

# News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, September 14, 2024

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## Broken Draper Road Stella Rose piano causes upset

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG- At Tuesday's Blacksburg Town Council meeting, residents and members of the town council addressed the destruction of the "Stella Rose" piano, previously on Draper Street, that was recently broken near a construction site.

The Downtown Piano Project began in the mid 2010's as a way to bring music, art and community joy into Downtown Blacksburg. Two Blacksburg residents, one of which was the artist who painted the piano, Rita Brame, and Hart Fowler, addressed the Blacksburg Town Council during citizen comments regarding the Stella Rose Piano.

"I recently worked with the Downtown Revitalization Committee," Brame said, "to paint the piano on Draper Road. The piano was recently damaged during construction and, I'm here, my concern is that Blacksburg does not



PHOTO COURTESY OF RITA BRAME VIA FACEBOOK  
**The Stella Rose piano, a public art piece that was located on Draper Road, was recently damaged and scrapped.**

have a public arts policy and procedures. I just want to bring that to awareness."

After Brame spoke, Hart Fowler, a pianist and editor of 16 Blocks Magazine, also addressed the destruction of the piano.

"Your town employees," Fowler said, "did an amazing

job not getting injured or injuring people, and to think you're going to blame them for breaking the piano, with all the care, with all those bulldozers that weighed over two tons there. To say that they broke the piano, I have a hard time believing that they did, and I'd like to see the report."

Council Member Susan Anderson read a statement regarding the history behind the Downtown Piano Project and vandalism towards some previous pianos related to the project. In her statement, Anderson referenced the Farmers Market Piano that was removed due to it being vandalized in the summer of 2022.

"In November of 2022," Anderson read, "there was discussion about removing the piano currently on Draper Road, which had been damaged and had been in use for several years. Matteo, a graduate student, and several other students planned to locate another piano. This piano would be painted for better weather proofing and placed on Draper Road the following spring."

Anderson, in her statement, recognized Fowler and Brame's efforts in this public arts project in regard to the Stella Rose Piano. The community seems to still have questions regarding the damage done to this piano according to various social media posts and they hope for a satisfactory resolution soon.

"And certainly, there are going to be quirks," Anderson said in her statement, "and problems with any piece of public art or performance art, but I think all these pianos have served their time and I know we're going to have more pianos downtown in the future."

## Christiansburg approves road closings, appoints student representative

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

CHRISTIANSBURG- The Christiansburg Town Council approved road closures for the 2024 Christiansburg High School Homecoming parade and approved a new student representative for the Recreation Advisory Committee during its meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 10.

At the start of the meeting, Christiansburg Mayor Michael Barber dedicated the moment of silence to those lost on 9/11. September 11, 2024 was

the 23rd anniversary of the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001.

"We will take a moment," Barber said, "of reflection and I would like to have you all think about the events of 9/11 2001, which the 23rd anniversary is tomorrow. So, if you keep the families and first responders and all who tragically lost their life in that incident and of course any other people that you know or have a wish list for, let's take a moment of silence, please."

The Christiansburg Homecoming Parade will be held 7- 8 p.m. Wednesday,

Sept. 25, 2024. Due to the parade, many downtown Christiansburg streets will be temporarily closed. Some streets will be closed as early as 3 p.m. in order for barricades along the parade route to be placed safely. This year's route closes down much of West Main Street, some parts of Franklin Street, Pepper Street and parts of Radford Street and Roanoke Street, just to name a few. According to the parade route map on the town council's meeting agenda, the parade route will begin on East Main Street further up the road from the courthouse,

go down Main Street, hang that right onto Radford Street, turn right at the light for Depot Street and pull up into the parking lot of Christiansburg Middle School. These roads will be closed from five o'clock to nine o'clock in the evening for residents and paraders alike to enjoy the festivities safely.

A new student representative was voted in during the Sept.10 meeting. Gracie Conner, from Christiansburg High School, will serve as Student Representative for the Recreation Advisory Committee until August 2026.

## The Lyric Theatre: More than a movie theater

Angelica Ramos  
Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG- The Lyric Theatre is known for being Montgomery County's classic movie theater and its deep roots in Blacksburg, but with Executive Director Seth Davis and his team, it has become an integral part of its community.

The Lyric Theatre, in its current location, was built in 1930 as Blacksburg's first classic movie theater. It was the third classic movie theater in the state of Virginia. Executive Director Seth Davis explains there were actually four renditions of The Lyric Theatre, with the first three original locations being only for silent films. The current Lyric Theatre was built for what were called "talkies" at the time, or what we know as classic spoken movies. The Lyric Theatre wasn't just the first classic movie theater in Montgomery County, but Davis explained, it was the first air-conditioned building in Blacksburg as well. It used



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS  
**Lyric Theater Executive Director Seth Davis**

to be able to hold over 850 people with its balcony and main floor section. The Lyric now seats 477 people. It has also previously acted as a classroom for Virginia Tech.

"The Lyric," Davis said, "has always played an important part here in the Blacksburg community for decades. It's really been a community gathering place, not just for films, but for concerts, for lectures, fundraisers, community informational events. We have all kinds of things that have been going on for decades. It has played a vital role in the community and just the fact that it's still in existence today and still a place where people can come to gather for a whole wide variety of things, it's just pretty incredible."

The Lyric, for over 90 years now, has been a melting pot place for everyone in the community to gather. The Lyric is a huge support of the community that

supports it. They do this by working with other non-profit organizations in the area by offering their facilities and equipment at lower cost to help to host events these organizations otherwise would be unable to host. The Lyric also

helps these organizations ticket their events, host concessions and anything else they might be able to help achieve with the facilities and resources they have.

The theatre also hosts concerts and



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS  
**The Lyric's current location at 130 College Ave. in Blacksburg, opened in 1930.**

## Christiansburg Lions Club has active fundraising year for 2024

The Christiansburg Lions Club has been active in 2024.

We continue in our work in supporting our International Lions Club motto of "WE SERVE!" And in so doing, we once again set our sights on the goals of our club and Lions International, with our focus and emphasis on sight conservation, childhood diabetes awareness and prevention, the environment, drug awareness and prevention, hearing and audiology concerns, and in general, the needs and concerns of our local communities and state around us.

We were fortunate to have some new members join our club to work with us in these endeavors of concern. And in so doing, our Christiansburg Lions Club took up again the mantle of service and involvement in our community and the various projects and programs of our Local Lions Club and of Lions International.

As usual, one of the highlights of the year is always our Annual Lions

Club Holiday Crafts show which is the first Saturday in December. It is the crowning point of our year's activities and our biggest fund raiser for our various projects and programs which we support. And for the various volunteers who work with us and lend "a hand" in helping crafters move in and move out, it makes our work and day a lot easier and smoother. To them we owe a debt of appreciation and gratitude for a job well done. And obviously, without our crafters and their arts and crafts, our show would be greatly diminished, and we would not have much to offer our many shoppers and guests. We thank them for supporting us and making their crafts available. It is exciting to see the many crafts and realize the various talents and skills and abilities of the crafters. It is a vision of sight and sound and color at the Craft Show.

Without our sponsors our labors and



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG LIONS CLUB  
**Christiansburg Lions Club Treasurer Tim Rosche presents a gift to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Sept. 14:

### New Mount Olive Church fish fry to support Christiansburg Institute

New Mount Olive United Methodist Church is hosting its next fish fry this Saturday, Sept. 14 and proceeds will benefit Christiansburg Institute. The New Mount Olive Methodist Church Men's will be cooking all the food from scratch. The fish fry is being sponsored by the Christiansburg Institute Alumni Association. The fry is set for 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the church, located at 309 Russell Ave. in Radford. Dinners: \$13, includes two pieces of deep-fried fish, baked beans, coleslaw rolls and dessert. Fish sandwiches: \$6, includes one piece of fish on a bun with coleslaw. Extra piece of fish: \$3.50. For call -in orders call the church at (540)-639-6425. Delivery is also available, only in the Radford area.

### Better Together: Rockin' Food Truck Rodeo

The Town of Christiansburg and Downtown Christiansburg, Inc. are teaming up for a new and exciting event. Better Together: Rockin' Food Truck Rodeo combines two major Town events: Rockin' Main Street Concert and the Food Truck Rodeo. Because of this partnership, there will be more delicious food truck options and more live music to enjoy! An area will also be designated for craft beer and wine purchases. From 3-9 p.m. in Downtown Christiansburg.

### Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its September Fish Fry 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, (under three free), carry-outs-\$12. This month, we welcome the Blue Ridge Vocal Connection to our music tent. Held rain or shine. This is the last fry in 2024. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

### Shred-A-Thon

The Town of Blacksburg will host a Shred-A-Thon 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. This free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please plan to bring documents in a box, tote, or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Please remain in your vehicle during drop-off. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540.443.1212.

