

RADFORD

# News Journal

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## Dancer brings new steps to Radford

By Sean Coatz

Radford, VA. – For a dancer, New York, and Los Angeles are professional magnets with opportunities for regular work. But if you can't get to Broadway, the next best thing is to have Broadway come to you.

That's exactly what Radford University's Department of Dance did by bringing in this year's visiting artist, Maxx Reed, an accomplished commercial dancer, and teacher.

Reed has danced professionally since his teen years, working with the likes of Michael Jackson, Beyoncé, and Mariah Carey and in touring ballet companies and on Broadway.

Last fall, Reed offered a master class on Zoom for Radford students, but he was able to come to campus this spring. He recently taught a pair of masterclasses and spent the evenings choreographing a new piece for Radford's annual Dancing on the Edge show.

Amy VanKirk, Interim Chair for the Dance Department, brought Reed in specifically so students could capitalize on his depth and breadth of experience.

"One of our goals as a department is to create versatile dancers that have multiple opportunities in the professional world," she explained.

The guest artist program helps train dancers in various styles to meet that goal.

"Maxx does a fusion of styles such as jazz, contemporary, Hip Hop, and street styles, so he was a perfect fit to complement the current faculty and offerings," VanKirk said.

It's also an opportunity for Reed to

share his philosophies and advice with eager listeners.

"I'm really having a good time coming here and being able to touch on all the things I find are most important about having a professional career and longevity in the industry," Reed said as he prepared to work with the evening rehearsal group.

Reed said he was setting a "commercial jazz meets street styles HipHop" piece, and the students were responding with great enthusiasm and commitment.

The rigorous and dynamic group piece is challenging, with student rehearsals each night from 5:30 until 9:00 pm, all on top of a day of classes. And in some cases, students also have work schedules to meet.

Despite a demanding schedule, Sophomore Paige Lake auditioned for his week-long intensive program to be a part of this show.

"I'm really glad I did," said Lake. "He's a really genuine person. He'll tell you how it is, but he won't be brutal about it."

She added that these experiences helped her feel more prepared for the professional dance world and life after college.

That's because Reed also spent time with the students to address professional concerns and strategies and offer the benefits of his years of training and experience.

"The kids here are really, really thirsty for new information," Reed said. "And they are excited and focused, and I am enjoying that."

Amiya Williams is in her first year of the program and felt like these

See **Dancer**, page 4



**Maxx Reed explains how he combines styles and traditions respectfully in his classes.**



**Reed demonstrates a one-armed handstand for the students.**



**Students hammer out the choreography with Maxx Reed in an intense week of nightly rehearsals.**

## Radford Community Garden ready for new season

The Radford Community Garden will be enjoying its thirteenth year this upcoming growing season. The Garden is located near the Radford Pump Station on Pulaski Street. The site has a 6-foot fence enclosing it, has a gate that is locked at all times, and sufficient space for the current size of 42 plots.

Gardeners who sign for a plot are given a Rules and Regulations

document which defines their responsibilities in great detail as is necessary for such an undertaking. The plots cost \$20 for the 20 x 20-foot size and \$10 for the 20 x 10-foot size, with the income providing for plowing in the fall, tilling just before the planting season, and any necessary clean-up after the growing season.

Many of the same gardeners have been in the Community Garden

for years, and a friendship exists as they all have a common interest. A variety of vegetables is grown each year, with tomatoes, green beans, and various greens being the most popular. Sign up for the 2022 gardening season on March 14 in the Radford Administration Office. Plots are assigned in the order of sign-up, with priority given to those who previously had a plot.

## Trial date set on murder charges for Radford man

The date for the case of a Radford man charged in the death of his girlfriend's 2-year-old son has been set for a five-day jury trial in July.

Thirty-four-year-old Andrew Byrd was charged with first-degree murder of the child in September 2020. A Radford Circuit Court judge announced the date last week.

The child's mother, Amanda Mitchell, has been indicted by a Radford grand jury and faces six child abuse charges.

Byrd also faces charges for abducting and assaulting the girl's mother after he kept her from calling 911 for emergency assistance.

Court documents show the couple was responsible for the care of three children and had them in their Ninth Street home where they were allegedly endangered.

The investigation showed Byrd picked up Mitchell from work and noticed something was wrong with her child who was sitting in the back seat. Byrd then allegedly struck the woman several times, even forcing a shotgun barrel down her throat.

A search warrant shows police discovered a shotgun, meth, and other drug paraphernalia inside the home.

## Filming underway for Gina Hall documentary

(Editor's note: Today, we begin a three-part series about a documentary and new findings in the Gina Hall murder case. Part 1 examines plans for the documentary.)

