

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, June 24, 2023

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PHOTO BY RICK FURR

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg presents their 2023 Professional Leadership Award to Charles Johnson, owner of Upscale Barber Salon in Blacksburg. Pictured (left to right) Club President Dan Berenato, Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Center Vice President Tom Sherman, Ann Brown, retired Blacksburg Police Chief Bill Brown, awardee Charles Johnson, Club Award Committee Chair Randy Young, and Club Treasurer Paul Farrier.

Community icon awarded 2023 Professional Leadership Award

On June 12, Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg awarded their 2023 Professional Leadership Award to Charles Johnson, owner of Upscale Barber Salon in Blacksburg.

Club Award Chair Randy Young said, "The Professional Leadership Award recognizes individuals who have gone beyond the boundaries of conventional professional success by demonstrating exceptional leadership in the development and implementation of programs beneficial to the community."

The award has been made annually since 2000 to individuals in diverse professions such as technology, education, medicine, finance, and public safety.

See **Award**, page 4

Registration open for 5th Annual Race for ACCE



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY GROUP

Participants enjoy the day at last year's Race for ACCE. Registration is now open for this year's race.

Race for ACCE provides funds toward debt-free tuition for Montgomery County high school graduates to attend New River Community College.

The ACCE (Access to Community College Education) program provides two years of free tuition for students to attend NRCC. Participating students must complete 80 community service hours each year and maintain a 2.5 GPA while attending NRCC.

The Race for ACCE is set for Saturday, August 5, at 9 a.m. at the Blacksburg

High Cross Country Track. It will begin with a Children's Fun Run, followed by regular 5K Run/Walk. Participants can run, walk or just hang out.

Door prizes and sponsorships are needed by July 15. Contact Martha Ann Stallings at mstallin@vt.edu. To have a t-shirt for the race day, please register by July 15.

Medals will be awarded in each male/female age category. Door prizes awarded

See **ACCE**, page 4



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GARY SAYRE

Commander Richard Hancock, USCG, Ret., and Officer Payton Hancock as a child, sitting in the cockpit with dad in 2005.

VT graduate commissioned by her father into Coast Guard plans to fly like dad

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Payton Hancock has already achieved a lot in her young life.

She is a recent Virginia Tech University graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, has served four years in the Corps of Cadets

in the Civilian Leadership program, and has a private pilot's license. And on June 20, 2023, Payton Hancock became an officer of the Coast Guard, commissioned by none other than her father, retired commander and helicopter pilot, Richard Hancock.

"An officer, either retired or active duty, must

administer the oath. You raise your right hand and complete the oath, salute each other, and then they place the shoulder boards on," Payton Hancock said.

The ceremony was held at Payton's home neighborhood in Smithfield, Va., on a boat dock with

See **Hancock**, page 4

NRV Agency on Aging continues commitment to seniors in new Pulaski location

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The New River Valley (NRV) Agency on Aging is continuing the same dedication and support to our aging population from a new location in Pulaski.

The organization, formed in 1975, was previously located in the town of Pulaski but had moved to Fairlawn. Now, they are just a few doors down from their original location at 44 3rd Street NW, Pulaski, near the library and across from court services. However, counselors are often out in the New River Valley meeting with people at a location more accessible to them, Executive Director

Tina King said. "We want to meet the needs or find the resources that a person is looking for. We don't want people to keep searching for answers. We may not always have 'the answer' but we will get them the best answers available," King said.

Aging in place has become a common phrase when considering seniors in need of care and support within their communities. According to the agency's website, "almost 90% of older adults want and expect to age in place, staying in their homes and communities through their later years."

With this expectation comes an array of

considerations and planning for care such as accessibility in the home, nutrition, medical support and supplies, and financial management and education.

"Most people want to stay within the communities and homes they are familiar with," said King. "For some folks, their home does not have accessibility for them, so thinking ahead of what might make it accessible, and when they might not be able to drive, what transportation is available for them."

NRV Agency on Aging provides a free downloadable workbook,

See **Agency**, page 3



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NRV AGENCY ON AGING

Grandpa's Coming Off the Shelf....

KNOW YOUR MEMORIAL OPTIONS IN OUR CEMETERY



MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY
2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg • (540) 552-7800 • www.memorialgardensnrv.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, Saturday, June 24:

Joelle Shenk

At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. – noon. Joelle Shenk is back with stories, props, costumes, and lots of audience participation!

Community Quilting Bee - Squaring up blocks

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 – 3 p.m. Join our community of quilters and work on your own project, chat or learn how to square up your blocks so they all fit together smoothly without any puckers or stretching. Everyone welcome!

Family Movie Matinee: Leap!

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Leap into the life of a prima ballerina! A young orphan named Felicie runs away to Paris with her best friend to attend dance school. Rated PG; 85 minutes.

Monday, June 26:

International Taste Test

At the Christiansburg Library; 1- 2 p.m. Come all together now to try all kinds of unique snacks from around the world! Can you guess what each food item is? Which ones will be your favorites? Ages 9 and up. Registration required. This program may not be suitable for those with food allergies.

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, June 27:

Intro to Genealogy

At the Radford Public Library; noon – 1 p.m. Join

local genealogy expert Rebecca Novy as she details the fundamentals of this exciting and rewarding field. Mrs. Novy is here to give you the initial tools and basics you need to start researching your family history and building your family tree.

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

Town 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 Street). 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.

Tuesday Night Book Club

At the Radford Public Library; 6- 7 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to chat with Dave about whatever they happen to be reading, watching, or listening to at the moment. Snacks and coffee provided.