### 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, Sept. 15:

### 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/).

## Monday, Sept. 16:

### Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

## Wednesday, Sept. 18:

### Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 – 6 p.m. The 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).

### Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

### AARP Blacksburg Health and Wellness Fair

Health and Wellness Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 at the Christiansburg Recreational Center, 1600 N. Franklin St., in Christiansburg. Free and co-sponsored by AARP Blacksburg, the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), and the Christiansburg Recreation Center. More than 80 exhibitors offering free services (e.g., blood pressure, body mass, bone density, skin cancer, vision, and hearing screenings, immunizations) and information. Also, professionals sharing nutrition, exercise, in-home health services, and home renovation. Also includes a blood drive and the Veterans' Center mobile unit. Keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Friedlander of the Virginia Tech-Carilion Research Institute, who will be speaking between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on the up-to-date research on aging and Q&A to help us all lead more informed and happier lives. For more information on the AARP Blacksburg Health and Wellness Fair, visit <https://www.blacksburgaarp.org/2024-health-and-wellness-fair> or contact Sue Magliaro at [sumags@vt.edu](mailto:sumags@vt.edu). To donate blood and avoid waiting, go to [https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/267451](https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/267451).

### Christmas Store shopping applications

The Montgomery County Christmas Store is accepting applications to shop at the Christmas Store during Store Week on December 9-14, 2024. Go online at [www.mcchristmasstore.org](http://www.mcchristmasstore.org) for information about Eligibility Requirements. Applications will be accepted at certain in-person interviews, online, and at locations in the community. On Sept. 18, applications will be taken at the Health & Wellness Fair at the Christiansburg Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Interviews will be held at the Christmas Store Building on Sept. 25 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Oct. 9 from 4 to 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Sept. 19:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Monday, Sept. 23:

### 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, Sept. 24:

### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

### Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular town council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.). The public is welcome and encouraged

to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

## Thursday, Sept. 26:

### Christmas Store fundraiser at Eastern Divide

The Montgomery County Christmas Store will kick off its fundraising campaign at Eastern Divide from 3 to 9 p.m. For each pint, flight, or soda sold, Eastern Divide will donate \$1. Featured will be a silent auction with many great items (<https://auctria.com/auction/MCCSFallFundraiser>). Bring a package of children's socks or underwear and be entered to win a door prize. Come out to raise money for the Christmas Store to help neighbors in need.

### Montgomery Museum Aviation Art + History reception

Above: A History of Montgomery County Aviation," sponsored by Wing Aviation. Exhibit explores and celebrates the county's rich legacy in aviation, featuring historic artifacts and stories highlighting the community's impact on the skies above us. Historic photographs, uniforms, and World War II aviator gloves provide tangible links to the important local contributions to the war effort during the 1940s. Two modern commercial delivery drones and other artifacts will showcase the culmination of the work, research, and innovation produced by the Virginia Tech Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership. Complementing the historical exhibit is a special art showcase celebrating 'Flight,' featuring works by local artists. The exhibit opening and reception will take place Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History, located at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg. Guests will enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar during the event.

## Saturday, Sept. 28:

### Pilot Community Center Celebration

The Pilot Community Center (former Pilot School) was recently added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Celebrate these designations and also honor former teachers and students of the Pilot School, 1 p.m. Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Road, Pilot. Unveiling of historical designation plaques, live music, refreshments, prizes, and lots of good memories. This event is free to the public.

### Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's 9th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ, noon – 5 p.m., at St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall. Admission is free, though a \$10 donation is suggested. Seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs. Performance schedule: 12:30-1:30 p.m. The JoJo Stockton Project, 2-3 p.m. McFadden and Friends. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Lady D and Mi\$\$ion. Beer and wine, barbeque, and sweet treats for purchase from Blue Ridge Beverage, Kirk's Famous BBQ, and Next Door Bake Shop. NAACP and The League of Women Voters will provide voter registration information. Free parking at the Gilbert Street Parking Garage. Proceeds go toward the continued preservation of St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall, which will be open to guests during the event. For more information, visit: <https://blacksburgmuseum.org/>.

## Ongoing:

### Menagerie, exhibit at Fine Arts Center for the NRV

Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley presents Menagerie, celebrating the diverse talents of artists residing in the NRV. At the Fine Arts Center in Pulaski at 21 West Main St., Pulaski, through Oct. 5, 2024. Some artwork contains mature content and may not be suitable for children.

### Blacksburg smoke testing sewer lines

The Town of Blacksburg and CHA Consulting, Inc., will perform smoke testing in the upper Harding Sewershed during the week of Sept. 9 and Sept. 16. The process blows smoke into the sewer system, which then escapes through leaks found in the lines. During this work, citizens may see smoke coming out of the ground, and occasionally, when household plumbing is not in conformance with code, smoke may enter residences. For questions and more information: Contact Shawn Veltman, Town Engineer at 540.443.1352, [sveltman@blacksburg.gov](mailto:sveltman@blacksburg.gov).

### Glencoe Mansion art exhibit by Sidra Kaluszka

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery will host "Do You Dream In Color," an art exhibition by artist Sidra Kaluszka for September and October at Glencoe Mansion, located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford. The exhibition will be on display from now until Oct. 27.



# News Messenger



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# Corps of Cadets pantry combats food insecurity

BLACKSBURG - Between classes and their duties, cadets have a lot to think about. Many members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets team are working to ensure that basic necessities aren't on that list.

"A lot of students suffer from food insecurity," said Keely Arbenz-Smith, the corps' case manager for Residential Well-being. "It's nothing to be ashamed of — it's an issue that we should all be partnering together to help to ameliorate. No Hokie should go hungry."

The community-supported pantry offers cadets a selection of food, personal hygiene products, and cleaning supplies. By making otherwise unused goods easily accessible, the pantry supports cadets while preventing unnecessary waste.

Arbenz-Smith and Deputy Commandant for 3rd Battalion Col. Bob Shelton created the pantry. They had long been aware of food insecurity in cadets, and members of the corps staff would buy food for cadets as situations arose. When they noticed the overwhelming amount of unopened, unexpired food thrown away at the end of each semester, they came up with the idea for the pantry.

"Cadets are no different from the regular student population with the life challenges they face," said Shelton. "We see food insecurity, we see financial difficulties, we see hardship. Typically, there are about two to three weeks prior to finals when we tend to see people's meal plans run out. When they do,

there's always that extra bit of stress. We wanted to help resolve that. We also wanted to have a very quiet, humble way for them to come forward and say, 'Hey, I need help,' without embarrassment."

They created a collection box for usable food and goods, and the response was overwhelming. Before long, the corps had enough items to offer support to cadets on a walk-in basis.

The pantry started as a temporary countertop installation in a conference room at the end of the 2023 academic year. Since then, it has found a permanent home in the repurposed mailroom of Pearson Hall East.

The pantry allows anyone to help struggling students and allows struggling students to get help, no questions asked.

"We all have our struggles and there's no shame in those struggles — nor should there be," said Shelton. "We want cadets to understand that we're here to help, and that's exactly what this resource is for. It's here to get you through whatever challenge you may be experiencing. You are not alone."

The pantry is available 24/7 and accessible through individuals with access to a key, including deputy commandants, student leaders, and Residential Well-being staff in the corps.

Arbenz-Smith and Shelton said everyone with a pantry key can also help students connect with other financial assistance resources for ongoing support. This hands-on approach to caring for others is just one piece of servant



PHOTO BY KATIE MALLORY FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Keely Arbenz-Smith organizes food items on a shelf in the corps pantry.

leadership taught in the corps.

"Whether that means referring them to financial aid, to our corps financial officer, or coaching them through how to budget their dining money better next time, we ensure that pantry access is just the beginning of the support," said Arbenz-Smith.

By supporting students' basic needs and complementing The Market of Virginia Tech, the corps pantry helps fulfill the Virginia Tech Advantage commitment to help students reach their academic and career goals.

"The more individuals who support this cause, the more cadets we can help to ensure they reach their finish line with the corps and Virginia Tech," said Nicole Freeman Ramos, manager of donor relations, scholarships, and stewardship for the corps.

To donate food to the pantry, email Arbenz-Smith at keelys77@vt.edu. To donate money to support cadets in need, contact Corps of Cadets advancement by calling 540-231-2892 or emailing Kelley Corvin at kcorvin@vt.edu.

