



Saturday, December 11, 2021 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

## Radford University Board of Visitors names new university president

RADFORD - Bret S. Danilowicz, Ph.D., former provost and vice president for academic affairs at Florida Atlantic University, has been named the new president of Radford University.

The Radford University Board of Visitors announced the selection on Thursday afternoon, following a national search. Danilowicz will be Radford University's eighth president when he begins his tenure on July 1. He succeeds Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., who left Radford in June to become president of Old Dominion University.

Robert A. Archer, rector of the Radford University Board of Visitors, said Danilowicz is a "perfect fit" for Radford.

"He is a proven leader and possesses the background and experi-

ence required to take us to the next level and into the future," said Archer. "He clearly demonstrated to both the Search Committee and the Board of Visitors his energy and commitment to higher education, as well as his life-long goal of becoming a president of a major university such as Radford. I am convinced that Dr. Danilowicz, along with his wife Kay, are a perfect fit for Radford and for the extended Radford community."

Danilowicz was chosen after a comprehensive search by a 23-member Presidential Search Committee, led by chair Susan Wheeler Johnston, Ph.D. and co-chair Jay A. Brown Ph.D., and assisted by the search firm, Greenwood/Asher &

See Danilowicz, page 4



Coming to Radford University from Florida Atlantic University, Dr. Bret Danilowicz will officially become the university's eighth president on July 1.



PHOTO BY HEATHER BELL

Gretchen Dee (left) is the new Program Director for Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, taking over for retiring director Dora Butler.

## New director to lead Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread

Heather Bell  
hb@ourvalley.org

RADFORD - Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread has a new leader, taking over for retiring Program Director Dora Butler.

Gretchen Dee is the new Program Director for RFDB, overseeing an army of volunteers who give out hundreds of made-from-scratch, hot lunches every week. The meals are distributed through Meals on Wheels and individual lunches to people in a drive-through lunch service at their headquarters, on the ground floor of Long Way Brewing, Mondays through Fridays. There are no questions asked, or requirements, for a meal, a philosophy that has remained important to the organization since its inception nearly 30 years ago.

Dee has experience

feeding hungry people; she founded a mutual aid food organization in February 2020 and runs a community fridge in Blacksburg. The 25-year-old is looking forward to putting her efforts into RFDB. Butler said she will be a good fit.

"Gretchen is highly motivated by her compassion for all people and committed to community service," said Butler. "She brings a fresh perspective to the role of Program Director."

"I believe doing work like this is foundational to building community," said Dee.

Some day, Dee envisions a program that could possibly expand to offer evening meals. Right now, she wants to ensure the current lunch program serves as many people as it can and continue to do the good

See Daily Bread, page 3

## Radford University Wicked Festival presenters take on tough issues

RADFORD - Makayla Fields doesn't have all the solutions for what the United States should do in Afghanistan, but she has some well-informed ideas.

This semester, Fields, a political science major at Radford University, has been examining the situation. Her classmates in their U.S. Foreign Policy class have been doing the same with other "wicked problems" around the world. Their goal in the class taught by Professor of Political Science Paige Tan is to develop ideas and explore possible solutions for persistent public problems, also known as Wicked Problems.

As someone with an interest in examining such issues on an international scale, the class assignment has been fulfilling and rewarding for Fields.

"I want to study international problems [in a future career], so doing



RADFORD UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Students at the inaugural Wicked Festival presented their research and offered possible solutions for some of the world's most persistent public problems.

this research is wonderful and amazing for me," said the junior from Hampton, Va., who presented on the topic "Re-establishing U.S. Defense Credibility after the Chaotic Afghanistan Withdrawal" at the inaugural Students Solving Persistent

Public Problems Conference, or Wicked Festival for short, on Nov. 11, 2021.

Held in multiple rooms on the first floor of Radford University's Heth Hall, the Wicked Festival brought to-

gether almost 100 students from courses in political science, philosophy, peace studies, and Appalachian studies to present on a variety of topics. Many were Honors College students.

See Tough Issues, page 4

## Radford Public Library accepting mail for Santa



PHOTO COURTESY RADFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Anyone on Santa's "nice" list who needs to get a message to the North Pole can drop off their letters to Santa at the Radford Public Library. Make sure to leave a return address on the envelope so he will know where to mail his reply.



Representatives of the four organizations recognized recently as COVID-19 heroes by New River Valley Leading Lights are pictured above. The COVID heroes, left to right, are Cookie Bandits, Campus Kitchen at Virginia Tech, Plenty! Farm and Food Bank, and the New River Valley Public Health Taskforce Volunteers.

## Leading Lights of NRV honors volunteers

Nineteen community volunteers and four organizations were recently honored by New River Valley Leading Lights, an organization that acknowledges and honors volunteers across the NRV who are having impacts that change the community for the better.

The nominees were recognized at Sinsland Farms during a small event.

The nominees recognized included Anna French, Auburn High School; Brianna Moser, Narrows High School; Grace Ankeney and Eli Miller, New River Community College; Alivia Colon, Jarrett Holmes, Isabelle Largent, and Erica Martin, Virginia Tech; Martha Ann Stallings, Darla Bray and Vern Simpson, Robyn Toney, Bill Ellenbogen,

Fred and Beth Umberger, Montgomery County; Kathryn Daily, Radford; Bill and Corrine Graefe, Jeri Rogers, Portia Dawn Thompson, and Elizabeth Warriner, Floyd County; and Hope Harrell, Giles County.

Their volunteer efforts include work with animal shelters, food pantries, a fire department, after-school programs, libraries, financial support, COVID-19 vaccinations, event coordination, community groups, Dialogue on Race, clothing drives, stadium woods, Friends of the Huckleberry Trail, the Women's Resource Center, and the March of Dimes.

See Leading Lights, page 4

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Through Dec. 15:

### United Way Festival of Trees

See the decorated trees in person at the Old Town Mall in Downtown Christiansburg and vote for your favorite tree through 9 p.m. on Dec. 15. The trees will remain available for viewing until Jan. 3. Visit <https://UWTrees.givesmart.com> to vote. Votes are \$1 with no limit on the number of votes that may be cast. All proceeds stay local, supporting the United Way NRV and its 22 partner agencies.

## Through Dec. 19:

### Va. State Police Operation Christmas 2021

The Virginia State Police are accepting donated items for Home Instead Senior Care and Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter through Dec. 19 at the state police Division VI headquarters at 3775 W. Main St. in Salem. Items being accepted are blankets, sheets, white towels, white wash cloths, canned vegetables, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, deodorant, baby wipes, size 5 and 6 baby diapers, word-search books, adult coloring books, crayons, and colored pencils.

## Through Dec. 22:

### Public voting for Radford holiday display contest

The Radford Chamber of Commerce's second annual holiday display contest is underway and public voting continues through Dec. 22. Vote at [www.radfordchamber.com](http://www.radfordchamber.com).

## Through Jan. 21:

### Apply now for NRV Master Gardener Program

The New River Valley Master Gardener Program is seeking applicants for the 2022 Master Gardener Training class through Jan. 21, 2022. The classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from Feb. 15 through May 5 on the Virginia Tech Campus and at the Montgomery County Government Center. Topics covered include basic botany, plant propagation, herbaceous plants, houseplants, vegetables, fruits, pruning, landscape design, floral design, lawn care, woody plants, entomology, plant pathology, abiotic stresses, soils, and pesticide use and safety. The cost for the course is \$185.00, and participants must perform 50 hours of volunteer service. Contact Wendy Silverman at the Montgomery County Extension Office at 540-382-5790 for more information.

## Saturday, Dec. 11;

## Sunday, Dec. 12:

### Local artists featured in Holiday Open House

Holiday open house featuring works by Radford artists Z L Feng and Mei Shu, sculptor Jennifer Lovejoy, and photographer Susan Lockwood will be showcased at Lockwood's home, located at 408 Eighth St., Radford. The show is set for today, Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 12, and is open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. The public is invited to

attend with no admission fee. A percentage of all sales will be donated to a local charity of each artist's choice.

## Saturday, Dec. 11

### Radford University Winter Commencement

Undergraduate seniors from Radford University Carilion and Radford University will graduate together for the first time ever in commencement exercises at the Dedmon Center at 1 p.m. today, Dec. 11.

Alumnus Brian Robinson will be the special guest speaker. Robinson graduated from Radford University in 1993 with a bachelor of arts in finance. In 2012, he completed London Business School's Corporate Finance Program. He is head of Prime Brokerage Sales for the Americas and is on the Board of Advisors for Launch with GS, a \$1 billion investment strategy that aims to increase access to capital and facilitate connections for women, Black, Latinx, and other diverse entrepreneurs and investors.

