continued series against national mainstay No. 10 Missouri Tigers on November 15 at Cassell Coliseum. Always a highly anticipated match-up between two top-10 programs littered with individual accolades, the

last three duals between the teams have come down to the final bout. Tech will take on a busy weekend the following week hosting No. 20 Rutgers Nov. 22 as part of a newly covenanted home-and-home series.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

D	A	S	T	A	C	T	A	A	H	E	D
A	D	W	A	H	U	L	A	D	R	A	B
R	E	B	S	E	R	I	C	M	I	N	O
I	N	D	I	A	N	A	P	O	L	I	S
N	I	C	E	S	I	R	E				
A	B	I	D	E	S	E	R	E	N	A	D
M	I	E	N		O	R	A	D	W	E	D
A	R	N	E	C	O	R	E	S	C	A	G
D	E	N	D	A	N	E		O	R	A	N
E	D	I	F	I	C	E	S	A	C	R	E
		R	A	H		A	W	N	S		
H	A	I	R	E	X	T	E	N	S	I	O
T	E	R	N	I	M	A	R	I	C	A	E
P	L	A	G	E	A	S	I	N	A	F	R
A	P	S	E	S	S	K	E	G	S	I	T

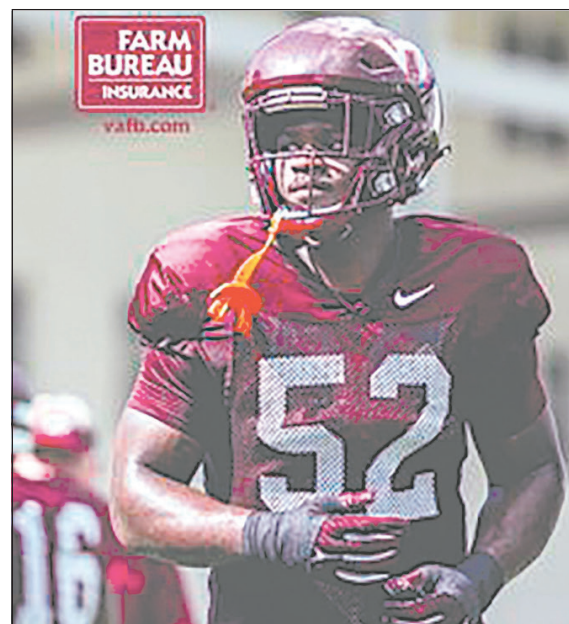
# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Season preview: Life in trenches important this season

The Hokies' defensive line is set to make a powerful impact this season as Fall Camp progresses.

With a blend of standout portal additions and returning talent, and under the guidance of associate head coach J.C. Price along with assistant coach/quality control Jan Johnson Jr., this unit aims to enhance a defense that ranked No. 20 nationally in total defense last season. Every week of Fall Camp, the position preview series, presented by Farm Bureau Insurance, will break down the Virginia Tech football roster. In this position preview, let's look at the defensive line and how it adds to the anticipation for this season's defensive potential.

**R e d s h i r t** senior Antwaun Powell-Ryland is a force to be reckoned with and one of the key reasons Lane Stadium lived up to the nickname 'Sacksburg' last season. In his first year as a Hokie, Powell-Ryland played in all 13 games, starting 12, and became the cornerstone of a defensive line that was second in the ACC in sacks while consistently limiting opponents to under 250 passing yards per game. His impact was undeniable, registering 40 tackles and a team-leading 9.5 sacks—ranking second in the ACC and 14th nationally. The Portsmouth, Virginia native also tallied 14.5 tackles for loss, placing him 25th in the country and fifth in the ACC.



Antwaun Powell-Ryland and Aeneas Peebles will lead the Hokies defensive front.

These numbers earned Powell-Ryland a spot on the 2023 All-ACC Second Team and a 2023 Phil Steele Honorable Mention All-American nod. The edge rusher also secured the No. 72 spot on On3's Top 100 Players in College Football. Pro Football Focus (PFF) further highlighted his abilities, ranking him as one of the highest-graded returning edge rushers in the ACC with an 80.7 overall grade.