Ashley Roberts for Virginia Tech

## Student Achievements

### Roland Griggs earns University of Nebraska-Lincoln degree

LINCOLN, Neb. - Roland Stephen Griggs of Christiansburg was among 569 graduates who received degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during a combined graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremony Aug. 17 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Griggs earned a Master of Business Administration from the Office of Graduate Studies.

### Garrett Knobl named to University of Delaware Dean's List

NEWARK, Del. - Garrett Knobl, of Blacksburg, has been named to the University of Delaware Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester. To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

### Skylar Miles graduates from Bridgewater College

BRIDGEWATER, Va. - Skylar Miles, of Radford, graduated with a master of science degree in athletic training from Bridgewater College during the May 4, 2024, Commencement exercises. Approximately 282 undergraduate and 35 graduate students from the Class of 2024 received degrees. Dr. David W. Bushman, president of Bridgewater College, conferred the degrees. Dr. Oskar Scheikl, former superintendent of Rockingham County Public Schools, served as the Commencement speaker for 2024. In his address, "Self and Service," Scheikl urged graduates to take care of themselves so that they could take care of others and live life to the fullest: "Focusing on self and service requires the realization that it's not all about you and those close to you. It's about everyone."

### U Dallas senior Owen Embree named to Spring 2024 Dean's List

IRVING, Texas - Owen Embree, of Blacksburg, was named to the spring 2024 dean's list at the University of Dallas

for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. Embree is a Senior Mathematics major. Undergraduate students at the University of Dallas must complete two years of fundamental coursework in the humanities, sciences, politics, mathematics and fine arts. Students must also complete coursework in Ancient Greek, French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish.

### Jack Nussbaum named to the dean's list at Tufts University

MEDFORD, Mass. - Jack Nussbaum, Class of 2027, of Blacksburg, was named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the Spring 2024 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

### St. Mary's College of Maryland announces Spring 2024 Dean's List

ST. MARY'S CITY, Md. - Robert Koontz, a resident of Christiansburg, VA, was awarded Dean's List honors for academic achievement during the Spring 2024 semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland, the National Public Honors College. Dean's List honors are awarded to full-time students at St. Mary's College who earn a semester grade-point average of 3.5 or better on 12 or more graded credits.

### Emily Chitwood inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. - Emily Chitwood, of Blacksburg, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Chitwood was initiated at Radford University. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.

### Audrey Mosby of Radford named to Midway University Athletic Director's

### Honor Roll

MIDWAY, Ky. - It was another highly successful spring semester in the classroom for Midway student-athletes, with 460 earning a spot on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll. Audrey Mosby, a member of the Western Equestrian team, was named to the list. To qualify, a student-athlete must hold a grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale for the entire semester.

### James Madison University welcomes new transfer students

HARRISONBURG, Va. - James Madison University is excited to welcome new transfer students to campus. The incoming transfers represent an accomplished, diverse group of individuals who hail from 20 states, the District of Columbia and six countries.

Ronald Harshbarger of Blacksburg has transferred to James Madison University and is majoring in Computer Science - BS.

Athens Terry of Blacksburg has transferred to James Madison University and is majoring in Computer Science - BS.

Shelby Hawley of Christiansburg has transferred to James Madison University and is majoring in Theatre - BA.

Macaela Richmeier of Christiansburg has transferred to James Madison University and is majoring in Industrial Design - BS.

### James Madison University welcomes class of 2028

HARRISONBURG, Va. - James Madison University is excited to welcome the class of 2028. The incoming class represents an accomplished, diverse group of individuals who hail from 34 states, the District of Columbia and 20 countries.

William McWhirt of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Biology - BS.

Mabry Keister of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Chemistry - BS.

Korbinian Huber of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Computer Science - BS.

Andrew Sparks of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Exploratory.

Trinity Eure of Blacksburg, who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.

Kelly Anton of Blacksburg, who is majoring in General Psychology - BS.

Natalie Neumann of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.

Conner Smith of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.

Elliott Selznick of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Kinesiology - BS.

Jordan Boffen of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Marketing - BBA.

Jacob Henry of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Marketing - BBA.

Robert Dickerson of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Music - BM.

Emma McCall of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

Jordan Schaible of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Nursing - BSN.

Kayla Toney of Radford, who is majoring in Political Science - BA.

Luke West of Blacksburg, who is majoring in Public Administration - BS.

Rachel Hamm of Christiansburg, who is majoring in Sport & Rec Management - BS.

### Hiwassee resident graduates with honors from James Madison University

HARRISONBURG, Va. - Zachary Fox of Hiwassee graduated Cum Laude with a degree(s) in Anthropology - BA from James Madison University during commencement exercises in August 2024.

### Christiansburg resident graduates from James Madison University

HARRISONBURG, Va. - Sara Stanford of Christiansburg, VA graduated with a degree(s) in Kinesiology - MS from James Madison University during commencement exercises in August 2024.



# Marketplace

ourvalley.org



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**Public Auction**

**Public Auction**

To enforce our owner's lien(s) by Craft Self Storage, 540-260-9563, 100 Roger St. Christiansburg VA, per 55-416 Code of Virginia, Virginia Self Storage Act; the following units will be sold by absolute auction unless payment in full is made to Craft Self Storage prior to auction beginning:

Unit I27, G82, and H53

Auction date September 20th 2024, at 10:00 A.M.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**Grant Programs Notice of Public Comment Period CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) PROGRAM YEAR 2023**

In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME

**Legals - Montgomery County**

Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg seek public comment on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2023 program year of the New River Valley HOME Consortium's Home Investments Partnerships Program (HOME) and the Town of Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The report includes an assessment of projects funded under CDBG and HOME, including expenditures in relation to

**Legals - Montgomery County**

community objectives, progress on HUD financed activities, and an analysis of persons benefiting from activities.

A copy of the report is on file at the Town of Blacksburg's Office of Housing and Community Connections, 303 Wilson Avenue, Blacksburg, Virginia, and will be available for review upon request. It can also be found on the Town's website at the following web address: [http://www.blacksburg.gov/ HUDreport](http://www.blacksburg.gov/HUDreport).

**Legals - Montgomery County**

Comments may be given via e-mail to: [housing@blacksburg.gov](mailto:housing@blacksburg.gov), by phone at (540) 443-1615, and by mail to Housing and Community Connections, P.O. Box 90003, Blacksburg, VA 24062. All comments must be received Sunday, September 29 at 5:00 p.m. Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1613.



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# A Torch to Bear.... A history of Page's Meeting House

A young man named Edward Morgan came to the New River Valley in the late 1760s. He had arrived at the port of Baltimore after having sailed from England. By prior arrangement, he had to work for a local farmer for two years to pay for his passage. After gaining his freedom he decided to head west to gain some land and start a new life on what was then the American frontier. He was unmarried and had yet to see his twentieth birthday. He was a believer in Jesus Christ, whose life he held in the deepest love and respect and whose spiritual torch he carried.

This was years before Bunker Hill and Concord, those epic battles which began the American Revolution. The Stamp Act was still fresh in the minds of Americans whose discontent with King George was growing steadily and freedom was gaining momentum.

Edward's westward travels carried him first

to Holston area in far southwest Virginia but that move was temporary for he arrived back in the New River Valley prior to 1773 settling west of the New River.

The New River had for a time acted as a barrier to westward migration but ferries on the New at both Ingles Ferry on the Wilderness Road and at Peppers Ferry, farther up the river, were helping settlers to cross the river and find open land on the West bank and beyond in what was later to become Pulaski and Giles counties.

After making a home in the New River Valley, Edward met a man named Alexander Page, a farmer who owned land on the West Bank of the New River in what we now call the Fairlawn/Bell Spring area. He was a brother in Christ and began to hold Bible study and worship in his house inviting his neighbors to join in. Edward Morgan joined in later and became a leader among the people

who came to worship at what was now called Page's Meeting House. Attendance grew and Edward and Alex realized they would soon need a separate house of worship to accommodate their growing congregation, so plans were made to build a chapel on Alex's land. The original chapel was completed around 1775. Alexander Page's formally deeded the land on which the church was built to the Methodist Church in 1795.

Along about this time, as more settlers arrived in the NRV and the congregation grew at Page's Meeting House, Edward Morgan saw that the area was in bad need of a pastor. Other than the Dublin Presbyterians there no other churches in the area, so he made plans to travel to Baltimore in the Colony of Maryland to ask that a preacher be assigned to this area. Riding horseback for over 300 miles, he rode to Baltimore and found Francis Asbury, newly appointed Bishop of the Methodist movement in America. Asbury was greatly impressed with the faith of Edward Morgan but there was a shortage of pastors and there was no one to assign to the frontier in Virginia. So he told Edward to go back and "Do the job yourself". Asbury was a follower of John Wesley, founder of Methodism who advocated the use of Lay pastors where needed. So, Edward rode back to the NRV and began to pastor at Page's

Meeting House, as the first preacher in the first church, in what was to become the Holston Conference. As the area continued to grow, Edward Morgan became the people's pastor in every hamlet that sprouted up on both banks of the New River. He was a circuit rider before Circuit Riders became popular and was a beloved figure among families all over the NRV valley. He loved Jesus and was proud to spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ rejoicing with each new convert who came to know Jesus, who had brought the full measure of God's love into the world.