Summer Backpack Program

At the Meadowbrook Library; 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. The Summer Backpack Program is intended to help families with children and teens stretch their grocery budget. The bags are filled with nutritious food. This is a drop-in program open to residents of Eastern Montgomery County only. Each week there will be crafts for the kids in addition to the bag of food. If you missed picking up food for the week, call and make an appointment. For more information call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Wednesday, June 28:

Mingle at the Market

Join the Blacksburg Farmer's Market for Mingle at the Market, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Market Square Park. This event will feature live music, locally brewed beverages, local food and more.

Saturday, July 1:

Community Center yard sale

The Pilot Community Center is having a yard sale; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 4:

Christiansburg Fourth of July celebration

Held on Main Street; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (and fireworks at 9:15 p.m.) Come to downtown Christiansburg for the annual Fourth of July Celebration. The family-friendly event features live music, an array of food trucks, arts and crafts vendors, a kids' zone, and more. Fireworks will start around 9:15 p.m. near the new Christiansburg Huckleberry Park. They can be viewed from the Uptown Mall or Walmart parking lots. If the event is rained out, fireworks will be on July 5, with no downtown event.

Radford Fourth of July festival

Held in Bisset Park; 1 – 11 p.m. Features live music, food and craft vendors, children's games and inflatables. Fireworks, sponsored by Third Securities.

Thursday, July 6:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series

The Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series takes place in the heart of Wildwood Park at the Outdoor Classroom (pavilion). To get to the site, attendees can park at the Sundell Drive parking lot for Wildwood Park and take the walkway into the center of the park. All of the talks start at 7:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine unless there are thunderstorms. July 6: Millipedes (Jackson Means, Virginia Tech).

Saturday, July 15:

Rotary Club blood screening

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg and LewisGale Hospital Montgomery biannual blood screening; 6:30 -10 a.m. in the hospital's lobby. The fasting blood test screens over 25 different markers including cholesterol and red blood indices at a significantly reduced cost. New this year, the test will include Hemoglobin A1C. Cost is \$50. Results are sent to participants and their physician of choice. A portion of the proceeds is used to fund a service project in the community.

Pre-register for the blood screening at <https://www.rotary7570.org/blood> or call 540-951-8988. Walk-in

See Events, page 3



2023 SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

TOWN OF
Blacksburg
VIRGINIA

Concerts, Movies, Yoga, Visual Art, and More
summerartsfestival.vt.edu

THURSDAY NIGHT CONCERTS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

701 Church St SE / 7:00-8:00pm

July 6 Alumni Recital (Aurora Martin, soprano)

July 13 Bach! (Fiona Hughes, violin; Ben Wyatt, cello)

July 20 Alma Ensemble

July 27 Haydn *Lord Nelson Mass* (Community Sing)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION DISTRICT

185 Kent St

July 15, 11am Interactive Storytime with Joelle!

July 22, 11am Interactive Storytime with Joelle!

July 22, 2pm Improvisation Workshop with Joelle!

ART EXHIBIT

PERSPECTIVE ART GALLERY

Squires Student Center - 290 College Ave

12-6pm, Monday-Saturday

VT School of Visual Arts Non-Majors Exhibit

June 12 - Aug 27

...AND MORE

Visit summerartsfestival.vt.edu for more info!

FRIDAY NIGHT OUTDOOR CONCERTS

HENDERSON LAWN / 6:00-7:30pm

June 23 The What Four (Jazz & Soul)

June 30 Redd Volkaert Trio (Honky Tonk)

July 7 Blacksburg Community Band

July 14 Root Down (Jazz, Funk, & Blues)

July 21 Domino Band (Rhythm & Blues)

July 28 Music Road Co (Funk & Reggae)

YOGA ON THE LAWN

BLACKSBURG MUSEUM / 9:30-10:30am

July 1 Easy Flow Yoga

July 8 Easy Flow Yoga

July 15 Easy flow Yoga

July 22 Easy Flow Yoga

July 29 Easy Flow Yoga

CLASSIC FILMS

THE HISTORIC LYRIC THEATRE

135 College Ave / 3pm

July 1 *E.T.*

July 15 *The Sting*

July 29 *Right Stuff*

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE

Juneteenth themes at center of summer research for Virginia Tech scholars

Nine faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences have special summer research plans, all centered on a common theme.

From traveling internationally to delving into historical archives or interviewing people across the United States, their aim is to produce research that will fight racism, expose structural inequality, and support vulnerable communities.

These faculty have received summer funding as part of the college's Juneteenth Scholars program, which runs from July 1 to Aug. 10. Founded in 2020 in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, the program supports research aligned with the themes of the Juneteenth holiday, such as activism, emancipatory movements,

and the need for systemic change.

The award supports faculty with a \$5,000 summer salary and funding to hire an undergraduate research assistant.

Learn more about the 2023-24 Juneteenth scholars and their research below:

Dennis Halpin, associate professor and associate chair for the Department of History, will be conducting archival research for his book, "Bloodstained Rocks: The Life of Henry Jones." Jones was a Black laborer in the late 19th century on the island of Navassa, where he participated in a rebellion against the violent abuse of power by white supervisors and was



JUNETEENTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2023

LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES VIRGINIA TECH

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

See Juneteenth, page 6

Events

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registration is available the day of the blood screening.

Thursday, July 20:

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 on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to this meeting. Mr. Sam Winkler, aka "President Jefferson Davis" will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Sunday, June 25:

Central Business Committee meeting

The Christiansburg Central Business Committee will meet at noon in the Administrative Conference Room at Christiansburg Town Hall.

Agency

from page 1

along with additional online information, for anyone seeking resources as they prepare for aging in place. An Aging in Place workbook, used in one-to-one meetings with the agency or volunteers as well as in group presentations, can be found at <https://www.nrvaoa.org/>.