One of the key questions surrounding this position group is who will join Antwaun Powell-Ryland in the starting rotation on the edge. Four returning players are vying for that spot: Keyshawn Burgos, Cole Nelson, Jordan McDonald and CJ McCray. Nelson brings valuable experience to the field, having played in all 13 games last season with

seven starts. He totaled 27 tackles, including 7.5 for loss and 4.5 sacks, proving himself as a consistent force on the edge. Burgos is another name to watch, especially after being listed at No. 21 on ESPN's Post-Spring Sleeper Pick Watchlist. He played in all 13 games last season, recording 21 tackles, including five tackles for loss. The Chesterfield, Virginia native made a strong case for himself during the spring game, where he notched three sacks, four solo tackles, and a pass breakup. McDonald and McCray round out the group, further offering veteran presence and potential. The competition for the starting edge position will be fierce, with each player bringing a unique skill set and the potential to make a significant impact on the Hokies' defensive line.

Other returners with limited in-game experience include Jason Abbey and James Jennette. These players have a chance to demonstrate their progress to coaches Price and Johnson, vying for more playing time. Alabama transfer Khurtiss Perry will also slate in as a potential impact player on the edge. Freshmen Deric Dandy boasts an impressive high school résumé and will benefit from learning alongside this seasoned defensive line group, gaining valuable time to develop.

Joining Powell-Ryland on On3's Top 100 Players in College Football is Aeneas Peebles, a highly touted transfer from Duke.

Peebles is regarded as the biggest impact addition from the Hokies' 2024 recruiting cycle. Last season, he co-led the Blue Devils in tackles

for loss (8.5), ranked second in sacks (4.0), recorded 40 tackles, four quarterback hurries, two pass breakups and one fumble recovery. These statistical achievements claimed him a spot on the 2023 Pro Football Focus All-ACC First Team and the 2023 All-ACC Third Team as a defensive tackle. The transfer also posted an impressive PFF pass-rushing grade in 2023, ranking second among players at his position—trailing only Byron Murphy II, a Texas standout and the 16th overall pick in the 2024 NFL Draft.

Peebles is anticipated to anchor the interior alongside veteran Josh Fuga, bolstered by a mix of experienced returners and promising new talent. Fuga brings four years of experience, having registered 56 tackles,

three passes defended and 2.5 sacks across his collegiate career. Wilfred Pene, Ishmael Findlayter and Malachi Madison also return, with Pene appearing in all 13 games last season.

Other key additions added through the transfer portal include Iowa Western Community College's Kemari Copeland and Oklahoma's Kelvin Gilliam Jr. Copeland has already made a name for himself, breaking Virginia Tech's all-time squat record with 605 pounds for 10 reps and earning recognition on Bruce Feldman's Freaks list as well as a 247 Sports ACC spring football rising star. Perry, ranked as the No. 2 player from Alabama by 247Sports in 2021, gained experience with the Crimson Tide, including game action against Middle Tennessee. Gilliam Jr. is a seasoned lineman who saw action in all three years with the Sooners, adding depth and experience to the line.

High school recruits Gerard Johnson and Emmett Laws also join the team, bringing additional promise for the future. Laws ranked as the No. 12 overall recruit from Maryland by Rivals, should add depth and potential to an already stacked interior.

Tech's defensive line is set for a breakout season, featuring a strong mix of seasoned veterans, impactful transfers and promising recruits

Virginia Tech Athletics

## RU men picked last in preseason poll

Two-time defending men's soccer champion High Point University has been voted the favorite in the annual Big South Conference preseason poll by the league's head coaches, it was announced today by the conference office.

In addition, the coaches voted Presbyterian College forward Damorney Hutchinson (St. Thomas, Jamaica) the Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, High Point midfielder Jefferson Amaya (Charlotte, N.C.) the Preseason Midfielder of the Year, Winthrop defender Diego Candia (Santiago, Chile) the Preseason Defensive Player of the Year, and UNC Asheville netminder Charlie Farrar (Wakefield, United Kingdom) the Preseason Goalkeeper of the Year. All four players also earned spots on the preseason All-Conference team, which is listed below.

High Point, which has not lost a regular-season Big South match since 2019 and is 24-0-7 in those league contests in that timeframe, was a near unanimous selection with seven of the eight first-place votes received and 62 total points to repeat as champions this fall. The Panthers, under the direction of sixth-year head coach Zach Haines, returns six starters and

15 letterwinners from last year's championship squad that finished 10-4-5 overall last season and 6-0-1 in conference play.