### Handcrafted Holiday Pop up Market and Holiday Open House at Glencoe Mansion

The annual handcrafted Holiday Pop-Up Market is hosted by MountainTrotter Arts from noon to 4 p.m. at the Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery. Featured are one-of-a-kind, high quality, handcrafted works by local artisans. Hot beverages, sweet treats, and live holiday music will be part of the fun. Step inside the museum to check out the "Christmas in Virginia" display. The Glencoe Mansion gift shop features a wide variety of gift items. The event and the museum are both open to the public with no admission charge. In case of weather issues, the rain date will be Dec. 18.

### Winter Wonderland

This is an outdoor event at the Christiansburg Recreation Center from 6 to 8 p.m. with winter activities for the whole family to enjoy.

### Christmas Crafting

At the Meadowbrook Public Library with three sessions: 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. Make three Christmas crafts: a moss-covered Christmas tree ornament, a Christmas silhouette in a frame, and a mouse candy cane holder. Registration is required, ages eight and up.

### 3D Book Art

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Use a simple paper folding technique to upcycle old paperbacks into three dimensional seasonal art. Supplies provide. Registration requested for limited spots. Ages 12 and up. Please call 540-552-8246.

### NRCC Fiddle, Banjo and Dance Club Jamboree

New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters will be featured during New River Community College's Fiddle, Banjo and Dance Club Jamboree. Doors open at 5 p.m. and music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin. NRCC requires all individuals to wear masks indoors, and social distancing protocols will be observed. The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters have been playing old-time mountain music in the Galax area since 1986. Dennis Hall is

the founder of the band and continues to serve as band leader. The band is named for the small stream in Galax where Hall grew up and still resides and in honor of Uncle Eck Dunford, a member of the original Bogtrotters band from the 1920s. The current group includes Hall on guitar, Eddie Bond on fiddle and vocals, Bonnie Bond on bass and vocals, Josh Ellis on banjo and vocals, and Caroline Noel Beverley on mandolin and vocals. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset the travel expenses for the musicians. The jamborees are typically held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue. For more information about the NRCC Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club, contact Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625 or visit [www.nr.edu/fiddle](http://www.nr.edu/fiddle).

## Sunday, Dec. 12:

### Chess Club

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Kids and teens ages 8 and up are welcome to sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

## Monday, Dec. 13 through Friday, Dec. 17:

### Santa Comes to Town

Santa will be riding through the neighborhoods of Christiansburg on a fire truck sleigh, which will depart from the fire department on Depot Street at 6:30 p.m. each evening.

## Monday, Dec. 13:

### City of Radford Council Meeting

At the City Council Chambers, 10 Robertson St.; 7 p.m. The agenda includes citizen comments on public matters and a presentation and equipment demonstration by the Radford Fire/EMS department. Old business includes ordinance 1760, vacation of right of way on Harvey Street; the awarding of the contract for the University Drive Bridge Project; appropriation Ordinance 1749.32; MOU Radford University; Ordinance 1762; and Gibsondale Drive rezoning. New business includes appointments to boards and commissions: the New River Resource Authority, and the Peppers Ferry Water Treatment Authority; the Councilman Burress Vacancy; Ordinance 1761: Employee Bonus; Appropriation Ordinance 1749.31: \$6,654.86 litter grant; a legislative discussion, and comments by city manager and council members.

### RCPS Special Education Advisory Committee meeting

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the School Board Office, 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. Due to CDC and VDH requirements regarding building occupancy numbers and social distancing measures during the pandemic, the in-person capacity is limited to 30 citizens. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Josh Brown, Chairperson, at 267-3083, or Daniel Hill, Director of Special Education, at 267-3223, to obtain a virtual meeting link.

### Deadline for Light up your home for the Holidays submissions

Christiansburg residents may enter the home decorating contest by submitting their home decorations to [christiansburg.org/lightupyourhome](http://christiansburg.org/lightupyourhome) by Dec. 13. Submissions may be added to a map for people to visit and enjoy. The top ten entries will be posted to Facebook (@CburgVAGov) on Dec. 17. Voting will conclude on Dec. 19, and the 2021 winner will be announced on Dec. 20.

### Crafternoon Delight for Adults Only

At the Radford Public Library from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Bring your supplies and knit, crochet, and/or needlepoint with a small group of adults. Some crafting supplies are provided.

### STEM Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. This homeschool STEM club will explore science, technology, engineering, and math. Ages 8 and up.

### Graphic Novel Book Club

At the Blacksburg Library at 6 p.m. To be read is "Paying the Land" by Joe Sacco. Call ahead to reserve a copy.

### Emergency Services Committee Meeting

The Christiansburg Emergency Services Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall administrative conference room, 100 E. Main St.

## Tuesday, Dec. 14:

### Radford School Board Meeting

The Radford City School Board will have a regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m., at the school administration building. A copy of the agenda can be seen at [www.rcps.org](http://www.rcps.org).

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

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

### Wintery Storytime

At the Radford Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Attendees may wear their favorite (or ugliest) sweaters for a winter-themed storytime.

### Gingerbread Houses

At the Blacksburg Library at 4 p.m. Build a personalized gingerbread house for the holidays. Registration is required. Sign up by calling the branch at 540-552-8265.

### Essential Oils

At the Christiansburg Library at 7 p.m. Learn more about essential oils. A different topic is featured every month.

### Art Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. The topic this month is Ming vases. Participants will paint a 2D vase. Registration is required. For ages six and up.

## Wednesday, Dec. 15:

### Lunch & Learn: Sustainability through the Holidays

At the Blacksburg Library at noon. This Lunch & Learn will talk about ways to make the holidays more sustainable while still enjoying the festivities. In person or register online at <https://tinyurl.com/87kcsaw>.

## Saturday, Dec. 18:

### An Extra Special Elfish 'Cooking with Dave' and a Movie

At the Radford Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. Enjoy an extra special cooking with Dave, Live and in-person and also livestreamed to Facebook. Dave will make his famous Breakfast Desert Pasta from the movie "Elf," and then everyone may stick around for the movie, rated PG for some mild rude humor and language and running for 97 minutes. Find the recipe in the book "Eat What You Watch: A Cookbook for Movie Lovers."

## All Month of December

### Free COVID-19 Test Kits

Now available at all branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library and the Radford Public Library, curbside only: free, rapid at-home COVID-19 antigen test kits. The easy-to-use kits can be gotten through curbside pickup service. Tests are available at no cost; no library card is needed. This pilot program is made possible by a partnership with the Virginia Department of Health. Users will need a Wi-Fi connection, a form of ID, and a mobile device or computer to complete the test.

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

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# OBITUARIES

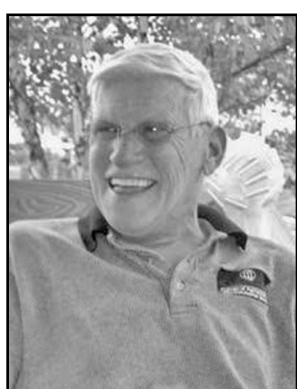
## Cherry, Jerry A.

Jerry A. Cherry, of Dayton, Texas, and Christiansburg, passed away on Dec. 4, 2021.

Jerry was born in February 1942 in Dayton and was predeceased by his parents, Arthur T. "Buddy" Cherry and Lillie Mae Holt Cherry.

He is survived by his wife, Linda A. Dudley; the mother of his children, Rebecca J. McAlister Cherry; his sister, Carol Ann Cherry Manning (Richard); his children and stepchildren, Sara Cherry Nuckolls (Will) of Walkersville, Md., P. Ray Cherry (Mary) of Boynton, Va., Benjamin T. Cherry (Rachel) of Bristol, Tenn.; Stephanie A. Wirt, Amanda Wirt Gland (Steve), and Emily J. Wirt of Christiansburg; his grandchildren, Nikki Gland-Turpin (Matt), Jinx Thrasher, Leah Cherry, Drew Cherry, Maliyah Payton, David Nuckolls, and Kai Payton, and great-grandchildren Sutton Turpin and Finn Turpin; nephew and niece Russell Ginsel (Sharon) and Julie Miiffin (Tommy); grand-nephews Ray Ginsel and Ryan Ginsel, grand-niece, Lilly Ginsel; best friend, Curtis Seaberg, and numerous beloved cousins, nieces and nephews, and many friends and colleagues.

Jerry was educated at Sam Houston State University and The University of Missouri. He was a professor at Virginia Tech (1972-1986); and Professor and



Department Head of the Poultry Science Department and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture at The University of Georgia (1986-2008).

Jerry and Linda have divided their time between Christiansburg, Athens, Ga., and Dayton, Texas, since their retirement.