Printed copies can be made available as well by calling the NRV Agency on Aging office at (540) 980-7724. A small fee of less than \$15 will cover the cost of printing and mailing the book.

The agency also continues to seek partnerships with other community-based organizations. Older adults may be in a situation of raising grandchildren or great-grandchildren and find the need for resources outside the typical scope of senior support programs.

NRV Agency on Aging is considered a governmental cooperative, so each of the region's governmental groups appoint board members to help meet the needs of the agency. They each provide some annual funding as well as supporting the agency in other ways, such as with the new space they recently moved into in

April of this year.

The Older Americans Act of 1965 provides federal dollars that also helps in supporting some of the agency's programs that benefit the New River Valley. State funding from Virginia through the General Assembly, grant funding, and donations are also extremely helpful in meeting the resources necessary to provide larger programs for the area. The agency's budget is large, and the needs are ever increasing, King said.

"Over the past year, from October to September, we have provided direct services to about 1,200 people, but some receive multiple services" King said. "On a daily basis, we are serving approximately 375 meals throughout the New River Valley, to their homes. Before covid, we served a little over 200 a day."

The agency has also received special grant funding to help with rising costs of food and other costs that provide meals to homebound seniors, which could not have been done without the extra support.

Seniors' needs are more complex too as there are more than just basic needs for nutrition that need to be met. The agency provides opportunities for social gatherings such as Friendship Café that meets in different locations throughout the New River Valley, 2-3 days a week. Additionally, many seniors and their families have questions about health insurance and Medicare coverage that agency staff and volunteers can answer. Interested individuals with questions can utilize electronic meetups with the agency's workers, meet in person, or speak with someone over the phone about other options to have assistance in completing insurance forms.

Besides the meals program delivered to seniors in their homes, another program strives to meet the in-between times when older adults may find themselves low on food supplies. Staples for Seniors, similar to the backpack program for school-age children, is designed to fill the gap over the weekends with non-perishable food

such as peanut butter and tuna.

Fido's Pantry is also an extremely helpful program that feeds the pets of people already receiving home-delivered meals.

"While there are many care needs and things that we as a community need to do to meet those needs, it is important to realize the value that older adults bring to our community. They built our community. They are the ones that have put in the blood, sweat and tears to get our communities to what they are now. They bring so much richness to our community" King said. "Advanced planning is really a gift to those in the caregiving position."

New River Valley Agency on Aging provides many resources in addition to those mentioned here. Staff members and volunteers encourage those in the community with questions to reach out to them over the phone, in person, or on their website. Donations are also accepted and help to continue providing information and support to our community's aging community.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

Radford Farmers Market

Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

On-going:

Entries sought for July 4th Parade

Participants are needed for Blacksburg's July 4th parade, which is organized by the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club. The parade starts at 2 p.m. from Eheart Street, runs through downtown on Main Street, and ends at Alumni Mall. Entries can be floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, Jeeps, trucks, fire engines, scouts, bands, sports teams, etc. Information is available on the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club's Facebook page, or by texting 540-449-6178.

Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Burch Properties LLC, Property Owner, and Kevin Lagos, Lessee, to allow a Public Billiard Parlor and Poolroom on the property located at 1635 North Franklin Street, Tax Parcel 466-((A))-20C, Parcel ID 013214; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Rezoning request by Summit Community Bank, Inc., Property Owner, to rezone the property located at 100 Akers Farm Road, Tax Parcel 466-(22)-1; Parcel ID 100283, from Limited Business District B-1 to General Business

Legals - Montgomery County

District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives

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notice of a public hearing to be held on July 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by the Thomas Benjamin Sears for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on property to allow a Short-Term Tourist Rental within an existing structure allowing the dwelling to be rented for compensation to short term transient guests. The property is located at 1950 Oilwell Road, Blacksburg (St. Rt. 824), and is located approximately 1.7 miles West of Merrimac Road (St. Rt. 657). The property is further identified as Tax Map 066-9 2 (Parcel ID: 036193), 2.162 acres, zoned Residential (R-1) in the Prices Fork Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the

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hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction June 30, 2023 at 11 am at 1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. E89 F6 F20 F24 1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on July 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St.,

Legals - Montgomery County

Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinances:

A request by James K Tannahill (Agent: Peed and Bortz, LLC) for a special use permit to allow a 115,000 Cubic Yards of rubble landfill for the disposal of inert debris, on approximately 4.5 acres of a 20 acre parcel. The proposed use is identified as Rubble, landfill under the Zoning Ordinance which is permitted in A-1 Agricultural District only by a special use permit. The property is located 0.3 miles southeast of Rosemary Road (Rte 676) approximately 0.2 miles from the end of state maintenance. The property is identified as Tax Map 108-A 45C (Parcel ID: 110882) in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan.

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

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p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

Hancock

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family and friends in attendance. It is a fitting place for someone that loves family and being near the water, two big reasons that led Payton to choose the Coast Guard.

"The Coast Guard is under Homeland Security," Payton Hancock said, speaking of the differences that set it apart from other military branches. "I am also interested in Coast Guard because it is smaller and family-oriented but also on the water, I don't want to ever be away from that. It also has a home/life balance that is easier."

Payton's father, Richard Hancock, served as a retired commander and helicopter pilot with the Coast Guard which made a big impact on Payton growing up. She had a desire to be an aviator ever since she was young. Her father would take her flying and show her things like how the controls worked and let her get the feel of the plane's yoke,

under his watchful guidance of course.

"My dad had his private pilot's license and instead of driving for family trips he would rent small planes and fly us," Hancock said.