Bishop Asbury later became co-leader of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America which had separated from the Anglican Church of England after gaining independence in the Revolutionary War. He was a circuit rider of sorts himself riding over 270,000 miles across America visiting and encouraging churches. He visited and spoke at Page's Meeting House in 1802 and again in 1806.

During another visit in 1801 to Peppers Ferry Chapel across the river, he ordained Edward Morgan as a Deacon. Edward Morgan continued to preach God's word long into his old age and far into the 1800s. He passed into his heavenly home in his 93rd year in 1851 and is buried on site at Page's along with other pioneer members. Page's Meeting House continued on for over a hundred years. Ole time camp meetings were popular in the 1800s and were held on site. In 1875 when time had taken its toll on the old meeting house, a new church was built to replace it and named Morgan's Chapel Methodist Church in honor of the Rev. Edward Morgan. It is located about one and a half miles south of the original site. It still serves the Lord's calling today.

### Page's Meeting House Site Notes:

At some point the original PMH building was abandoned after Morgan's Chapel was built. In the 1960s a movement began to restore the site which had reverted to forest and farmland. Vernon McCoy and Kirby Phillips lead the way. By the early 1980s a joint

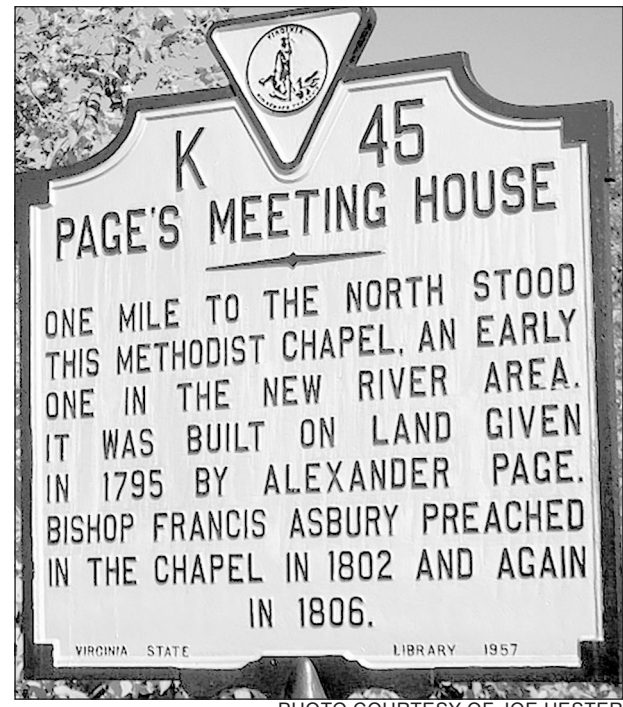


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE HESTER  
An historical marker gives some of the history of the site.

effort by area churches of multiple denominations culminated with the clearing of the land, the laying of the concrete slab, the erection of the shelter, and the restoration of the cemetery. The first camp meeting in the restored site was held in 1984 in a tent with the shelter being added in 1986. Special thanks go out to the members of the Church of God, Church of God of Prophecy, and Snowville Christian Church as well as the local Methodist congregations.

The log buildings on site are built with recovered original PMH logs and from logs from Morgan's home place in Pulaski County.

The pine trees lining the site were planted in March 1985 and the fences were added at the same time.

Our grateful love and appreciation go out to the many congregations and their volunteers in the NRV who helped restore Page's and have kept it going for all these many years. May it continue on as a historical place where all people of the NRV will come to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ on these hallowed grounds of our spiritual ancestors.

In the Great Commission Jesus gave us all the responsibility to spread the Gospel to all nations. That also means to all neighborhoods! Alexander Page and Edward Morgan answered the call of their commission and took the action necessary to build the churches needed to serve the Kingdom in the NRV. Their actions

served God's kingdom in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The church leaders who came after them built more churches as communities grew and the people of the late 19th and 20th centuries heard the story of Jesus. The spiritual legacy as well as the physical legacy of Alex and Edward lived on.

Today there are 53 churches in and around the Radford and Fairlawn area. The number is far greater when you include the entire NRV.....but half the pews are empty. Some churches are growing, but in most, there are more empty pews than full. Statistics show that in present day America only 30 % of the population attend church regularly. Church attendance has been declining for the past 50 years.

Come out and help us celebrate our heritage at the historic Page's Meeting House on Hickman Cemetery Road just north of Rt. 11 in Fairlawn on Sept. 28. Activities begin with a hot dog meal beginning at 4 p.m., followed by a performance of the Randolph Ave./ First UMC Youth Drum Corps. Singing by the God's Voices Community Choir with other soloists and groups follows at 5 p.m. At 5:50 p.m. Joe Hester will present a short talk on the history of Page's Meeting house. Our worship service will begin at 6 p.m., led by Evangelist Tucker LaForce, Pastor at Diamond Hill Baptist Church, Moneta, Va.

Come one come all to this special community worship service on the hallowed grounds. All are welcome!

Joe Hester of Radford



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE HESTER  
An historic drawing shows Page's Meeting House in days gone by.

## News Messenger

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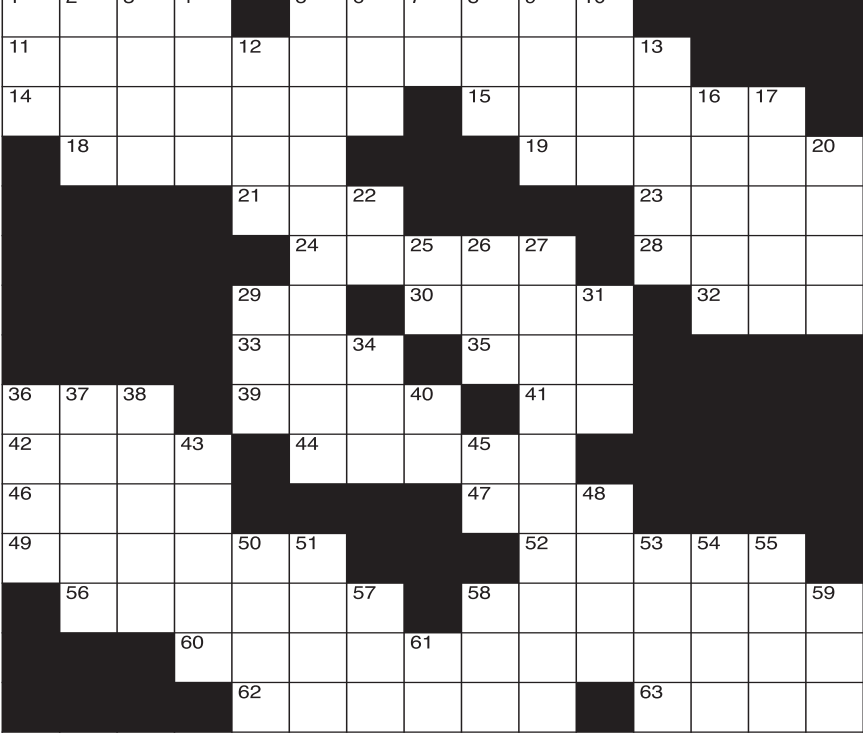
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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Constrictors
  - Abounding in rocks
  - Speed
  - German city
  - Lacking sympathy
  - Visionaries
  - Wastes away
  - One precursor to the EU
  - Nursemaid
  - Unconsciousnesses
  - Baby's word for father
  - Equal to 64 US pints (abbr.)
  - Senses of self-importance
  - Midway between south and southwest
  - When you hope to get there
  - Electronic data
  - processing
  - Passports and drivers' licences are two
  - Fishes
  - Air Force
  - Personal computers
  - Ecological community
  - Wings
  - Halfway
  - Cool, calm and collected
  - Jewelled headdress
  - Musical composition
  - \_\_\_ Falls
  - Repeating remarks
  - Periods in one's life
  - Hyphen
  - CLUES DOWN
  - \_\_\_ Humbug!
  - Devices that alert pilots (abbr.)
  - Grocer
  - One point east of southeast
  - Subjects to hostility
  - Work unit
  - Atomic #56
  - "Elusive Butterfly" singer
  - Fastened over animal's neck
  - Device
  - Rechargeable power source
  - Ancient sage
  - Consist of two elements
  - "Pygmalion" writer
  - "The Centennial State" (abbr.)
  - Of I
  - Get older
  - Brotherhoods
  - Buzzing insect
  - Sunscreen rating
  - Brew
  - Leader
  - Indigo bush
  - Burn with a hot liquid
  - Junior's dad
  - Horse mackerels genus
  - Morning
  - Unit of linear measurement (abbr.)
  - Double curve
  - Small, twisted bunch
  - Developed
  - Mars crater
  - Humanistic discipline
  - Word element meaning ear
  - Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
  - Wood residue
  - It cools your home



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# OBITUARIES

## Hall, Thomas Lee

Thomas Lee Hall, of Christiansburg, 90, passed away Sept. 9, 2024, in Roanoke.