A Texas cowboy, Jerry's hobbies included watching Virginia Tech and University of Georgia football, cheering on the World Series Champion Atlanta Braves, reading, playing poker, savoring Scotch, writing about The East Piney Woods of Texas, and watching his "kids" enjoy themselves.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, Blacksburg, today, Dec. 11, 2021. Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home.

Honorary pallbearers are Robert White, Coley "Red" Wright, Curtis Seaberg, Robert Seaberg, Paul Siegel, Delbert Jones, David Hutcheson, and David Schanckenburg.

Dress is casual, please. Another memorial service will be held in Texas on a 2022 date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jerry's memory to St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>.

## Kiser, Dr. Marshall Kent

Dr. Marshall Kent Kiser, 64, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021 at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center in Christiansburg.

Dr. Kiser was born Sept. 20, 1957, in Roanoke, the son of Dr. H.E. Kiser, Jr., and Virginia Anne Troxler Kiser. Dr. Kiser grew up in Bluefield, W.Va., and graduated from Bluefield High School in 1975. He attended Hampden-Sydney College, and upon graduation, he attended West Virginia University School of Dentistry. He served as a dentist in the United States Air Force before returning to Columbia University College of Dental Medicine to receive a degree in Orthodontics.

Dr. Kiser opened an orthodontic practice in Radford and continued his father's orthodontic practice in Bluefield. He was a member of the Virginia Association of Orthodontics, the Southern Association of Orthodontics, and the American Association of Orthodontics.

He is survived by his two sons, William Gillespie Kiser of Port Hope, Ontario, Canada, and Marshall Bowen Kiser (Cal-



lie) of Radford; his mother, Mrs. Virginia Anne Troxler Kiser of Martinsville; and his sister, Kimberly Kiser Snyder (Edward) of Martinsville.

Additional survivors include his nephews, Edward Ghent Snyder (Jennifer) of Mechanicsville, Va., and Marshall Hampton Snyder (Chelsae Hughes) of Chicago; and his niece, Katherine Ryan Snyder of Martinsville. He was preceded in death by his son, Harrison Trent Kiser, and his father, Dr. H.E. Kiser, Jr.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude and thanks to the staff of Carilion New River Valley Medical Center for their loving care.

The family will receive friends from 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. today, Dec. 11, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Brian Cockram officiating. Interment will follow in the West View Cemetery in Radford.

The Kiser family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Davis, Jr., Edward Ribble (Bill)

Edward Ribble (Bill) Davis, Jr., 89, of Blacksburg died on Dec. 6, 2021.

One of 10 children, Bill was born Sept. 15, 1932, to the late Edward Ribble (Buck) Davis, Sr., and the late Gillie Hughes Davis. Married on Feb. 3, 1953, Bill was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Helen Frances Stanger Davis.

Bill is survived by his four children, Charlene (Mike) Crews, Steve (Melissa) Davis, Ron (Diane) Davis, and Gary (Sally) Davis; his grandchildren, Jennifer (Ronnie) Jones, Lindsay (Jonathan) Salmons, Ryan (Caitlin) Johnson, Kelly Davis Weaver (fiancé Cody), Cody Davis, Cory Davis (fiancé Meghan), Kayla Johnson, and Carter Davis; his great-grandchildren, Alexis Jones, Grace Jones, Addison Jones, Jacob Jones, Avery Weaver, and Charlotte Weaver; sisters-in-law Jean Davis and Betty Simpkins, and brother-in-law George (Katie) Stanger; special companion Ruby Dove and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Bill served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1953 until 1955 and the U.S. Army Reserves until he received an honorable discharge in 1961. While stationed in France in 1954, he participated in a championship basketball team and enjoyed being a member of the baseball team.

Upon completion of active duty in the U.S. Army, he returned to Blacksburg High School to earn a high school diploma, which was quite an accomplishment for a man in his twenties with a wife and children to support. After receiving his high school diploma, Bill enrolled in West Virginia Business College to study accounting.

Always an athlete, as a young man Bill played baseball for local teams on weekends, often bringing Frances and the kids to cheer him on. Later in life, his passion for sports turned to playing golf



with friends and family. However, his greatest joy was to support the athletic endeavors of his sons and later his grandchildren. Throughout his life he followed the Virginia Tech, Blacksburg High School, and Radford High School athletic programs.

Bill enjoyed camping, hunting – especially deer hunting -- fishing, and gardening. Everyone admired his ability to grow beautiful vegetables, especially his huge, delicious tomatoes. He retired from Virginia Tech after a 30-year career in the Agronomy Extension Department where he worked primarily with research on grains, soybeans, and peanuts throughout Virginia.

Bill was a charter member of Northside Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg, and later transferred his membership to Unity Christian Church in Radford.

Visitation will be at McCoy Funeral Home on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021, at 1 p.m., one hour prior to a celebration of Bill's life officiated by Wendy Wilson, Pastor of Unity Christian Church, Radford. Interment will be at Westview Cemetery immediately after the service.

At other times, the family will receive friends and relatives at the home of Gary and Sally Davis.

A special thanks to Gary and Sally for their love and care for Dad over the years, especially after Mom died. Also, the family wishes to acknowledge and express its gratitude for the compassion and outstanding care provided by the administration and staff of both Commonwealth Senior Living in Radford and Good Samaritan Hospice.

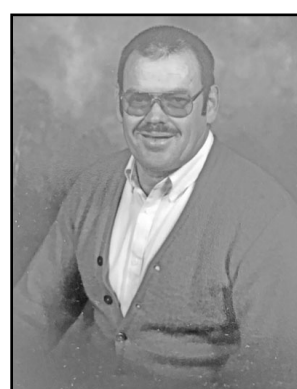
In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Helen Frances Stanger Davis Scholarship, Radford High School, 50 Dalton Dr., Radford, Va. 24141 or Unity Christian Church, Community Table, 400 Tyler Ave., Radford, Va. 24141. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Dishon, Theodore (Ted)

It is with great sadness that the family of Theodore (Ted) Dishon, of Dublin, announces his passing on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, at the age of 85.

Ted will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 64 years, May; his children, Leon (Carol), Terry, Sonya (Dennis), and Shelia (Mark); four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members and friends.

Ted was predeceased by his parents, Thefford and Freda; a sibling, Christaline; and a granddaughter, Erin.



Everyone Ted came in contact with will remember him as a hardworking, determined, proud individual adept at many different kinds of work. He touched many lives and will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

At the family's request, no service will be held. Memorial donations in Ted's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at <http://act.alz.org/site/Donation>.

The Dishon family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Murdock, Faye Taylor

Faye Taylor Murdock, 93, of Blacksburg, passed away Monday, Dec. 6, 2021 at her home.

She was born in Greensboro, N.C., and was raised in Danville, Va., by her parents, the late Walter Claude and Josie Howard Taylor.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, William Crockett Murdock, two sisters, and brothers-in-law Jacqueline and Edward Ferguson and Iris Kate and Clifton Hawker; and a brother and sister-in-law, Walter and Frances Taylor.

Faye was the oldest tenured member of Blacksburg Christian Church. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Nancy Louise Al-



len; a niece, Donna Ferguson; and several other nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the Blacksburg Christian Church with the Rev. Gary McCoy and the Rev. J.B. Beane officiating. Burial will follow in Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Disciple Women's Ministry, Blacksburg Christian Church, 240 Watson Ave., Blacksburg, VA 24060.

The family will receive friends on Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. until the service at the church. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Shelor, Rose Jewell McCoy

Rose Jewell McCoy Shelor, of Dublin, Va., was born Jan. 1, 1940, and passed to her rest on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

She was the daughter of the late Harvey Garnet and Annie Pulchney McCoy of Parrott and was also predeceased by her husband, Samuel Thomas Shelor; her son, Samuel Thomas Shelor, Jr.; her sister, Julia Hodge; her brother, Pete McCoy; and a grandson, Joey Dickerson.

She grew up in the New River Valley but moved to Baltimore when she married Tom Shelor in 1955. In Maryland, they raised five children, and Rose worked in the meat department of several grocery stores. She loved watching Hallmark movies, collecting cookbooks, and shopping at yard sales and thrift stores. She had an artistic streak and took up various crafts over the years, like crochet and plastic canvas needlepoint, sharing her creations with family and friends generously.

She loved music, bird-watching, flowers, and Christmas decorations. She was a Bible student and a believer in the Seventh-day Adventist message since 1971. She and her husband were very active bowling and golfing together for many years. They moved back into the area in 2010, settling in Dublin.