Payton Hancock now wants to become a helicopter pilot as well and conduct search and rescue missions for the Coast Guard.

Gary Sayre, former Navy officer, has more recently worked with the U.S. Coast Guard auxiliary in the New River Valley. Sayre met Hancock through the program as she completed training and spoke of Payton's incredible determination to achieve the goals she has set for herself, and ultimately to be a pilot for the Coast Guard.

"Payton is very focused and has a type-A personality; a mission-oriented mentality," Sayre said. "My impression is that she will do a very good job in the Coast Guard."

Sayre went on to explain Hancock's strict work ethic and seriousness when it comes to getting the job done, which is also seen in her desire to focus on rescue and humanitarian missions. These types of pilots called into provide rescue, in often dangerous situations like hurricanes, downed aircraft or vessels in the water, are called "Angels".

"My first duty station is in New Orleans as a Command Watch Officer, coordinating and managing search and rescue," Hancock said. "That is in District 8 which covers from Mexico to the panhandle of Florida, basically the whole Gulf of Mexico."

She doesn't have her final report date but is preparing to leave before the end of the summer. For now, though, she plans to enjoy some time with family, see friends, and spend time on the beach.

"Getting some down time is nice," Hancock said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GARY SAYRE

Payton Hancock, at Air Station Elizabeth City for a Coast Guard Auxiliary university summer internship program, takes a flight on an H-60, June 25, 2021.

ACCE

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during medal ceremony. A cash prize drawing will take place for MCPS schools with four or more race participants. On the registration form, please identify the school you are affiliated with and whether you are a student, parent, faculty or staff member. In addition, school running clubs can get a special discount for participating runners. Please contact Martha Ann Stallings at mstallin@vt.edu.

250 Montgomery County students will be using

ACCE funds during the 2023 Fall semester at New River Community College.

"TCG (The Community Group) is proud to be a sponsor of The Race For ACCE," Penny Franklin, President of The Community Group. "The ACCE Program has been and will be a game changer for many students and their families in Montgomery County. The ACCE Program came from the work of the Dialogue On Race Law Enforcement Focus Group who

understood we have to remove barriers that block access for African Americans and finances is a huge one. We should always remember having a conversation about race has opened doors to better lives for our children and our community. When we talk, we become the best we can be. No one should be left behind."

Submitted by the Community Group

News Messenger

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

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Award

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Mr. Johnson is a professional barber and was the founder, owner, and operator of the New Image Barber Shop and Salon for many years before selling the business and opening the Upscale Barber-Salon. Throughout his nearly 50 years in business, he has provided employment and mentoring for many barbers and stylists. At 90-years-old, Mr. Johnson still serves the community at his shop, as well as making house calls for those who are sick or unable to find transportation to his shop.

Club member Paul Farrier said, "If you are interested in an excellent haircut and a local history lesson, make an appointment!"

Prior to opening his own shop in 1974, Mr. Johnson worked in the Virginia Tech barbershop, cutting hair for the Corps of Cadets. He was told that he could only cut African American students' hair before or after hours. At the end of one school year, Mr. Johnson grew tired of these rules and told the students to come in during regular hours. He was reported to his supervisor, who ultimately did not speak to Mr. Johnson about the incident and the barbershop remained integrated. During this time, Mr. Johnson provided support and counseling as well for African American students who didn't feel especially welcome in downtown Blacksburg.

Former Blacksburg Police Chief Bill Brown recalled that when he was young, Mr. Johnson started a Boy Scout troop in the African American community of Wake Forest. All of the troop members, Chief Brown included, looked up to Mr. Johnson as a respected role model,

"Our meetings were fun and he

instilled the following: character, integrity, respect, perseverance, and survival skill. His efforts reinforced what our parents were teaching us at home. Mr. Johnson certainly served as an example by exhibiting each of the aforementioned traits constantly."

"Mr. Johnson is just a special individual, because he is a thoughtful, humble, exceptional, caring, and lovable kind of guy," Brown continued. "All throughout his life, he has, and continues to, epitomize what all of those words represent and has truly set a high standard."

Tom Sherman, Vice President of the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation, spoke of Mr. Johnson's deep knowledge of local history and his willingness to share his experiences with growing up under segregation and the integration process in Montgomery County. When the Town of Blacksburg decided to create a museum, Mr. Johnson was a respected member of that conversation, making the case that there were other aspects of the Town's history that couldn't be told well within the Alexander Black House. When the St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall became part of the Blacksburg Museum to tell the story of New Town and the African American residents of Blacksburg, Mr. Johnson was an integral part of the Committee to be sure the story was properly told. Sherman said,

"Mr. Johnson is a model of the resilience, pride, self-reliance, and community spirit of the people who decided to build that building," said Sherman.

Johnson is, or has been, an active member of many groups in the New River Valley including the First Baptist Church Radford, Virginia Barber and Cosmetologist Apprenticeship and Training Program, Christiansburg Institute Alumni Association, NAACP, American Legion, Montgomery County Human Relations Council, Town of Blacksburg Cemetery Committee, Warm Hearth Inc. Board of Directors, Town of Blacksburg Museum Committee, and Blacksburg Sports Club.

Upon receiving the Professional Leadership Award, Johnson said with characteristic humor, "Listening to you all, I wonder how I did it. Sometimes

I went to meetings seven days a week."

And it is clear that he will continue to do all he can for his community as long as he is able.

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg is celebrating 100 years of "Service Above Self" in 2023. The Club's bi-annual blood screening (returning on July 15), local leadership recognition, youth development programs, and community service projects as well as sponsorship of the Virginia Tech Rotaract Club and participation in Rotary International programs such as PolioPlus exemplify this motto. For more information, or to join the Club, find @ ChristiansburgBlacksburgRotary on Facebook.