UNC Asheville, the 2023 Championship Runner-up, was second in the voting with 51 points for its highest-ever preseason ranking. Gardner-Webb (48 points) was third in the balloting, while Presbyterian College collected 31 points to finish fourth in the poll. Winthrop and Longwood shared the fifth position with 30 points each, just ahead of seventh-place USC Upstate (28 points and the remaining first-place vote). Radford finished in the final spot with eight points.

The 2024 Big South men's soccer season begins Thursday, Aug. 22, while Conference play opens Friday, Sept. 20. The top six teams in the final Big South standings will qualify for the 2024 Big South Men's Soccer Championship, which is scheduled for Nov. 6 (First Round), Nov. 10 (Semifinals) and Nov. 16 (Championship Final), with every match to be contested at the home site of the higher seed. The champion receives the Big South's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

Big South conference

## Radford University in Roanoke announces inaugural Tartan 5k: A Twilight Run

**RADFORD** - Radford University has announced the inaugural Tartan 5K: A Twilight Run. The glow run will take place Sept. 20 at the Tinker Creek Greenway in Fallon Park, following a scenic path along the Roanoke River. The race kicks off at 6:15 p.m. The event is organized by Radford University Student Affairs in Roanoke and is co-hosted by RunAbout Sports. The event is being timed by Mountain Junkies.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

your fitness level, we'd love to see you there!"

Participants are encouraged to bring their families. Whether you choose to run in a kilt, scrubs or your favorite running gear, every step you take will contribute to a healthier, happier you and a stronger community.

Registration and additional race details can be found at <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Roanoke/RUC Tartan5k>.

Event organizers are also seeking volunteers to assist with various race-day activities.

Join us for an unforgettable evening and be a part of Radford University's Highlander community in Roanoke.

For the latest on the event, follow Radford

University Carilion Campus Life on Facebook and Instagram at @ruccampuslife. Follow RunAbout Sports at @RunAboutRoanoke on Facebook and @runabout\_sports\_roanoke on Instagram.

Event Highlights:  
Date and Time: Sept. 20, 6:15 p.m. (Pre-race party starts at 5:30 p.m.)  
Location: Tinker Creek Greenway, Fallon Park, Roanoke

Race features: Glow run, chip-timed on a certified course, post-run celebration with music, food, and camaraderie

Awards: First and second male and female overall, Highlander Tartan Spirit Award, Radford University Student Group Award

Packet pickup:  
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 - 6 p.m. at Radford University, Community Hospital lobby

Thursday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 - 6 p.m. at RunAbout Sports (3635 Franklin Road, Roanoke)

No race-day packet

pickup available.

Participants will receive: Finisher medal, race t-shirt (must register by Aug. 20 to receive a shirt) and a swag bag.

Discounts available for Radford University students, faculty, staff, and current healthcare workers during checkout. The event is sponsored by RunAbout Sports.

Radford University

### THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE ROUTE 460 BUSINESS CORRIDOR BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, AND TRANSIT STUDY

Find out about the study progress and potential safety improvements along Route 460 Business in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. The meeting will be held at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, Joseph W. Meredith Training & Event Center, located at 1691 Innovation Drive, Suite 1025, Blacksburg, VA 24060 on Thursday, September 5th, 2024, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. In addition to the in-person meeting, public meeting materials will be posted by September 3rd on the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) website at [www.newrivervalleympo.org](http://www.newrivervalleympo.org). Please give your written comments online, at the meeting, or submit them via USPS to the NRV MPO's office, located at 755 Roanoke St. Ste. 2I, Christiansburg, VA 24073. You may also e-mail your comments to [460study@rkk.com](mailto:460study@rkk.com). Comments for this study will be received until 5:00 PM, September 21st, 2024.



This public notice and opportunity to comment on the Route 460 Study meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c).

The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: [brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov) or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

## News Messenger

(540) 389-9355 | [www.montcova.com](http://www.montcova.com)

## NEW RIVER Community College

# Fall Classes Begin August 26

## Registration Now Open!

[www.nr.edu/registernow](http://www.nr.edu/registernow)