Rose is survived by four daughters: Rose



(Jerry) Bowen of Floyd, Jackie Shelor of Florida, Samantha (Slim) Quesenberry of Dublin, and Patty Shelor of Dublin; grandchildren Christopher Dickerson, Jeremy (Renee) Bowen, Jonathan Bowen, Angelina (Jeremy) Yuvanavattana, Joshua (Sarah) Bowen, Sarah Keen, Timothy (Diana) Bowen, Abigail (Luke) Thomas, Elijah (Elza) Bowen, and Simeon Bowen, Kurt Dickerson,

Rebecca Shears, and John and Jacob Scott; great-grandchildren Katelyn and Briana Bowen, Damion Underwood, Haley, Thai, Natasha, Jasmine, Ryan, Cailey, and Mirrelise Yuvanavattana, Brandon and Alexis Dickerson, Fiona and Bronn Keen, Dahlia Schoof, Lily and Ricky Emery, Michael and Desirae Dickerson, Gabriel Bowen, Eva Bowen, and Raven Thomas; a great-great granddaughter Maia; a brother Garnet Joe McCoy; a sister, Judy McCoy; and fur-babies, Inky and Itty Bit.

There will be no viewing or services. In honor of her love for family, make it a point to spend more time with your family and loved ones this holiday season and all through the year.

Condolences may be sent to Rose Bowen, P.O. Box 345, Floyd, VA 24091.

The Shelor family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Daily Bread

from page 1

work the organization has been doing for decades.

Radford Fairlawn Daily Bread has been serving meals to guests through Dining Room Services since 1992, and expanded to include the Meals on Wheels program in 2006 when it was at risk of closure.

"We make a significant impact in the lives of disadvantaged individuals by reducing the impact of food insecurity while also providing a sense of social support," the organization states on its website. "Many of our guests do not have the resources, facilities, or ability to prepare a similar home-style meal. Our Meals on Wheels recipients report that the delivered meals enable them to stay in their own homes longer."

When the COVID pandemic made in-person meals risky, RFDB suspended them in March 2020 and switched to take-out meal service offered for pick-up. In 2020, RFDB distributed over 27,000 meals.



PHOTO BY HEATHER BELL

Gretchen Dee prepares to deliver meals for one of the Meals on Wheels routes that Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread serves.

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# OPINION

## COVID-19 update: New cases nationwide, in Virginia are up

As expected, from the Thanksgiving holiday and people spending more time indoors with the colder weather, new cases of COVID-19 nationwide and in Virginia are up, Dr. Noelle Bissell, director of the New River Health District, told the media Tuesday.

"In the New River Health District, they remain essentially plateaued; but looking at our surrounding regions, we expect to see an increase soon," Dr. Bissell said. "The New River Valley tends to run behind Roanoke and Mount Rogers by a week or so.

"This morning, the New River Health District hospitals reported 29 COVID-19 patients," the health district director said. "Our hospitals are very busy and often at capacity with patients in the ERs waiting for beds. This is not necessarily

from COVID, but from other medical issues and seasonal illnesses. We are having an early flu season with predominantly flu A (H3N2). Flu A tends to be more severe than other variants.

"In addition to flu, we are seeing a significant number of pertussis cases right now," Dr. Bissell told the press. "Pertussis is also called whooping cough because of its noticeable high-pitched barking cough. Pertussis is highly contagious, and people at risk include pregnant women, babies, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems, asthma, or waning immunity. Most people have been vaccinated against pertussis, but immunity wears off over the years and booster shots (Tdap – people mainly think of it as a tetanus shot) are recommended at least every 10 years.

"Our COVID-19 cases are still almost exclusively from the delta variant," Dr. Bissell reported. "We are sequencing about 1 in 7 of the PCR tests and that's how we would find omicron. The state labs have looked at samples from the past few weeks specifically for omicron and have not found it. However, if it's not here now, it will be.

"Scientists are still evaluating how transmissible and severe omicron is compared to prior variants (alpha and delta)," Dr. Bissell said. "There is good evidence suggesting it is more transmissible than delta, and we will continue to follow its course. If COVID-19 follows other viral pandemics, omicron may cause less severe illness than delta. Viruses typically mutate to being more transmissible and less virulent. If so, this

is a step towards the virus becoming endemic.

"The omicron variant does not change our advice," the director told the media. "We advise everyone to get vaccinated and, when eligible, to get a booster. We also continue to recommend layered mitigation like masking, respiratory hygiene, hand washing, and distancing in addition to optimizing ventilation of indoor spaces when gathering.

"We are vaccinating anyone age 5 and up," she said. "Vaccines are available at pharmacies and many doctor's offices. In addition, the health department has clinics at our sites across the district. Our typical schedule is Monday and Thursday at Montgomery County, Tuesday at Floyd, Wednesday at Pulaski and Giles and Friday at Radford. Saturday, the

Pharm House pharmacy is offering walk in vaccines at the Floyd Country Rescue Squad from 1 to 7 p.m.

"Lastly, many people are planning holiday gatherings and holiday travel. Our best advice is that everyone perform an assessment of how much risk they can tolerate and make plans accordingly," Dr. Bissell said. "Right now, while we are in high transmission, assume everyone could have or be exposed to COVID. Remember that delta is predominant right now and it can lead to poor outcomes for those at higher risk. Those who are young, healthy, and vaccinated will likely behave differently from those who are older or more vulnerable, or from someone who lives with or cares for higher risk people or young children who are not eligible for the vaccine."

## Leading Lights

from page 1

The 2021 Leading Lights distinguished recipients are Grace Ankeney, Darla Bray, Kathryn Daily, Bill Ellenbogen (lifetime), Anna French, Hope Harrell, Jarrett Holmes and Erica Martin, Brianna Moser, Martha Ann Stallings, and Elizabeth Warriner. The distinguished recipients

received \$500 to direct to a non-profit of their choice except for the lifetime achievement recipient who receives \$1,000 to direct.

This year's event also had a special COVID-19 Heroes category to recognize the work of organizations during the pandemic. The four heroes

are Campus Kitchen at Virginia Tech, Cookie Bandits, Plenty! Farm and Food Bank, and

New River Valley Public Health Taskforce Volunteers. These groups helped provide food to those in

need, brought joy to others during a difficult time, and coordinated testing and vaccination efforts.

NRV Leading Lights will be seeking volunteer nominations later this fall for the 2022 awards.



The 2021 nominees recognized for their volunteer work by New River Valley Leading Lights were, left to right, Robyn Toney, Hope Harrell, Brianna Moser, Jarrett Holmes, Martha Ann Stallings, Darla Bray, Kathryn Daily, Elizabeth Warriner, and Corrine Graefe.

## Danilowicz

from page 1

Associates, Inc.,

Danilowicz said he is looking forward to not only taking the helm at Radford University, but also becoming a member of the New River Valley community.

"Being an undergraduate focused comprehensive institution, Radford University plays a critical role in higher education for the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Danilowicz. "Having already developed a strong reputation for high quality and innovative instruction, Radford is furthering its distinctive mission by strengthening its focus on diversity, sustainability and economic development. Through the search process, I have become enamored by its

mission, its dedicated faculty, staff, and alumni, and the students that it serves. Kay and I cannot wait to immerse ourselves in the New River Valley community and meet our new Highlander family!"

Danilowicz has served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton since 2018. "In this role, he was the chief academic and administrative officer of a large public research (R2) university," according to a statement released by RU. "In addition to supervising 10 academic colleges with a budget of \$330 million, Danilowicz provided oversight to related areas such as the Office of Undergraduate Studies, University Registrar, University Libraries, Office of Information Technology and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute."

Danilowicz's previous boss said RU's new president is a creative thinker who will do well in his new role.

"Bret will be a won-

derful president. I am extremely proud of his achievements, and so happy for Bret and his family as he transitions into this role," said John Kelly, Ph.D., President of Florida Atlantic University. "He is a creative thinker and very personable. He will serve Radford University well."

From 2012 – 2018, Danilowicz served as dean of the college of arts and sciences at Oklahoma State University. His work on FAU's strategic plan "ultimately drove improvement in academic programs, leading to the university's first ever rank in National Public Research Universities," according to RU. "As well, the university now ranks in the top 50 U.S. News and World Report lists for social mobility and for the diversity of its student body, with programs in business, education, engineering, fine arts, medicine, nursing and social sciences achieving their highest national rankings for one or more of their programs."

Diversity and inclu-

sion have been central to Danilowicz's work.

"In collaboration with the faculty senate at Florida Atlantic, Danilowicz launched a diversity, equity and inclusion committee charged with identifying policies and practices which should be changed to improve diversity and inclusion efforts," according to RU. "As a result, one of the major changes enacted was the addition of diversity and inclusion learning outcomes for all degrees."