Born Sept. 6, 1934, in Floyd, Thomas dedicated 28 years of his career to the Radford Arsenal and later served as a bus driver for Montgomery Schools for 15 years.

A man of deep faith, Thomas served in the ministry for many years, touching many lives with his words and actions. He was not only committed to his spiritual community but also cherished the time he spent in nature, whether it was tending to his garden or hunting.

Thomas was a loving husband to Catherine Louise Hall, a caring father to Sherman Lee Hall and Timothy Lane Hall, and father-in-law to Nancy and Dana Hall. He was a proud grandfather to Kristine Atkinson, Craig, Ezra, Sherman, Colton, Ryan Hafley, Sydney Ramirez, and Sierra Hall, and a great-grandfather to 16 great-grandchildren. His legacy



of love and guidance will live on through them. His siblings, Jack Hall (Ruth Hall), Lyndall Cole, Roscoe Hall, also survive him, bearing the memory of his steadfast love and brotherhood.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Maedae Hall; his son, Micheal Steve Hall; daughter-in-law, Arlene Hall; and grandson, Mitchell Hall.

The family will be assisted by McCoy's Funeral Home, located at 150 Country Club Dr SW, Blacksburg, as they mourn his passing and celebrate his profound impact on their lives and the community. Thomas's life was commemorated in a manner befitting his significant contributions and deep connections within the community. Receiving of family and friends was Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, with service following at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg. Burial followed Friday, Sept. 13, 2024 in the Red Oak Grove Cemetery, Floyd.

## Simmons, James

James "Ronnie" Simmons, long-time resident of Christiansburg, died Sept. 9, 2024 at the age of 80.

Ronnie is survived by the love of his life for 60 years, Barbara Simmons. He is also survived by his sons Jason Simmons and Kevin Simmons; his daughter Kristen Bruzzese; his son-in-law Vincent Bruzzese; and the light of his life, his grandson Sebastian.

Ronnie spent the majority of his career at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, and after retirement was a bus driver for the Montgomery County school system driving children to sporting events and field trips.

Ronnie was a generous man, giving of his time to the children of the community. He was a coach to many in Christiansburg, and later stayed connected to youth sports through refereeing and umpiring. He taught his children, and those he coached, that



hard work and perseverance would pay off, both on and off the field.

One of the most important things Ronnie taught his own children was how to be a good friend. How to truly be there for another person, someone they could depend on. He treated his friends like family and was always there

to help in their time of need. He would give the shirt off of his back if he felt someone needed it more than he did.

Ronnie lived a full and loving life. On any given weekend, you could find him at a car show, talking shop and showing off his Corvette or sitting in his recliner with a big bowl of ice cream watching an episode of Gunsmoke.

Receiving of family and friends was Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024 at the McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg, VA. A small, private burial followed Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

### BAPTIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### 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 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:

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## Living Water

Read Ezekiel 47:1 through 48:35

Many old Western movies show parched travelers, desperate for water. Their boots shuffle in the dust, their legs give way. Finally, they see water in the distance. One cowboy runs up, cupping his hands into the watering hole, but his companion stops him short. Soon, we realize why. The camera pans the watering hole. There are no living things—not one sign of life. A skeleton or two reinforce the scene. Stagnant water brings death.

By contrast, where water is flowing, life thrives. This water can quench, refresh, and sustain the thirst of a weary traveler.

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live" (Ezekiel 47:9).

Feeling fatigued? Parched? Are our souls thirsty for a drink? Or maybe you're fine. Whatever the case, we can kneel, cup our hands in prayer, and soak up the satisfying, living water God provides.

Challenge for Today: Immerse yourself in God's living water today.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 47:1-12

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)

mysthomasoffice@yahoo.com. <http://www.stthomaschristiansburg.dioswva.org>

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at [www.lmlc.org](http://www.lmlc.org). We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email [luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com](mailto:luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com), or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Celebrate Word and Sacrament as we worship with varied liturgy, hymns and music. Join our inclusive community in person or online Sundays at 10:00 am ([youtube.com/@OSLCCburg](http://youtube.com/@OSLCCburg)), followed by refreshments and fellowship. Ministries include Bible study, choir, food ministry, and crafters. Little Free Pantry and Library available 24-7 by the parking lot. Parent's Morning Out offers faith-based activities and play for children 16 month - 5 years select weekdays. Wheelchair accessible. Learn how you may contribute to our ministries at [www.oslc-cburg.org](http://www.oslc-cburg.org). 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060.** Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where we gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation." A place where all are truly welcome." You'll love our minister, The Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison, who engages us in God's word. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Caring Initiative which includes Micah's Backpack, Soup

for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email [hope@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. Sunday Worship at 11 AM with Nursery available. Sunday School at 10 AM with Adult and Children classes. Adult Midweek Refuel and Youth Group on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 PM. Mission: Seeking to exalt Christ by sacrificially caring for one another and our community. Pastor: Colby Callaway. Office Phone: 540-250-3864. Website: [cwc4u.org](http://cwc4u.org). We Also Livestream on Youtube Every Sunday at 11AM!"

## OBITUARIES

## Carper, Marion Lanford

Marion Lanford Carper, 83, of Narrows, died Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. He was born in Pearisburg, on June 15, 1941 to the late William and Frances Lugar Carper. Marion was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp. He retired after over 55 years of cross-country truck driving.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Deran Carper; son, Elliott Leiberger; and several close cousins, Carol, Ann (Eddie), David



(Joy), and Alan (Diane). Funeral services were conducted Friday, Sept. 13, 2024 in the Level Green Christian Church with the Pastor Duane Wentz officiating. Interment followed in the Ross Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

## Richards, Melinda Dowdy

Melinda Dowdy Richards, 63, of Christiansburg, passed away Sept. 2, 2024. She was born Jan. 13, 1961, to the late George and Violet Gerberich. Melinda worked at Wolverine Advanced Materials in Blacksburg for 36 years as a shipping operator before retiring. She had a wonderful sense of humor and an infectious laugh that would make anyone enjoy being around her. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family.



She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Wayne Dowdy, and her brother, Roy Gerberich. She is survived by Curtis Baldwin; her nieces Janet Norville and Sandy Light; good friends Pattie Robinson, Sharon Tinley; and wonderful neighbors Daniel and Bobbie Davis.

She will be buried in Musselman Family Cemetery in Shawsville. A graveside service will be held at a later date.

## Andrew, Wayne Keith

Wayne Keith Andrew, of Blacksburg, died Saturday, Sept. 8, 2024.

Wayne was born in Iowa on June 26, 1939. He grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, where he attended Roosevelt High School and Drake University. He later went on to do graduate work in psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. After graduation, he accepted a faculty position at Brandon University in Manitoba, where he taught for a year before moving to Selkirk College in Castlegar, British Columbia and finally taking a faculty position at the University of Winnipeg. He taught at the University of Winnipeg for 15 years, serving as the Chair of the Psychology Department for the latter part of his tenure there. At various times, he taught Introductory Psychology, Humanistic Psychology, and Research Logic and Inference. One of his many strengths as a faculty member was his ability to help students conquer their fear of statistics. As a researcher, he was fascinated with the issue of consciousness and the mind-body problem.

In 1989, he and his wife, Hilary Lips, moved to southwest Virginia where she held a faculty position at Radford University. There, over a period of 30 years, Wayne did independent computer-related consulting and provided extensive support for the development of the university's Center for Gender Studies. Propelled by memories of the impact of sexism on his own mother and sister, and aware of its continuing destructive force, Wayne was motivated to devote his time and effort to pushing back against gender stereotyping and discrimination by promoting good gender science and scholarship. He developed and maintained the Center's website, promoted the Center's activities, and assisted a number of students with their research. He also provided invaluable support to Hilary in her research and publishing projects.