Terri Fisher for the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-68 indicating starting positions for clues.

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Stores
6. Worthless entertainment
9. Where scientists work
13. Pretty flower
14. A way to act
15. Double-reed instrument
16. Type of acid
17. Famed astronomer
18. Smooth, shiny fabric
19. Profited from
21. Secret clique
22. Infections
23. Crony
24. Teens go here every day (abbr.)
25. Suitable
28. Fresh Price of ___ Air
29. Ancient city of Egypt
31. Basketball move
33. Polished
36. There's a north and

- a south
38. Egg of a louse
39. Once-ubiquitous department store
41. Portray precisely
44. Thick piece of something
45. Period between eclipses
46. Indicates near
48. Investment account
49. England, Scotland, N. Ireland, and Wales (abbr.)
51. Beak
52. Void of skill
54. Walked back and forth
56. A display of passion
60. Geological times
61. Type of restaurant
62. Spacious
63. Edible seaweed
64. Utah city
65. Tropical tree
66. Nervous tissue compound
67. Body part
68. Muscles and tendons

- CLUES DOWN
1. Draw out wool
2. Give someone a job
3. Chemical and ammo manufacturer
4. Footsteps
5. The Palmetto State
6. Books have lots of them
7. Diverse Israeli city
8. It's mightier than the sword
9. Confinement
10. First month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year
11. Idaho's highest peak
12. Prevents from seeing
14. Determine time
17. Father children
20. Tab on a key ring
21. Dog genus
23. Peter's last name
25. Request
26. Walk heavily
27. Allowances

- 29. English football squad
30. Fish-eating aquatic mammals
32. South Pacific island region
34. Unaccounted for
35. Small taste of whiskey
37. Ventilated
40. Helps little firms
42. One of means
43. Fencing swords
47. Inches per minute (abbr.)
49. Turn upside down
50. S. African semi desert
52. Dutch names of Ypres
53. Instruct
55. Oily freshwater fish
56. Italian river
57. Sneaker giant
58. The men who man a ship
59. Some need glasses
61. Body part
65. Indicates position



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OBITUARIES

Bond, Jr., Harry

Harry Bond, Jr., 82, of grandchildren: Brandon Bond, Gardendale, Ala., went to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

Harry was born and raised in Radford.

Harry was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Patricia Bullard Bond. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Tres and Lisa Bond; 2023.



Brent Bond and wife Katlin; great grandchild, Blakely Bond; Sisters: Rita Hite and Dorothy Gibson (of Radford); and sister-in-law Tina McCloud and husband John.

Harry's service was held in Alabama on Friday June 16,

Brammer, Samuel Jasper

Samuel Jasper Brammer, 73, of Brammer; sister, Sharon Nowlin Riner, passed away Monday, June 19, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his father, James S. Brammer; and mother and stepfather, Clarice Thornton Brammer and George McGuyer.

Survivors include his daughter Kristi Hamilton (Michael); sons, Randy Brammer, and James "Rusty" Brammer (Joni); grandchildren, Brandon Brammer, Quinton Hamilton, Mackenzie Aguilar (Josh), Zachary Hamilton, Brianna Brammer, Ashlie Brammer, and Jacob Brammer; great grandchildren, Annaleigh Hamilton and Lincoln Aguilar; brother, Michael



(Trigg); and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at the

funeral home with Rev. Neil Turner officiating. Interment will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg.

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. 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, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, 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. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. 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!"

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences * Group* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy

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WORSHIP DIRECTORY

I Need Help

Read Psalms 11:1 through 18:50

Many of the Psalms are full of praise to God. We sometimes visualize David as peacefully strumming a harp as he quietly watches a flock of sheep grazing on a grassy slope. Psalm 13 presents a different picture.

David apparently had doubts, troubling thoughts, and enemies. Things did not always go well for him. In the first part of this psalm, David, in authentic transparency, expressed some real concerns. He apparently had enemies who were getting a little too close for comfort. The amazing part is how, in spite of the chaos around him, David made a decision to trust God.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation (Psalm 13:5).

Everything does not always go well for us either. We face challenges that seem overwhelming, and we do not always see a clear path through the jungle of everyday life. But God is our Source of help, and we can trust Him to get us through!

Prayer Suggestion: Father, I do not feel up to the task that is before me at times, but I have decided that I will trust You.

Quicklook: Psalm 13:1-6

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at 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, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw>. Please visit our website at www.oslc-burg.org and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oslccchristiansburg> to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people 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... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lu-

theran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmlc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL
NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electric 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

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. 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.

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

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. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Central Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00a.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

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: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

Obituaries from page 5

Breeding, Carroll Sue

Carroll Sue Breeding, 79, of Christiansburg passed away on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at her home. She was born March 22, 1944, and is preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her son, Benny Breeding III, and grandson Benjamin

Forbes and family. In addition to her family, she is survived by special neighbors Randy and Diane Adkins, as well as many friends.

There will be no services at this time.

The family is in the care of Norris Funeral Services – Pulaski Chapel.

Duncan, Richard Dale

Richard Dale Duncan, 57, of Smith; canine companion, Junior; Radford, passed away on Saturday, June 17, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley Quesenberry Duncan.

He is survived by his brother, David Duncan; sister, Bobbi Duncan; cousins and their spouses, Jerry and Lisa Saul, Steve and Barbara Saul, Debbie and Ricky Dishon, Donna Dalton, and Keith Smith; aunt, Arintha



and many other family members and special friends.

The family received friends Thursday, June 22, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A memorial service followed with Jared Gardner officiating.