Danilowicz earned a doctor of philosophy degree in zoology from Duke University, a master of business administration from Georgia Southern University, master of arts in education from The Open University, U.K., and his bachelor of science in biology with a computer science minor from Utica College of Syracuse University. Additionally, Danilowicz held two postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Windsor, Canada.

## Tough Issues

from page 1

"The commonality here is that all the students are working on tough-to-solve public problems or wicked problems," said Tan, one of the event's organizers.

Many students, like Fields, presented their thoroughly researched topics and solution ideas while standing beside posters they created to support their ideas. They answered questions from the numerous attendees who passed through the rooms. Faculty, staff, and fellow students made up most of the visitors.

Participating in the semester-long process "has helped me strengthen my research skills," said Gabrielle Spennachio, a senior psychology major from Radford who researched and presented on climate change.

Timely, close-to-home topics ranged from matters involving campus clean-up and sustainability in Appalachia to national issues such as police and race and issues at the U.S. southern border. A few students delved into international problems, such as women's rights in Afghanistan and the rise of the populist right in Europe.

One class, POSC 130: Changing the World involved students taking action on the real-world public problems they identified. "They shared their attempts to actually change the world through petitions, public education, and lobbying public officials," said Tan.

Other students gave public presentations,

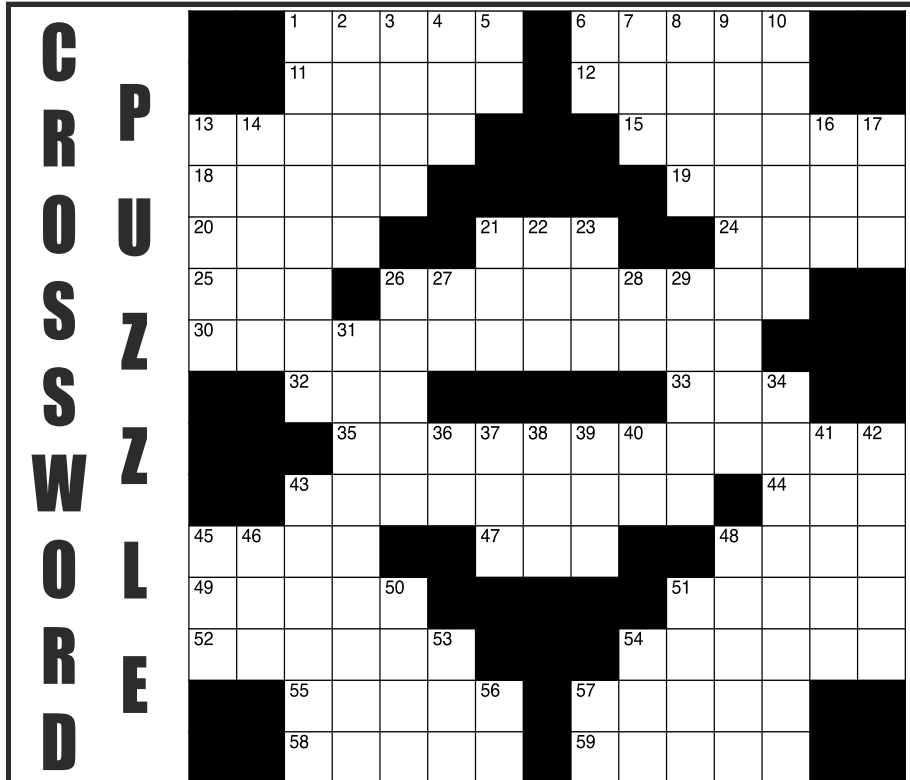
engaging listeners on such wicked problems as mail-order brides, international protection for whistleblowers, and global management of vaccines.

Students enrolled in Professor Tay Keong Tan's Political Science 490 capstone course tackled topics concerning Radford's recently formed Presidential Task Force on Sustainability, which aims to achieve carbon neutrality on the Radford University campus by 2040. Tay Keong Tan's students examined campus sustainability in terms of academics, campus engagement and operations, and services such as food, dining, waste, purchasing, and transportation.

Students in the capstone course were organized during the fall semester into four teams to develop workable ideas, strategies, and solutions.

Four other faculty members assigned students to present research at the Wicked Festival, which Paige Tan hopes will become a yearly event at Radford. Participating were students in courses taught by Professor of Political Science and Director of International Studies Tay Keong Tan, Professor of Philosophy Heather Keith, Political Science Instructor Johannes Grow, and Appalachian studies adjunct faculty member Tim Thornton.

Chad Osborne  
Radford University



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Abu \_\_, U.A.E. capital
  6. Herring-like fishes
  11. 55120 MN
  12. Indigo bush
  13. Pollyanna-ish
  15. Pleasing to the ear
  18. Parcels of land
  19. Microns (alt. sp.)
  20. Cooking containers
  21. Express pleasure
  24. Meat from a calf (alt.)
  25. 7th Greek letter
  26. Operated the sales register
  30. Blueprint for the day
  32. Congressperson (abbr.)
  33. Angle (abbr.)
  35. Fragrant health promotion
  43. Trespasses
  44. \_\_ Lanka
  45. Wife of Hercules
  47. A large body of water
  48. Chicken house
  49. Sicilian volcano
  51. Coarse edible red seaweed
  52. \_\_ May, actress
  55. Opposites of credits
  55. Unable to move
  57. Someone who is highly skilled
  58. 100 = 1 kwacha
  59. "Rocky" star Talia
  4. Used for hitting the ball in various games
  5. Not out
  6. South Dakota
  7. Possessed
  8. Grad
  9. UPS driver
  10. Fired
  13. In a way, augmented
  14. River in SE S. Am.
  16. Division of geological time
  17. Follows sigma
  21. Sign language
  22. Expression of surprise
  23. Hull Identification Number
  26. Salmwood
  27. Associated Press
  28. Half of an em
  29. Networks in Spanish
  31. Dough fermenting agent
  34. Auto fuel
  36. An alternative
  37. Manuscripts (abbr.)
  38. Digested
  39. Darjeeling or green
  40. Horsepower
  41. 1985 Formula 1 champion
  42. Expression of alarm
  43. Gain possession
  45. Own (Scottish)
  46. Snake-like fish
  48. Dicer
  50. Afresh
  51. Hindu mother goddess
  53. Before
  54. Code for dash
  56. Atomic #52
  57. Millisecond
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Having a sophisticated charm
  2. Minute amounts (Scot.)
  3. Turkish leader's title

# New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters are featured performers at NRCC Jamboree today, Dec. 11

The music of New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters will be featured during New River Community College's Fiddle, Banjo and Dance Club Jamboree this evening Dec. 11, 2021. Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin. NRCC requires all individuals to wear masks indoors, and social distancing protocols will be observed.

The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters have been playing old-time mountain music in the Galax area since 1986. Dennis Hall is the founder of the band and continues to serve as band leader. Named for the small stream in Galax where Hall grew up and still resides and

in honor of Uncle Eck Dunford, a member of the original Bogtrotters band from the 1920s.

The current group includes Hall on guitar, Eddie Bond on fiddle and vocals, Bonnie Bond on bass and vocals, Josh Ellis on banjo and vocals, and Caroline Noel Beverley on mandolin and vocals.

The band has played at festivals across the U.S. and has participated in the Friends of American Old Time Music and Dance Festival in Gainsborough, England. Several of the band members have played internationally in Scotland, England, Ireland, and Australia.

Since 1986, the band has placed first at the Galax Old Fiddlers

Convention 10 times.

The corporate sponsors of the jamborees are Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers and Boutique, Inc., Radford; Castle Rock Insurance Agency, Pearisburg; Estes Auto and Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Food City; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; Martin's Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; the Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgomery and Pulaski counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be ac-

cepted to help offset the travel expenses for the musicians. The jambo-

rees are typically held the second Saturday of each month through

April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.



The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters will play their old-time mountain music at the New River Community College's Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club Jamboree in Dublin today, Dec. 11.

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's 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**, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave. at the corner with Downey St. We are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in 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: www.fbcradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on 105.9 FM, 101.3 F, 1430AM.

**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.

## CHURCH OF GOD

**Childress Church of God**, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C'Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

**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 GOD IN CHRIST

**Radford Church of God in Christ**, 206 Russell Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639- 5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

## 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 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

**Christ Lutheran Church**, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly email and on website: clcradford.org. 540-639-2671.

## PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. 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., 7p.m.

## PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph. Sunday school at 10am; worship at 11am in the sanctuary, masked & distanced. Phone 639-2585. Watch the service live on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford. www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community & beyond. Kelsey & Peter Hawisher-Faul, Co-Pastors.

## UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382- 0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00am. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc.

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### TRUST THE TRUTH

Read 2 Timothy 1:1 through 4:22

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

The Greek word orthotomeo, translated here as "correctly handles," is rendered "rightly dividing" in other versions.

It carries the idea of cutting straight like a surgeon and getting to the heart of the matter. Paul's letters to Timothy emphasize sound doctrine, which must be taught in the churches so believers will be established in the truth. Is false teaching being advocated? Stand firm on God's truth. Do unbelievers mock our Christian life? Stand firm on God's truth.

We are all to be students of God's Word—diligently studying it, faithfully putting it into practice in our daily lives, and effectively sharing it. We should never be ashamed to be identified with Christ, nor do we want to be embarrassed by our lack of preparation for witnessing.

We need to be ready with knowledge of the truth and guided by God's Spirit in sharing it with others.

Thought for Today: Train in the truth and trust its teaching.

Quicklook: 2 Timothy 2:7-15

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

# RADFORD SPORTS

## Christiansburg's Alex Wilkens named River Ridge District coach of the year

Alex Wilkens had an incredible year at Christiansburg High School this past season with 10 football wins, the most for the school in seven years and his best at the school including two games into the postseason. For the effort, he was named the River Ridge District coach of the year.

The River Ridge awards were announced Wednesday. Nine Blue Demons were named to the first teams for offense and defense. Offensive linemen Ayden Conley and Eli Brubaker led with teammate Stephan Myrthil being named first-team running back.

On the other side of the ball, defensive end Tyrrique Taylor and linebacker Kenyon Johnson-Buchannon were joined by defensive backs Jaxson Clarke and Tanner Evans, who was also named first-team punt returner. Christiansburg's Drew Lloyd was the first-team punter.

Defensive lineman Brayden Demasi was the lone Blacksburg player named to the first team.

Blacksburg's Brady Wiatt was a second-team offensive lineman, and linebacker Parker Epperley and defensive end Bryce Ferguson were second-team defense.

Christiansburg's Lloyd and Johnson-

Buchannon were named second-team running backs. Receiver Travis Altizer and kick returner Jayron Thompson were also named to the second team.

On defense, Conley and Nathan Filipiak were named to the second team defense. Curtis Altizer was second-team linebacker.

Conley was the only Blue Demon named to the first-team offense for Region 3D. Altizer and Evans were named to the positions on the Region 3D first-team defense.

Christiansburg linemen Eli Brubaker and Jonathan Dixon were second-team all-region while Myrthil and Travis Altizer were on the second-team offense. Jayron Thompson was second-team all-region kick returner, and Jonah Bremmer was second-team kicker.

Conley was named second-team on the defensive line while Clarke was second-team at defensive back. Drew Lloyd was second-team punter. Evans was named second-team punt returner, and Johnson-Buchannon was second-team all-purpose defense.

Radford placed four players on the Three Rivers District first-team offense: lineman Charles Davis, running back Tyrell Dobson, receiver Darius Wesley-Brubeck, and all-purpose performer

Marcell Baylor.

On defense, Wesley-Brubeck was named all-purpose player of the year. He was joined on the first-team by lineman Dawson Martin, linebackers Tyrell Dobson and Nate Wesley, defensive back Marcell Baylor and defensive back Landon Clark.

Second teamers for offense were quarterback Marcell Baylor, lineman Andrew Martin and kicker Vance Steele. On defense, the Bobcats placed linemen Charles Davis and Brandon Thompson. The district's defensive player of the year was Radford's Tyrell Dobson.

Eastern Montgomery placed two players on the first-team All Pioneer District team also released this week. Seth Burleson was first-team running-back and Brandon Kingery was first-team defensive line.

Seven Mustangs were named the Pioneer second-team including offensive lineman Xavier Brown, receiver Ben Via, runningback Eli Brown, kick returner Ben Via, kicker Lilly Underwood, defensive end Wyatt Stallard and linebacker Seth Burleson.

Burleson and Kingery were also named to the All-Region C first team for the same positions.



FILE PHOTO  
Christiansburg's Alex Wilkens is the 2021 River Ridge District coach of the year.

## Brock Hoffman named Wells Fargo Advisors Humanitarian of the Year

RICHMOND – Virginia Tech offensive lineman Brock Hoffman has earned the Wells Fargo Advisors Humanitarian of the Year Award presented by the Touchdown Club of Richmond.

Hoffman is the first Tech student-athlete to receive this accolade, which annually recognizes a football player from a program in the Commonwealth of Virginia who has gone above and beyond to make a positive impact on campus and in his community.

Hoffman (6-3, 310) has served as one of Tech's five captains this season and earned All-ACC honorable mention honors. He has started nine games at center and one at left guard this season. The Statesville, N.C., native has accepted an invitation to play in the 2022 East-West Shrine Bowl all-star contest. Thanks to Hoffman and the rest of Tech's offensive front, the Hok-

ies have averaged 250.5 rushing yards per game over their last six contests, including a 29-24 victory over Virginia to retain the Commonwealth Cup.

Hoffman will be honored during the broadcast of the Dudley and Lanier Awards presentation, scheduled for today, Dec. 11. This awards broadcast will air on WTVR-TV6, the local CBS affiliate in Richmond. The awards show will air live, following the national broadcast of the Army-Navy football game on CBS, which kicks off at 3:00 p.m.

Hoffman's philanthropy and charitable spirit have been recognized nationally this year. He has been named a semifinalist for both the Wuerffel Trophy and Jason Witten Award recognizing his off-the-field efforts to serve his community both in the New River Valley and his hometown. He was

also Tech's nominee for the Allstate Good Works Team.

During his time at Virginia Tech, Hoffman has served as a mentor to students at Prices Fork Elementary School in Blacksburg and his former elementary school in his hometown. Hoffman serves as a strong advocate for making healthy lifestyle choices and stresses the importance of developing good habits in the classroom. He initiated a fundraising campaign benefitting the National Brain Trauma Association in support of his mother, Stephanie, who had an acoustic neuroma surgically removed in 2017.

Using NIL agreements for the greater good, Hoffman partnered with a local car dealership to donate 350 backpacks filled with school supplies to sixth graders in Wyrthe County and his hometown elementary school,



VT offensive lineman Brock Hoffman is the first Tech player to earn the Humanitarian of the Year award from the Touchdown Club of Richmond.

Celeste Henkel.

Among his many other community outreach efforts, Hoffman served as a social influencer to raise awareness for last year's virtual Polar Plunge that benefitted Special Olympics Virginia. He also organized a book drive and a card-writing campaign to benefit residents of

Richfield Senior Living in Salem.

The Touchdown Club of Richmond is a 501(c)(3), sports-social organization that promotes the best interests of the American game of football and sports in general, under the guidance of elected officers, with the predominant purpose be-

ing to recognize worthy athletes for their accomplishments.

Hoffman's 2021 Charitable Honors:

Wells Fargo Advisors Humanitarian Award, Allstate AFCA Good Works Team Nominee, Wuerffel Trophy Semifinalist, Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Semifinalist.

## Wrestling preview: Radford, Blacksburg, and Christiansburg

By Marty Gordon  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg  
Cody Hughes takes over a Christiansburg wrestling program that has won 17 of the last 20 state Class 3 state championships. He replaces Cliff Warden, who stepped down last month after three years at the helm.

Hughes is a former 4-time Maine state champion who qualified for na-

tionals his senior year at Virginia Tech. He had been helping coach the Blue Demons for the past two years.

"I accepted the job because I know Christiansburg has a rich history of wrestling and was looking to help build on that," he said.

This is his first official head coaching position after helping with numerous youth wrestling camps.

"I want to help each

individual accomplish his goals on the mat. Hopefully by doing that the team will have success along the way," Hughes said.

He will be assisted by Brandon Taylor, who has helped with the Christiansburg program for the past three years.

This past year, the Blue Demons finished third in the Class 3 state championships after winning the Region 3D trophy for the

eighth straight year.

Four key wrestlers return for Christiansburg. 120-pound Junior Policarpo was injured last year but was a state place winner in 2020. Luke Robie is a 3-time state place winner at 145 pounds and was a 2021 state finalist in Class 3. Parker Ferrell returns at 220 pounds and is currently ranked 12th in the country while heavyweight Aiden Lacoma (285 pounds) took the year off from football after being the 2021 state champion and is ranked 15th in the country.

"We have a lot of young guys on the team and some holes in our lineup at a couple of weight classes," Hughes said. Still, he has high expectations for those key returners on the state and national level. "We have two major national tournaments in December. For the rest of our younger guys, we are excited to see the progress they've made during the offseason and look to have multiple state place winners and a few state champions," he said.