As a high school student, Wayne was on the track team, and he maintained a lifelong practice of running and jogging. One summer, he worked on a survey crew, where his fleetness of foot came in



handy when escaping from irate bulls in farmers' fields. As a young man, he was an avid downhill skier. He loved hiking, especially in the desert; he and Hilary hiked the Grand Canyon several times and enjoyed walking the desert trails in and around Tucson. His recreational reading included many books on quantum physics. He was always very helpful to friends and family struggling to get their computers to do their bidding. He also took great pride in creating artistic designs on the computer to commemorate milestone events. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed relating stories about his own adventures and misadventures.

Family was very important to him. He enjoyed spending time with his parents and his siblings and in-laws, and often went to a lot of trouble to connect with his nephews and nieces.

He is survived and dearly missed by his wife of 38 years, Hilary Lips; his sisters Kay Andersen and Janet Kleen (Steve Kleen); his brother Jim Nielsen (Liu Minfang); his sisters-in-law Marian Lips (Kevin Smith) and Karen Lips (Ole Hammarlund); his brother-in-law Tom Lips (Linnéa Rowlett); his nieces Kristen Hughes (Rob Hughes), Amanda Youngblood (Jaime Youngblood), Samantha Macdonald (Scott Macdonald), Maria Kindrick (Thomas Kindrick), Jennifer Smith, Hilary Smith, Karmen Walther, and Freija Walther (Cody Reaume); his nephews Steve Kleen (Whitney Kleen), Jared Nielsen (Kayla Nielsen), Josh Nielsen (Andrea Nielsen), Jacob Nielsen, James Nielsen, and Leif Hammarlund (Dominique Daoust); his cousins Gail Cooper (Walt Rudolph), Nancy Maschman, Edna Grotjahn-Early (Dennis Early), Tim Eddy, David Eddy (Bree Eddy), Debbie Navarro (Mike Navarro), and Steven Eddy (Nelda Eddy); and numerous grand-nieces and grand-nephews. He was pre-deceased by his parents Delores and Bill Nielsen and his brother-in-law Jonathan Lips.

Date and time for a Celebration of Life will be announced. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Friends of Saguaro National Park (<https://www.friendsofsaguaro.org/>).

## Harvey Jr., Henry McNeil

Henry McNeil "Mack" Harvey Jr., 88 – a husband, a father and an engineer who possessed an endlessly curious mind – died Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024.

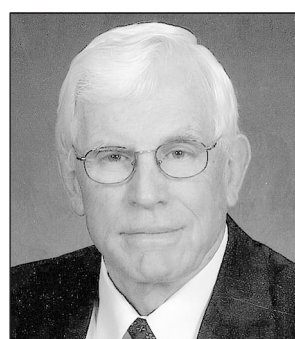
Born in Pulaski in 1936, and raised in Radford, Mack was the son of Henry McNeil Harvey and Ethel Elizabeth Lyons. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen Martin Harvey; by his daughter, Heather Marie Harvey, of Glen Allen, Virginia; and by his son Henry McNeil "Neil" Harvey III, and Neil's wife Camille Turner Harvey of Roanoke.

Mack attended Radford High School and spent much of his youth in the automotive shop of his father's car dealership on Main Street, fascinated by machines and the ways in which they worked. When he developed an interest in photography as a teen, he built his own darkroom in his family's home, and after he bought his first car while still in high school – his storied 1930 Ford – his technical knowledge deepened even more.

Those early experiences led to his earning his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1958 and his Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1964, both from Virginia Tech. He was also inducted into Pi Tau Sigma, the International Honor Society for Mechanical Engineers.

While at Virginia Tech, he worked as a student assistant and then spent four years as a full-time assistant professor, teaching courses in thermodynamics, kinematics and instrumentation, among other subjects.

From 1965 through 2001, Mack worked for Hercules Incorporated, at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, as a mechanical engineer and a manager within both the facilities and equipment design division and the manufacturing engineering division. During the plant's peak capacity, he supervised 130 personnel and managed an annual project budget of \$30 million.



Mack loved his hometown and the New River Valley, and he gave his support to the region by serving terms as vice-chair of the Radford City School Board, chair of the Radford City Planning Commission, and for decades until his death, as board chair of the Trolinger Trust. He also previously served on

the foundation board for Warm Hearth Retirement Village, was a member of corporation for St. Albans Psychiatric Hospital, and sat on the New Century Council Infrastructure Committee.

Mack and Helen were avid travelers and visited a host of destinations over the years, including Russia, Panama, and most of Europe. He also loved music, was a skilled trombone player, and enjoyed a range of artists and styles – particularly Stan Kenton, Neil Diamond and John Barry.

During the past decade, Mack became an active walker, logging miles around his hometown and photographing his favorite points of interest: cars, trucks, trains, construction sites and heavy machinery. Because of his genuine interest in others, he could easily strike up friendly conversations with just about anyone, and he did so very often. He was witty and kind, a wonderful husband and dad. At age 88, years after his retirement, Mack completed the 16 professional development hours the state requires to renew his professional engineering license. He remained an engineer to the end. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Radford.

A memorial will be held at the church at 201 4th Street on Thursday, Sept. 19, with visitation at 10 a.m. and a service at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Mack to a charity of your choice.

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

## East meets west in a joyous evening of musical praise

"Singing Together: Qawwali and Gospel" is a music collaboration between Houston-based Riyaz Qawwali and the Harlem Gospel Travelers from New York City, which features performances from both ensembles individually followed by a song performed together, interweaving qawwali and gospel elements into a resoundingly joyous evening of praise.

The boundary-crossing performance comes to the Moss Arts Center Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring soul-stirring melodies, lively rhythms, and spiritually uplifting lyrics, qawwali is a genre of music that has been used for centuries to spark religious devotion and bring listeners to a state of spiritual union with God. Traditional qawwalis are often sung in praise for religious teachers, saints, and scholars and include themes of love, intoxication, and longing. The collaborative component of "Singing Together" merges qawwali and gospel into a singular soundscape with lyrics carefully arranged to honor both traditions.

Settled in the United States and hailing from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh, Riyaz Qawwali musicians represent multiple religious and spiritual backgrounds. Trained in eastern and western classical music, they have been professionally performing qawwali for the past 15 years.

The founding members of the ensemble chose the qawwali

because it houses unique musical elements in its repertoire that are not found in any other form of South Asian music. Riyaz Qawwali's mission is to expose this music to new audiences while still paying homage to traditional qawwali that has been in existence for over 700 years. The ensemble wants to expand the reach of the genre to new stages and people of other faiths and traditions.

Qawwali combines these elements with works from famous South Asian poets of multiple linguistic and religious backgrounds to create a universal message of oneness. The ensemble incorporates works from poetic giants such as Mirza Ghalib, Amir Khusrow, Bulleh Shah, Mir Taqi Mir, Sant Kabir, and Guru Nanak and uses numerous languages — including Urdu, Punjabi, Persian, Guja-rati, and Hindi — to represent the linguistic and cultural diversity that exists in South Asia.

The Harlem Gospel Travelers draw deeply on the gospel quartet tradition of the '50s and '60s but with a distinctly modern edge that includes dazzling vocal arrangements punctuated with gritty bursts of guitar and crunchy rhythm breaks. With a new album, "Rhapsody," vocalists Ifedayo Gatling, Dennis Bailey, and George Marage fully explore the entire range of music that influenced them with a dive into a lesser-known but hugely important era in the evolution



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH GETTER  
The Harlem Gospel Travelers (at left) and Riyaz Qawwali share the stage for "Singing Together: Qawwali and Gospel."

of gospel music.

Born out of a nonprofit music education program led by producer Eli "Paperboy" Reed, the Harlem Gospel Travelers released their debut album "He's on Time" to rave reviews in 2019, with Pop Matters hailing the album's "musical transcendence" and AllMusic praising it as "dreamlike and joyous." The record charted on Billboard, earned the Travelers high profile fans like Elton John — who invited them to appear on his "Rocket Hour" radio show on Apple Music — and landed them festival slots everywhere from Pilgrimage to Telluride Jazz. Originally a quartet, the ensemble brought

in Bailey and reconfigured as a trio prior to recording "Look Up!" its first album of all original material.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Ms. Deborah L. Brown and David and Judie Reemsnyder.

## Related events

Prior to the performance, join Sonny K. Mehta, artistic director of Riyaz Qawwali, for a talk about the rich musical tradition of qawwali in the Moss Arts Center's Merryman Family Learning Studio, Room 253, from 6:30-7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26.

During his visit, Mehta and another Riyaz Qawwali member will talk with APIDA+

students, music and sociology classes, and students in the university's interfaith living-learning community Aurora about Riyaz Qawwali's mission to foster interfaith and intercultural understanding through music.