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

St. Clair, Rowe Austin

Rowe Austin St. Clair, 79, passed away on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, 2023.

A memorial graveside service was held on June 23, 2023 at 11:00 am at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

A native of Roanoke, Rowe was born to the late Frank Lee and Mildred Austin St. Clair. He was a graduate of Radford High School. He completed his undergraduate studies at Radford College and graduate work at Radford College. He was a career military veteran having served in the United States Navy with 41 years total service. Following his military retirement, Rowe worked in quality control in the manufacturing industry. Since 2016, Rowe made his home in Winterville to be closer to his daughters and grandsons.

Rowe will be fondly remembered for his fierce independence and great love for

his beloved dog, Angus, his daughters and grandsons. In addition to his parents, Rowe was preceded in death by his brother, Tommy S. Linsey, and sister, Frankie St. Clair Blasewitz.

He is survived by his daughters, Amy K. St. Clair, and Jennifer St. Clair Haddock and husband, Trey, all of Greenville; grandchildren, Thomas Joyner Haddock, IV and William Reid Haddock; twin sister, Rita St. Clair Allan of Naples, Fla.; brother, Guy Lewis St. Clair of New York, N.Y.; and many, many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to www.theclassicalstation.org or WCPE (The Classical station), PO Box 828, Wake Forest, NC 27588. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com.



Hampton Inn Christiansburg/Blacksburg earns the 2022 Conrad Achievement Award

CHRISTIANSBURG – Hampton Inn Christiansburg/Blacksburg was recently recognized by the brand by receiving the 2022 Conrad Achievement Award.

The award solidifies the hotel as one of Hampton Inn's best-in-class properties for the past year. This award recognizes the top 1% of hotels in the Hampton brand for exceptional products and overall guest experience. In recognition of this achievement, the hotel will receive a trophy to display in its

lobby.

"Being recognized by the Hampton Inn brand is a testament to the staff in being committed to exceptional customer service and the highest quality standards," said Logan Kessinger, General Manager. "We are grateful to be recognized as the number 3 property within the brand, and we hope to sustain this momentum in the New Year."

Hampton Inn Christiansburg/Blacksburg is located at 380 Arbor Dr.

News Messenger staff report

Warm Hearth Village Director of Fitness receives statewide Power of Purpose Award

BLACKSBURG – Kenny Harrah, Director of Fitness since 2016, has been named the LeadingAge Virginia Power of Purpose Award recipient for 2023.

LeadingAge Virginia is the state and national trade organization for nonprofit retirement communities. It works with members to create innovative practices that transform services for the aging in America and plays an active role in representing those organizations to legislators in seeking reform of policies related to health care. WHV has been an active member of LeadingAge since 1981.

Each year LeadingAge honors outstanding leaders in the industry with these key awards: Vision, Emerging Leader, Advocacy, and Power of Purpose. The Power of Purpose Award recognizes one person who leads the way in providing outstanding commitment to the residents within their role in the community, leads with or exhibits a person-centered approach of compassion to individuals they serve, shows specific actions that enhance and enrich the lives of residents and goes beyond the role consistently representing the community's mission, vision and values.

Harrah is instrumental in lifting people up, keeping them active, and reminding them they are important members of our community

who continue to have ideas and contributions to make. He works hard to champion and implement them. Warm Hearth's outdoor Pickleball court and Rock Steady Boxing for those with Parkinson's Disease began as wishes and ideas from our residents and are now realities in part due to Kenny's commitment to our residents and his support of their contributions to our community. The Warm Hearth vision is to nurture a transformative culture where people live and work in community, knowing their contributions are essential to our success. Kenny exemplifies this vision and enriches the lives of our residents every day.

"I'm proud of my team and the work we do every day, here in Fitness," Harrah said. "None of this would have been possible without the help of my team, our President & CEO, the Director of Marketing and Development, and my fellow coworkers. I'm humbled by this recognition and honored to work with these impressive individuals and residents at WHV," he added.

William Lester, President & CEO, congratulated Harrah and said, "I am so proud of Kenny and how we all work together to be sure our residents, and each other, are living their best life possible."

News Messenger staff report

Juneteenth from page 3

subsequently incarcerated in federal prison. By examining Jones's life story and his efforts to exonerate himself, Halpin's book will shed new light on the early history of the American prison system and African American activism.

As part of his first book project, "The Burning Question of Labor," Geovani Ramirez, assistant professor of Latinx studies and literature in the Department of English, will conduct interviews with Latina gallineras, or

poultry workers. Themes of his research include the connections between labor and Latinx people's relationship to their environment as well as how working conditions affect their physical and mental health.

Marcus Johnson, professor in the educational psychology and educational research and evaluation programs in the School of Education, will use the funding toward a digital humanities project entitled "The Longevity of Historical Racial Traumas: Teaching Their Histories." The project will include a book and a series of interviews. It will explore how the effects of traumatic historical events, such as the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre or the 1940s incarceration of Japanese Americans, are still contributing to oppression in the modern day as well as how to address misconceptions about these events in education.

Priya Dixit, associate professor in the Department of Political Science, is doing research on private armed militias in Southwest Virginia and their impacts on historically marginalized people. Dixit is most interested in how communities respond to these armed groups, especially when a militia takeover of local government occurs. During the summer, she will use the funding to interview local activists

who oppose armed groups and use the results in a journal article about tactics of resistance.

This spring, Laura Zanotti, professor of political science, traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, to document how slavery is memorialized in public spaces. Over the summer, she will complete a critical analysis of how stories of enslaved people are told at various tourist sites in the city. She also plans to create an annotated exhibition of photographs from the trip.