New Kent is the reign-

ing Class 3 state champion and returns a loaded roster. Skyline High School placed ahead of Christiansburg last year and also returns some key wrestlers.

Blacksburg  
Chris Johnson enters year number six at the helm of the Blacksburg wrestling program, which finished 2-1 last year in dual meets. Four-year starter Sam Baker has graduated after finishing last season as the Region 4D runner up.

But Johnson returns four experienced wrestlers. Tharun Svetanant will be at 138 and as a junior finished fifth at the 2021 state Class 4 tournament after winning the regional championship at 132 pounds.

Garrett Henderson will be at 132. He missed 2021 because of an injury after finishing as the region runner-up in 2020.

Junior Robert Baker will be at 145 and was the regional runner-up last season at 126. But the one to watch could be freshman Braden Henderson at 126. He had a lot of success in middle school and is ad-

justing to the high school competition.

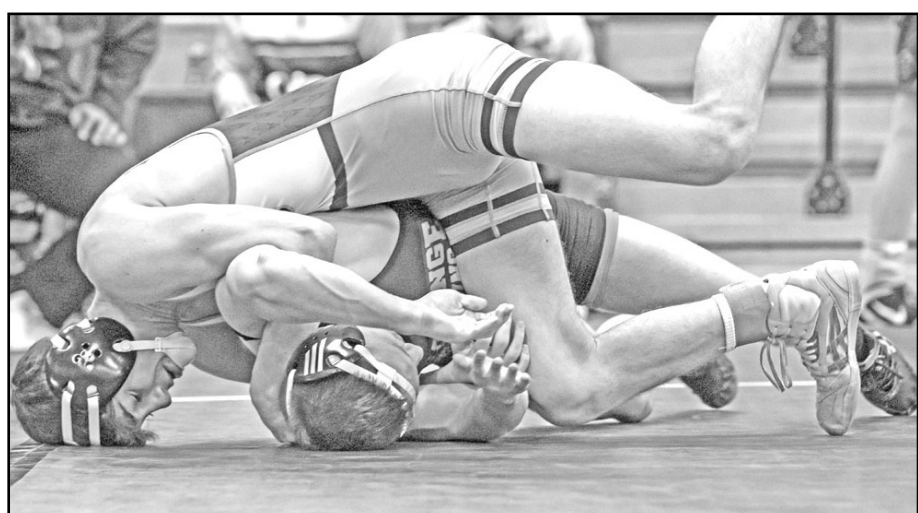
"We are very young with only one senior in the starting line-up," said Johnson. "We will have early season growing pains but will be a very different team at the end of the season vs. the beginning."

At the state level, Johnson said Great Bridge will be the team to beat.

"We really only worry about doing our job. The goal is to show up, work hard, and get better every day. If we do our job, good things happen," he said.

Radford  
Meanwhile in Radford, the Bobcats' hopes for success rests with two sophomores. Lance Duncan (170) finished fifth at states last year while Dawson Martin (195) was third.

Coach Dwayne Martin is in his third season and said the program is continuing to rebuild and grow. "We are bringing back lots of experience in the upper weight classes. We have a team filled with freshmen and sophomores," he said.



FILE PHOTO

Last year, Christiansburg Senior Luke Robie pinned Steve Tingler of William Byrd to take first place in the 138-pound weight class for the regional title.

# Blacksburg, Christiansburg divers win at SWVA Invite, Radford diver second



Radford's Madison Graham placed 10th in the 200-yard freestyle at the Southwest Virginia Invite last Saturday in Christiansburg.



Radford's Hampton Wohlford placed fourth in the 200-yard individual medley event (2:06.48).



Radford's Ben Shull placed second in the diving competition at the Southwest Virginia High School Invite this past weekend at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

# Big South names RU's Moran runner of the year

The Big South Conference has named Radford University graduate student Hannah Moran (Salem) its 2021 women's cross-country runner of the year.

Moran earned All-Region honors for the 2021 season after finishing 18th at the NCAA Southeast Regional in a school-record time of 20:42.8 in the 6K race. She was the Big South individual champion in October -- one of three victories this season -- as she won the conference meet in a time of 17:09.5 to become Radford's first Big South indi-

vidual winner since 1990.

A two-time Big South Runner of the Week honoree in 2021, Moran opened her season with a victory at the Virginia Tech Invitational with a school-record time of 14:11 in the 4K race. She followed that up with a first-place finish at the James Madison University Invitational, posting a winning margin of 28 seconds. At the Live in Lou meet in early October, Moran finished eighth out of 399 runners with a school-record performance of 16:48.7 in the 5K race.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

Radford University's Hannah Moran has been named the 2021 Big South women's cross country runner of the year.

# ACC official makes history



**From the Sidelines**

Marty Gordon

With little fanfare, three officials walked onto the court at Cassell Coliseum Wednesday for the game between the Virginia Tech men and Cornell. One of the three, however, made history.

Jenna Reneau became the first woman to officiate a men's game in Blacksburg.

A graduate of North Texas University, she officiated NBA G-League games for the past two years and now has slipped into ACC and Atlantic-10 men's games this season. Reneau fell in love with the occupation from day one.

She recently told members of the media, "It kind of just happened and I fell in love with it."

Reneau was introduced to the organized game in third grade and earned all-district honors on the court in high school, helping Krum High School to a 34-2 record as a senior.

Now at the age of 29, she is taking the game by storm. Along the way, she has shaken off the stereotype that men officiate men's games and women/women.

In 2019, Reneau picked up men's games in the Mountain West and Southland conferences. The G-League followed with a long list of Texas high school games.

From an initial field of some 3,000 referees the NBA was observing around the world, Reneau began the NBA's vetting process that accepted the top 150 into its "grassroots" training session.

From there, 48 were selected to participate in a mid-level event. A group of 30 was promoted to train in the NBA's "elite" session, and then 10 were added to the G-League schedule before COVID shut down almost everything.

She is now on the call list for the WNBA with an overall goal of making it to the big show for the men's side of things with the NBA.

But this year, she will be a regular in the ACC and Atlantic-10 as she recently officiated a contest in Richmond.

Five female referees are currently working in the NBA. As many as 20 are working men's Division I college games this season.

According to ESPN, 24 of the G-League's 57 referees are women, plus several who jump between the NBA and G-League (All NBA officials with under four years of experience are commonly assigned as crew chiefs for G-League games to gain experience.) 15 of the WNBA's 33 referees are women, nine of whom also work games in the G-League.

In 2018, Crystal Hogan became the first woman to referee a men's Division I game when Seattle University played Puget Sound University. She is also the first full-time female referee in NCAA Men's D-1 history.

Jenna Reneau is following in her footsteps and knocking down doors on her path to becoming an "official." The words female and male are thrown out the window because of her knowledge of the game.

Several little girls were in the stands at Cassell Wednesday taking notice of Reneau and the job she was doing. Just another person wearing a striped shirt and blowing a whistle to keep players in check.

# Tim Smoot to lead Auburn softball program

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Auburn High School did not have to look far to fill its softball coaching vacancy. Assistant Tim Smoot has been elevated to head coach after the departure of David Hurd, who was named assistant principal at Blacksburg Middle School.

Hurd had led the team to back-to-back state titles, compiling a 313-134 record in 22 years. Smoot, who has been an assistant since 2016, hopes to continue that tradition.

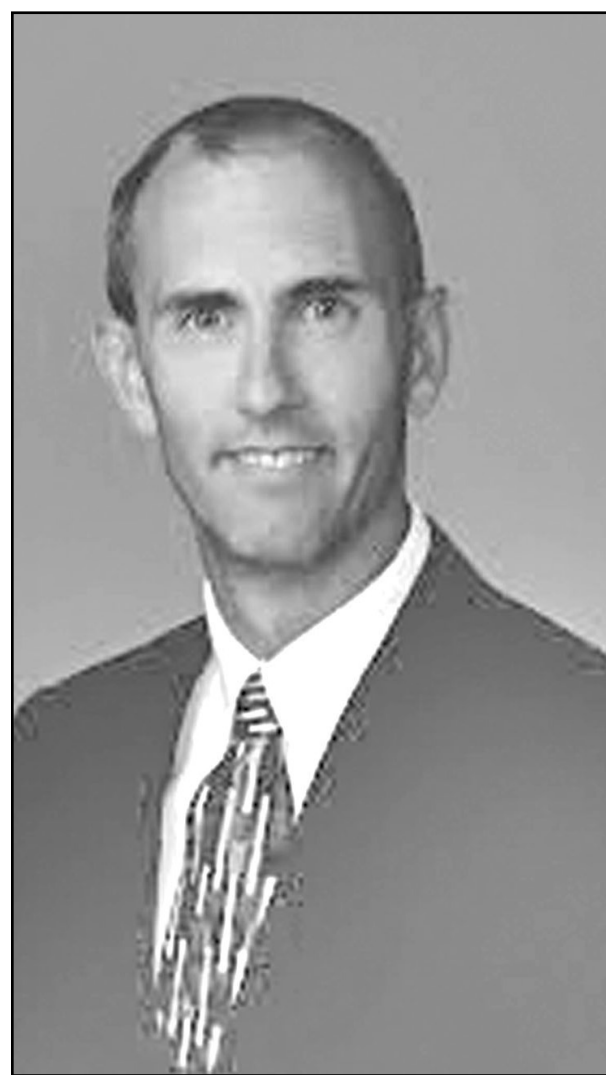
"I've been involved on some level with the Auburn softball program since 2009, and I wanted to continue the tradition built on the hard work David Hurd put in to build a program the Auburn community could be proud of," he said earlier this week.