## Tickets

Tickets for the performance are \$20-\$55 for general audience and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF UF

Trinity Adams of Radford is a senior volleyball player at the University of Florida.

## Former Bobcat senior at University of Florida

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

A former Radford High School volleyball player continues to strive in the Southeastern Conference at the University of Florida.

Senior Trinity Adams has seen action in three of the school's four matches. She posted a season-high eight digs, while dropping an ace in Florida's home opener against South Florida. Also, she recorded two assists in the Gators' sweep over Michigan State.



Trinity Adams

In 2023, Adams saw action in all 29 matches, starting nine times. As a junior, she recorded a career-high 17 digs against then No. 1 in the country Wisconsin.

Adams was a member of the 2019 and 2018 state championship team while at Radford, being named first team all-state and all-region.

Florida is currently 5-1 and ranked 13th in the nation. Pitt is number one and Stanford number two. The Southeastern Conference has four teams ranked in the top 25.

## Know the foe: ODU to host Hokies

After a convincing win in its home opener, Virginia Tech football goes back on the road for a Virginia-based matchup against Old Dominion.

The Hokies are set to play the Monarchs today, Saturday, Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. at S.B. Ballard Stadium.

TV: The game will be televised on ESPN+ with Chip Tarkenton (play-by-play) and Andy Mashaw (analyst) on the call.

Radio: The Virginia Tech Sports Network will carry the contest over the airwaves in Blacksburg on 93.1 FM and 105.9 FM. Bill Lord will handle play-by-play duties while Mike Burnop provides color commentary and Zach Mackey reports from the sideline.

Streaming: Catch the game online at ESPN.com and the ESPN mobile app.

Live Audio: Listen to live audio coverage of the matchup at HokieSports.com/Listen or in the HokieSports mobile app.

Live Stats: Monitor the game through live stats on HokieSports.com, including play-by-play updates and full team and individual statistics.

Tech and Old Dominion will face off for the third time in as many years, after back-to-back season-opening matchups. Last season, the Hokies handed the Monarchs their third loss in the series history with a 36-17 victory at Lane Stadium. Wide receiver Ali Jennings scored two touchdowns in his first matchup against his prior team after transferring in 2023 and will look to recapture that magic in Norfolk, Virginia. Head coach Brent Pry will search for his first road win against the program after the first matchup in 2022 during his inaugural season.

Pledge Per rolls on

Fans have the opportunity to support the football program with pledge-based giving that occurs throughout the season. Although the Hokies are two games into the 2024 campaign giving pledges will backdate to the first game of the season to maximize your impact. Pledges can be locked in based on wins (\$50), touchdowns (\$7) or sacks (\$3), and with Tech claiming its first win of the season, the impact of Pledge Per becomes even larger. Help make an impact and pledge today!

### Players to watch

Linebacker Sam Brumfield: Defensive coordinator Chris Marve started Fall Camp with a major competition on the second level of his defense, namely at middle linebacker. Throughout the competition, Middle Tennessee State transfer Sam Brumfield stood out as one of the leaders amongst the linebacker corps. The redshirt senior's impact was undeniable, as he was named one of the defensive captains for the year. Two games into his career as a Hokie, Brumfield ranks second on the team in tackles (12) and co-led the way against Marshall with five tackles. The Pearl, Mississippi native posted a strong 78.8 tackle grade, according to Pro Football Focus (PFF), in his first contest at Lane Stadium.

See KNOW THE FOE, Page 8

## Blacksburg gets the win over Patrick Henry



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Emma Castle attempts to keep the ball in play against Patrick Henry.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Keely Semtner and Bella Garza defend the net against Patrick Henry.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg outside hitter Josie Rhoads goes up for a spike against Patrick Henry on Tuesday night. Blacksburg would win in four games (19-25, 26-24, 25-17, 25-15).

## Sports notes: Hokies excel in Cougar Classic

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Behind a career-best showing by senior Ginnee Lee, the Virginia Tech women's golf team placed third at the season-opening Cougar Classic, which concluded Tuesday at Yeamans Hall Club (par 71, 6,269 yards).

Fueled by Lee's 2-under 211 (67-72-72), the Hokies captured third in the team standings behind preseason No. 10-ranked Auburn (5-under 847) and LSU (4-under 848). Tech combined for a 7-over 859, which included a 1-under 283 in Monday afternoon's second round.

There was a four-way tie for fourth place between ACC foes Miami, Boston College and SMU, and Florida of the SEC at 13-over 865.

Lee (T8th) delivered her second career top-10 showing on the strength of an outstanding opening-round 67 (-4). The Lausanne, Switzerland native carded nine birdies over her 54 holes to finish in red figures for the first time since the second event of her freshman campaign in 2021-22.

Hokie performer of week

On Tuesday afternoon, the ACC announced the recipients of the week two cross country awards. The Virginia Tech men's cross country team swept

the male award options as Nicholas Kipchirchir was named the Male Freshman Performer of the Week and the Male Performer of the Week.

The Hokies opened the cross-country season on Friday, September 6 with the Virginia Tech Invitational where the men and women both claimed first place finishes. Nicholas Kipchirchir claimed the title for the men's 6k with a 17:43.5.

The event win was the first of Kipchirchir's collegiate career, and as a freshman, he defeated 79 opponents in the competition field.

### Highlander runner of week

The Big South Conference announced Wednesday afternoon that Sophie Magson has been named Runner of the Week after her performance at the Virginia Tech Invitational last week.

Magson was the Highlanders' top finisher in Friday's meet at the Virginia Tech Invitational. The junior placed ninth among all racers with a time of 14:23.7 in the 4k which put her second all-time in Radford's record book.

The weekly award is the third in Magson's career, earning her first Runner of the Week award during the 2022 campaign. ETSU to host High Point

During a press conference, held inside Ramsey Tower at William B. Greene, Jr. Stadium on Wednesday afternoon, ETSU Athletic Director Dr. Richard Sander announced the ETSU men's basketball team will host High Point in a charity game on Sunday, Oct. 27 inside Freedom Hall.

The game will tip-off at 4 p.m., with all proceeds from the event benefiting Finnegan's Challenge and Uncommon Grit Foundation, two non-profits dedicated to helping families and individuals overcome life-altering adversity.

High Point, the reigning Big South Conference regular season champions, went 27-9 overall and 13-3 in league play last season.

### ACC and AI

The ACC and WSC Sports, the pioneer in AI-powered sports content technology, today announced the expansion of its league-wide innovative partnership. In the third year of an expanded agreement, and seventh year overall, all 18 ACC member institutions have access to WSC Sports' cutting-edge technology, empowering each institution to deliver high-quality in-game content instantly across all digital platforms.

The ACC office has collaborated with WSC Sports, building off the

long-standing relationship with the ACC Digital Network (ACCDN), to provide its member institutions and all sports offered at each the ability to utilize its editing suite, and real-time highlight-creation and video-automation where available.

The ACC's commitment to technology and innovation both on and off the field is once again confirmed as the investment in the partnership continues to grow. New offerings for the 2024-25 year include access to the live feed of all specialty events - such as ACC Kickoff and Tipoff, ACC-hosted College GameDay stops, ACC Championships and NCAA Championship games - enabling the ACC and its member schools the ability to create and instantly distribute a variety of short-form content from the biggest in-game moments to all digital channels, inclusive of web, app and social.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

BOAS	PEBBLY
ACCELERATION	
HAMBURG	UNKIND
SEERS	DECAYS
EEC	AMAH
COMAS	DADA
BU	EGOS
ETAL	EDP
IDS	EELS
MACS	SERIAL
ALAE	MID
MELLOW	TIARA
ADAGIO	NIAGARA
RESTATEMENTS	
EPOCHS	DASH

## MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Auburn volleyball remains unbeaten



PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

Gretchen Surface had 18 kills in Tuesday's victory over Giles. Auburn would take the win 3-1 in four games. On Monday, the Eagles also defeated cross-county rival Eastern Montgomery in three sets.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

Auburn's Jayci Morrill prepares to set the ball for her teammates in the 3-1 victory.