Claire Cahen, assistant professor of urban affairs and planning, is researching the relationship between race and financial debt in U.S. school districts. According to Cahen, financial crises and budget cuts in urban school districts disproportionately affect people of color. She will create fiscal profiles of two majority-of-color school districts, Los Angeles and Newark. Cahen will review their financial histories to test her hypothesis that the current debt in these districts has been compounded by racialized lobbying in previous decades.

Catalina Andrango-Walker, associate professor of Spanish, is completing a translation and introductory study of "True Description of the Esmeralda Province," an account of Spanish missionary Miguel Cabello Balboa's travels through the Andean region of South America in the 16th century. This writing, which has not received an English translation up to this point, is unique in documenting Europeans' interactions with the Indigenous and African populations who were living in the region at the time.

Desirée Poets, assistant professor of postcolonial theory in the Department of Political Science and core faculty in the ASPECT program, will use the funding to travel to the Complexo da Maré favela in Rio de Janeiro. Favelas are low-income, majority-Black and Indigenous neighborhoods often beset by military, police, and criminal violence. Poets plans to write two articles exploring community-led violence prevention efforts in Complexo da Maré.

Philip Yare, assistant professor of philosophy, is writing a book called "Confrontational Comrades: Interracial Solidarity in the American Labor Movement." He will use the funding to conduct archival research into 20th century labor unions and the political thought of African American labor organizers. Yare's book will examine how interracial comradeship can form in workplaces fractured by racial oppression, where people in different groups may not have pre-existing shared interests.

Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech

DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS VS SALEM RED SOX

JULY 14TH 7:05PM
FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JULY 15TH 6:05PM
MARGARITAVILLE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JULY 16TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

In honor of 4th of July

OUR NEWSPAPER offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, 2023 And will reopen on Wed., July 5th @ 8:30 a.m.

All ads for July 5th and July 6th papers need to be in our office by Friday, June 30 at 12:00 Noon.

KIDS BOWL FREE

This Spring & Summer ... KIDS BOWL FREE!

Registered Kids Receive 2 FREE GAMES of Bowling Each Day of the KBF Program All Spring & Summer Long!

To register, go to www.kidsbowlfree.com/center

575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg 540-382-5525 • www.nrvsuperbowl.biz

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Big South seeking new home for tourney

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE BIG SOUTH

The Big South Conference still has no new home for its men's and women's basketball tourneys, but Monday the conference announced it will award its 2024 Basketball Championship via bids from on-campus and/or community partners.

According to the conference office, the Big South Council of Chief Executive Officers approved this decision on Friday, June 16, and Request for Proposals will be distributed to the Conference membership the week of June 26. The league anticipates awarding the host site no later than Sept. 1.

The 2024 Championships will mark the third consecutive year with a combined men's and women's tournament format and is tentatively scheduled for March 6-10. While it was initially determined that a one-year format of home sites/highest seeds for both men's and women's basketball would be utilized in

2024 if a neutral site could not be secured by June 13, the Big South CEOs supported the Council of Athletics Directors proposal to explore an on-campus pre-determined site, and/or a member school hosting in its home community for this upcoming year.

"Our membership spent a considerable amount of time focusing on this pertinent matter," said Big South Commissioner Sherika A. Montgomery. "We were able to glean feedback from constituency groups including our student-athletes, coaches and administrators. In doing so, it became clear a pre-determined location would be optimal in providing a supreme and holistic championship experience for men's and women's basketball student-athletes."

Bids will be accepted through Aug. 4 at which time

the Conference will begin evaluating proposals with a selection determined by the final week of August. At the same time, the Big South is continuing its exploration for a single neutral site location for 2025 and beyond.

"Throughout our membership, we have immensely vibrant and supportive communities, superb facilities with top-notch amenities, and enthusiastic campus support that will aid in forging meaningful and impactful partnerships," added Montgomery. "In addition, this will allow for advance fan engagement, promotion and community outreach efforts that will continue the previous two years of growing and celebrating our men's and women's basketball programs competing together for bids to the NCAA Tournament."



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT

Andrew Green and his wife, Jennifer, took time for a selfie following the 2023 PGA championship at Oak Hill Country Club. Green oversaw the restoration of the course and has built a thriving career in golf course design.

Hokie part of golf course design

Growing up on a farm in a rural county that, at one time, lacked a single stoplight generally gives one a healthy respect for natural resources.

Andrew Green is no exception.

With a job that takes him around the country, Green admires a beautiful piece of property and all it offers. Then, perhaps out of habit, he starts envisioning fairway contours, plotting bunker placements, mapping out green locations, and implementing hazards in a way to create memorable experiences for golfers of all skill levels.

Green '01 ranks as one of the world's top golf course architects, specializing in renovations of existing courses. He uses tools such as specialized software applications and drone footage to craft 18 holes of wonderfulness, but unlike many course designers, he occasionally hops on a Caterpillar D6 bulldozer and brings his vision to life.

"I love to play in the dirt," Green admitted in a recent phone interview. "I'm a big kid. There's more to it [course renovations] than just that, but certainly it's great therapy to get in the bulldozer and create the vision."

Green's ability to see a golf course for what it can be and not what it currently is led to one of his greatest career accomplishments. In 2016, Green and his company were chosen to renovate the East Course at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York, in preparation for this past May's 2023 PGA Championship, one of professional golf's four major tournaments.

Green possessed extensive course design and project experience, and in 2014, he struck out on his own and started his own company, Green Golf and Turf. He took meetings with clubs and courses throughout the mid-Atlantic and northeast, worked on projects of all scales, and started to earn his reputation as a restoration expert. In 2016, he made his pitch to the Oak Hill Country Club leadership, gently proposing renovations that would reflect the course's glory days.