"We have a team that has been together a while now and will remain so for a couple more years," the new head coach said. "My goal is to make this coaching change as seamless as possible so our players can focus on their development the way we have always done things."

Smoot is not a teacher at the school. Instead, he is a realtor with Welcome Home Real Estate in Christiansburg.

"I work mostly with residential buyers and sellers," Smoot said. "My position allows me to set my schedule as I wish. I am fortunate to have this flexibility so I can handle both my career and my passion for coaching."

His relationship to the Auburn program includes his oldest daughter, who is now playing at Emory & Henry College after being part of two high school teams that reached the state semi-finals in 2014 and 2015.



Auburn assistant softball coach Tim Smoot will take over the program as head coach after the departure of David Hurd, who left to take an assistant principal's position at Blacksburg Middle School.

Smoot was an alpine ski instructor and ski school director early in his career, and a family convinced him to become involved in the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation programs in softball and soccer. This led him to travel softball coaching and finally to the varsity softball team at Auburn.

The new coach's goal remains the same in competing for and winning another state championship.

"We have a team that has matured quite a bit over the last year, so if we stay humble and continue to work hard we should be able to put ourselves in a position to be successful," Smoot said.

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# ESPN2 to pick up Big South championships

For the first time in its history, the Big South Conference will have both of its basketball championship games televised on a national linear network, as ESPN2 will carry the men's final on Sunday, March 6, at noon, while ESPNU will broadcast the women's title contest on Sunday, March 6 at 8:30 p.m.

The two national TV broadcasts will close out the 2022 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships from Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte, N.C., with the two respective champions earning automatic bids to the NCAA Tournament.

The women's championship game on ESPN2 will be the network's seventh Big South basketball broadcast of the 2021-22 season, as six Thursday men's basketball "Wildcard" regular-season contests are scheduled to air Jan. 13 (7 p.m.), Jan. 27 (7 p.m.), Feb. 3 (7 p.m.), Feb. 10 (7 p.m.), Feb. 17 (9 p.m.), and Feb. 24 (7 p.m.).

Meanwhile, the conference's annual exclusive ESPN3 "Game of the Week" regular-season basketball package has been finalized and features a total of 12 productions this year: six women's and six men's telecasts that begin in January.

## Women's Basketball ESPN3 Package

Date	Game	Time
Wed., Jan. 5	Charleston Southern at Gardner-Webb	7:00 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 18	Hampton at Radford	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 26	Campbell at Presbyterian	6:00 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 9	Winthrop at USC Upstate	6:00 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 16	North Carolina A&T at Longwood	7:00 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 23	UNC Asheville at High Point	7:00 p.m.

## Men's Basketball ESPN3 Package

Date	Game	Time
Wed., Jan. 12	Presbyterian at Gardner-Webb	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 15	North Carolina A&T at High Point	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 22	Charleston Southern at USC Upstate	4:00 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 12	Radford at Hampton	5:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 19	Winthrop at UNC Asheville	4:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 26	Longwood at Campbell	4:30 p.m.

# Hokies add former Savannah State head coach Shawn Quinn to football staff

BLACKSBURG – Virginia Tech head football coach Brent Pry announced Sunday that former Savannah State head coach Shawn Quinn has joined his coaching staff.

Pry and Quinn previously collaborated at Georgia Southern in 2010 when Pry served as defensive coordinator and Quinn worked as the linebackers coach. The duo also worked together at Louisiana-Lafayette from 2002-06.

Quinn has spent the past three years as the head coach of Savannah State where he led the Tigers to a 16-6 record after transitioning from the FCS level to NCAA Division II. Quinn's squad went 8-2 in 2021, the program's most victories in 26 years as the Tigers finished eighth in NCAA Division II in total defense (249.8 yards per game). Due to COVID-19, Savannah State did not play a fall season in 2020. The Tigers went 1-1 during a two-game 2021 spring schedule in 2021.

In 2019, Quinn piloted the program to a 7-3 record, the team's first win-



ning record since 1998. He also became just the second head coach in the program's 100-year history to record a winning season in his first year at the helm. He guided Savannah State to a 5-0 record in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference en route to the SIAC East Division title and was

named the 2019 Black College Sports Network Coach of the Year after the Tigers finished the season ranked No. 8 in the Boxtorow HBCU Top 10 Poll. The Tigers posted the conference's top scoring defense in 2019 at 21.1 points per game.

Under Quinn's leadership, the Tigers boasted

15 all-conference players in two full seasons of competition, including 2019 conference freshman of the year RB Einaj Carter. Prior to being named the 26th head coach in Savannah State history, Quinn served as the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach for the Tigers during the 2018 season. His defense finished the year third in the Football Championship Subdivision in pass defense (138.5 yards per game).

Quinn worked as a defensive analyst at The Citadel during the 2017 season where he assisted with defensive game-planning and opponent preparation. He also ran analysis on opponent tendencies during his time with the Bulldogs. He worked as assistant head coach/defensive coordinator at Tennessee Tech in 2016. Under Quinn, the Golden Eagles improved their scoring defense by 7.2 points per game from the 2015 season, including an 11.0-points-per-game improvement in conference play.

Before arriving at Tennessee Tech, Quinn spent three years as the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Western Carolina (2013-15). He held the same roles at Charles-

ton Southern in 2012. He served as linebackers coach and recruiting coordinator at Georgia Southern from 2010-11, where he worked under Pry during his first season. Prior to that stop, Quinn worked as the co-defensive coordinator at Northwestern State in 2009.

Quinn served as the defensive ends coach at LSU during the 2008 season where he helped DE Tyson Jackson earn second-team All-SEC honors. Jackson was the third overall pick in the 2009 NFL Draft by Kansas City. Prior to his time in Baton Rouge, Quinn served as the defensive line coach at Louisiana-Lafayette from 2002-08, working under Pry from 2002-06.

Quinn's collegiate coaching career began in 1999 as a graduate assistant at Tennessee where he worked with the offensive line and special teams. Quinn was part of the staff that led the Volunteers to the 2001 SEC East Division title and three bowl appearances.

A four-year starter on the defensive line at Carson-Newman, he helped lead the Eagles to four straight conference championships. Quinn graduated in 1995 with a degree

in history and political science. He then earned his masters degree in 1998 from Lincoln Memorial.

## QUINN'S COACHING CAREER

2022 Virginia Tech Assistant Coach; 2019-21 Savannah State Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator; 2018 Savannah State Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers; 2017 The Citadel Defensive Analyst; 2016 Tennessee Tech Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator; 2013-15 Western Carolina Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers; 2012 Charleston Southern Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers; 2010-11 Georgia Southern Linebackers/Recruiting Coordinator; 2009 Northwestern State Co-Defensive Coordinator; 2008 LSU Defensive Ends; 2002-07 Louisiana-Lafayette Defensive Line; 1999-01 Tennessee Graduate Assistant-Offensive Line/Special Teams; 1996-99 Maryville High School Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line; 1995 Armuchee High School Outside Linebackers/Tight Ends.

## BOWL GAMES COACHED

2008 Chick-Fil-A Bowl LSU; 2002 Citrus Bowl Tennessee; 2001 Cotton Bowl Tennessee; 2000 Fiesta Bowl Tennessee.

## PROMINENT NFL PUPILS

LB Antwione Williams D5-2016 – Detroit; LB Edwin Jackson FA-2015 – Arizona; LB Darius Eubanks FA-2013 – Minnesota; CB Jeremy Lane D6-2012 – Seattle; DE Tyson Jackson D1-2009 – Kansas City; TE Jason Witten D3-2003 – Dallas.

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