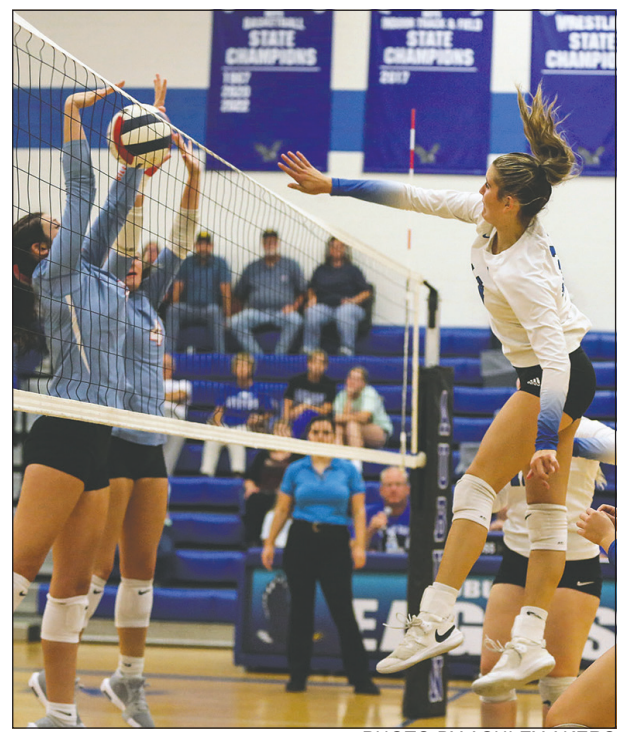


PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

Megan Earnest added 14 kills for Auburn in the win. Auburn is now 5-0 overall on the season.

## Roanoke football returns with win over Hampton-Sydney

Several local players are members of the RC team. In the program's first game since 1942, the Roanoke College football team defeated the visiting Hampden-Sydney College junior varsity squad 34-27 in front of over 9,000 fans at Salem Stadium.

This year's squad includes former Christiansburg running back Stephan Myrthill, Blacksburg's Javier Waldron, Eastern Montgomery's Seth Burleson, and Radford linebackers Charlie Davis and Brandon Thompson.

Roanoke took the lead for good on a Blake Moore to Ethan Graves connection for a 27-yard touchdown midway through the fourth quarter to cap an 11-play, 80-yard drive. The Maroon defense sealed the win on a Connor Pleasants interception in the closing seconds.

The Maroons are competing this year as a club team before achieving full varsity status in 2025 and becoming a full member of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC).

Roanoke got on the scoreboard first at the 5:43 mark of the first quarter as Tyson Miller caught a Moore pass for an 11-yard score.

Hampden-Sydney found the end zone twice to go ahead 14-7 before Moore hit Cole Chizuk for a 37-yard touchdown early in the second quarter to knot the game at 14-all.

The Maroons erased a 21-14 deficit with two touchdowns before halftime. Brayden Andrews ran the ball in from nine yards out and Wyatt Bach took an interception into the end zone to give RC a 26-21 edge at intermission.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROANOKE COLLEGE

Roanoke College returned to the football field for the first time since 1942 with several players from the NRV on the squad.

HSC went ahead 27-26 with a TD and failed two-point conversion. The Maroons succeeded in their two-point conversion on Graves' touchdown and the defense made the seven-point lead stand up.

Moore completed 19-of-36 passes for 269 yards, three touchdowns and just one interception.

Chizuk caught all seven of his targets for 110 yards receiving, while Andrews had a team-high 44 yards on the ground on 10 carries.

Issac Rivera made a team-high eight tackles and Gavin Thompson had three sacks.

Staff report

## Lions Club from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHRISTIANBURG LIONS CLUB

The Annual Lions Club Holiday Crafts show, held the first Saturday in December, is the club's largest fundraiser of the year and features thousands of hand-crafted items.

work would be less than successful, for our sponsors give us the stability and the resources to continue our giving to worthy causes and programs both local and distant. Overall, we had 30 sponsors who not only supported us financially but also there are those who provided items for our snack bar in order to feed the hungry shoppers and vendors. There are three categories of sponsors: Platinum; Gold; and Silver, and each is an important part of our sponsorship. And along with the top Platinum Sponsors of The Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Horne Funeral Home, Shelor Motor Mile, Thomas and Wall Realtors, Summit Community Bank, McCoy Funeral Home, and Joe Simmons Insurance and Investments (for the parking for the Crafts Show). To all of them and our other Sponsors we are grateful for their support and encouragement.

So, for The Christiansburg Lions Club, we have done it again and had a good time doing it! The year 2024 has been a good time to fulfill our Lions

Club Motto of "WE SERVE!" in so many ways!

With the success of our Annual Lions Club Christmas Holiday Craft Show, we have the means and excitement to sponsor and contribute to so many of our community, state and international projects with the proceeds of our work at the Craft Show and other projects.

With the proceeds of our Craft Show, snack bar, and Lions Club broom sale, we raised a little over \$22,000 in 2023. One of our best years yet! With these funds we were able to support 23 local, state and Lions Club International projects, to name a few: Eye Glass Sight Assistance, Eye Glass Recycling Center, Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, four local high school scholarships, Women's Resource Center, Service Dog Support, Pediatric Cancer Project, NRV Leading Lights, Lions Hearing Foundation, Hope to Walk, Leader Dog, Montgomery County Christmas Store, and a number of other agencies and projects such as rescue and fire departments.

Doug Kanney, Christiansburg Lions Club

## Lyric Theatre from page 1

lectures. This summer, they hosted a Footloose showing where after the movie, there was dancing in the street with an 80's cover band. The Lyric also offers children's education programming like their monthly story time and their acting and theater classes for ages four all the way up to 14 in the fall. The Lyric Theatre is passionate about supporting reading, learning and literacy in the community. Programming like these continues The Lyric's legacy of not just being a place to watch movies, but a place to gather as well.

The Lyric's upcoming events include a concert by Anya Hinkle, who grew up in the New River Valley, and John Doyle on Sept. 12, 2024. Their Late Night Horror Fest begins the first Thursday of October with Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

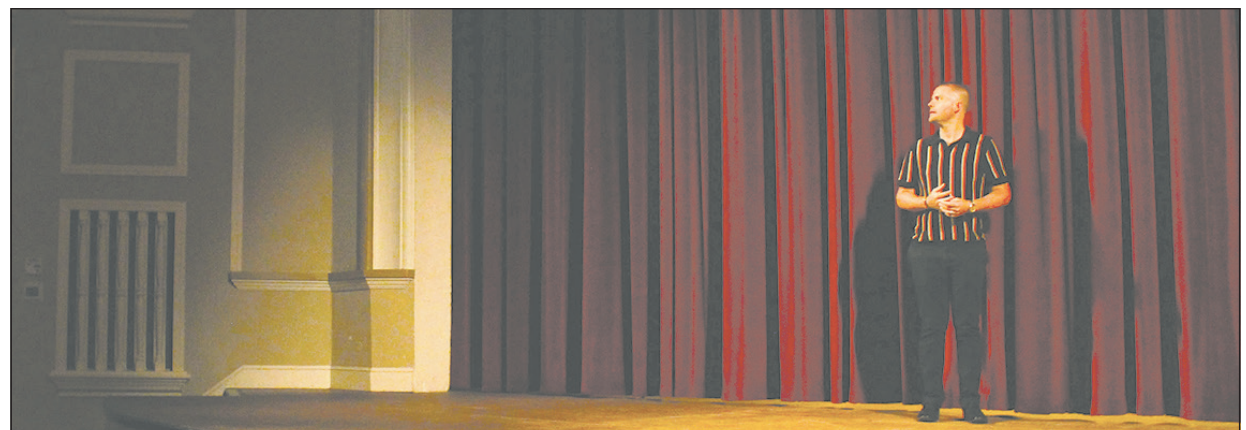


PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS

Davis takes the stage at The Lyric. In addition to movies, the theater hosts plays, concerts, lectures and more.

## Know the Foe from page 7

Cornerback Mansoor Delane: A talented cornerback in Tech's secondary, Mansoor Delane put on a defensive showcase against the Thundering Herd. Across 36 coverage snaps, Delane posted a PFF coverage grade of 77.1, the fourth-highest mark of his career. More impressively the junior defensive back blanketed receivers in coverage giving up only one catch across eight targets and recording two pass breakups. Delane's outing was highlighted by Tech's first interception of the

season, displaying his ball skills by snagging the football off a deflection and keeping both feet inbounds along the sideline.

Wide Receiver Da'Quan Felton: Touchdowns are the name of the game on offense, and taking advantage of opportunities in the red zone is crucial. Sixth-year wideout Da'Quan Felton did just that when quarterback Kyron Drones targeted him early in the fourth quarter. The Portsmouth, Virginia native found

the soft spot in Marshall's zone defense for a five-yard score and Tech's lone receiving touchdown of the contest. Felton led the team last season in receiving yards (667), yards per reception (17.6) and receiving touchdowns with eight. Look for the talented receiver to continue impacting the offense as a deep threat and in the run game as a blocker on the perimeter.

Virginia Tech Athletics