A humble approach befitting of his rural Botetourt County roots – he grew up in Daleville, an hour north of Virginia Tech's campus – and his love of golf history led to the leadership at Oak Hill taking a chance on him.

"I kind of approached it [his pitch for the job] differently than maybe some other individuals," Green said. "I certainly didn't approach it with a lot of ego. I try to do that everywhere I work. I approach it asking, 'What's the best thing for the project? What's the best thing for the golf course? What respects the past and pushes them toward the future?'"

In meeting with the leadership at Oak Hill, Green's vision connected the course's past to its future. His presentation referenced the legacy of Donald Ross, Oak Hill's original architect who designed the course in the 1920s. Green studied the original layouts and drawings of the acclaimed architect to inspire his renovation plan.

"That seemed to resonate with that group," Green said. "By being different, I stood out. It

took them really a leap of faith to trust me that I could do it."

Fall 2019 marked the tee time for the Oak Hill project, and Green's company spent approximately four months renovating the course – a gorgeous layout originally designed by Ross. In mid-May at the 2023 PGA Championship, Green's work led to him earning unanticipated global recognition.

Those in charge at Oak Hill spoke glowingly of his efforts. He received positive attention from media outlets and numerous fans even asked for his autograph, which, in his words, was "a little mind-blowing."

More importantly, though, the players told Green that he had aced his project.

"Everything I've heard has been very positive," Green said. "I don't know if, after a little reflection, there have been additional conversations, but for everything that I've heard, it had been received really well."

"All the members were just so proud of what their club has become again. Being on the world stage in such a good light certainly was great to see for them."

Green credits much of the success in his current profession to what he learned in Southwest Virginia, first as a teenage cart boy and maintenance worker at Botetourt Country Club and later as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech. Green was a good golfer in high school, but admittedly not good enough to earn a scholarship, so he pursued what he considered the next best thing – course architecture.

Dean Bork, an associate professor in architecture at the time, cautioned Green of the pitfalls of that career. Bork, who is now retired, brought credibility to the conversation – he worked in the industry before becoming a professor at Virginia Tech. But Green remained undaunted, graduating with a degree in landscape architecture, a five-year program in what is now the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design, and earned a second degree, this one in crop soils and environmental science – turfgrass option – in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"I told him what the likely consequences of pursuing it might be, and he was determined," Bork said. "That's what he wanted to do, and from all sides, he's really made a good show of it."

"I do know that to be successful in the golf business, you have to be capable of networking with the right people. I think Andrew was acquainted with a few PGA Tour professionals when he was still a student ... and those kinds of connections helped propel his career forward because it's really tough to get those kinds of clients without the right network of contacts."

Green's brother, Sam, helped him start that network. Sam Green '94 worked as a golf course superintendent for several years, including a stint at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland, the site of the 1997 U.S. Open. At that event, Sam helped his brother secure a volunteer spot assisting with course preparation, thus introducing him

Bobcats on all-state soccer squad

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Three Radford High School soccer players have been named to the All-State Class 2 boys' team announced on Monday.

They include Enzo Pugliese, Evan Rupe and Eli Goff. Teammate Brody Shull was named to the second team.

This comes on the heels of all four Bobcats being named to the first team Three Rivers District and All-Region C list.

Radford finished with 14-4-1 record this past season, scoring 81 goals and had 18 goals against. Two of their losses came against state finalist Glenvar.

Rupe scored 34 goals and had eight assists this



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RHS

season. Goff added three goals and Pugliese had two. Schull finished with 16 goals and 11 assists.

In addition, Parker Prioleau, Devon Murphy and Charlie Davis were

named to the TRD first-team, while Elijah Kelly and Colin Vice were second teamers.

Kelly and Prioleau were named second team all-region.

to the professional golf world. Andrew Green eventually worked for McDonald & Sons, a company that builds golf courses, for 14 years, learning every aspect of the business before striking out on his own. A job renovating the bunkers at Country Club of York in York, Pennsylvania, helped him break through in the profession.

Throughout his career, Green has been involved in the restoration or renovation of several famous courses, including Inverness Club in Ohio; the Blue Course at Congressional Country Club, Scioto Country Club in Ohio; Whitmarsh Valley Country Club in Pennsylvania; Indian Creek Country Club in Miami; and of course, Oak Hill.

During all those projects and others, Green found himself reflecting on Virginia Tech's impact on him.

"Every step of the way, Virginia Tech helped me," Green said. "There's a level of pride and perseverance that you have from being in Blacksburg. It's that grassroots or blue-collar mentality. It is certainly with the football team, right? Coach [Frank] Beamer and coach [Bud] Foster built that mentality that we're going to get up and go to work every day and we're going to overachieve. We're going to be great

by working together. Those things certainly resonated.

"Within the landscape architecture program, I was very laser focused on wanting to do this, but they helped show me the value of all the other things within that discipline that have benefited me in so many ways that I didn't even realize at the time. ... Then in the turfgrass department, the relationships I've built, the hard work and camaraderie in that side of the world, was phenomenal."

Green's success at Oak Hill has given him the honors for other projects. He and his team just started work at Interlachen Country Club in Minnesota – the site of the 1930 U.S. Open won by legendary golfer and seven-time major champion winner Bobby Jones. Later this fall, he will be overseeing the renovation of East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Jones' home course.

Green is excited to tee off on those and others, though they may slice into time reserved for wife, Jennifer '00, and three children. His listing of projects stretches to 2026-27 – an accomplishment in a profession prone to volatility.

Jimmy Robertson for Virginia Tech

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