Work began this past week in Radford for a documentary based on a 42-year-old mystery surrounding

the disappearance and death of female college student Gina Hall.

For the most part, the documentary came about after the release of a book by Ron Peterson titled "Under the Trestle."

See **Documentary**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF HALL DOCUMENTARY

**Former commonwealth's attorney Everett Shockley unpacks the legal strategy that put Stephen Epperly in prison for life during an interview for an upcoming documentary.**

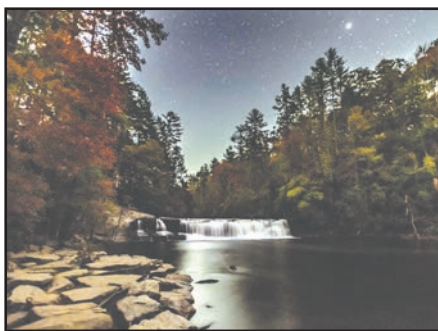
## Award-winning photographer to present night photography session to Radford Photo Club

Adi Ben-Senior of Radford will give a talk on night photography at the March 17 meeting of the Radford Photo Club. The meeting will take place at the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m.

Ben-Senior has been a professional photographer for 30 years, including taking photographs for the Israeli Navy Forces and for the Hebrew nature journal, Teva Ha'dvarim.

He has had solo exhibits at Israel's national museum with a show of black and white images titled "Transparent Faces" and at the Gallerina Arts Gallery of Tel Aviv with a show sponsored by Teva Ha'dvarim titled "Around the World in a Coffee Cup." His numerous international awards include first place from Kodak and the Cultural Center Dunare de Jos Galati in Romania.

Ben-Senior has taught at photo institutions and clubs and has guided



**Adi Ben-Senior of Radford will discuss night photography at the March 17 meeting of the Radford Photo Club at the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m.**

groups on photographic journeys, including the Arctic circle of Lapland, Finland.

The presentation will be followed by an opportunity to take night photos, so participants should dress warmly and bring a camera, a tripod, a flashlight, and batteries.

**MARCH 19, 2022**  
**Blacksburg Country Club**  
Banquet Building  
1064 Clubhouse Road  
5:30 P.M. **DOORS OPEN**  
AND MUSIC BEGINS  
7:00 P.M. **JAZZ ENSEMBLE**  
VT SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

Tickets  
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PER PERSON

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Scan the QR code for tickets or  
Call DeAnne Webb, Blacksburg Country Club  
540-552-9165 (between 9-4 pm)  
Email DeAnne at [membership@blacksburgcc.com](mailto:membership@blacksburgcc.com)  
Also visit: [www.blacksburgbattlescancer.org](http://www.blacksburgbattlescancer.org)

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Of The New River Valley



Through April 30

By appointment only at the Meadowbrook Public Library. The library has prom dresses of all sizes available for free to anyone in Montgomery County, Floyd County, and throughout the New River Valley. Call (540) 268-1964 to make an appointment to try on and choose a free prom dress.

## Sunday, March 13:

At the Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up are welcome to come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

The U.S. Fleet Forces Band will perform at Radford University at 3 p.m. in the Davis Performance Hall at the Covington Center for the Arts. The concert is free and open to the public.

## Monday, March 14:

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 6:45 p.m. with a closed meeting and the regular session following at 7:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in the board room on the second floor of the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Va.

Register to participate in a tiny art show at the Radford Public Library. The library will provide the supplies, and participants will do the artistic work. A small 3x3 canvas will be provided along with paint, and a paintbrush. Return a finished canvas for a tiny art show at the library. Kits can be picked up by registrants on March 14, and tiny masterpieces will need to be returned by April 4 for the Radford Public Library's Tiny Art Gallery.

The Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee will meet on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. at the school board office, 1612 Wadsworth St. Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Josh Brown, Chairperson, at 731-3649, or Daniel Hill, Director of Special Education, at 267-3223, to obtain a virtual meeting link.

## William Ford Teel Estate known as Billy Ford Teel



**Preview Dates: Saturday, March 19th from 9 AM - 4 PM  
and Friday March 25th from Noon to 3 PM**

**Items:**

- 1.** 2009 John Deere 6430, 4 Wheel Drive Power Quad, 120 HP Motor 111 PTO, Cab Heat and Air, 673 Self Leveling Loader, 2 set Hydraulic Hookups 1197 Hr, 18.4/R38 Fire-stone Tires; L06430H596598
- 2.** 1991 John Deere 4255, 120 HP 120 PTO Quad Transmission, 4167 Hrs, Rear Tires 18.4/R38, Front Counter Weight, 2 Hydraulic Hookups, Cab Heat and Air; Ready to go work; RW4255H003583
- 3.** 1986 John Deere 2950, 85 HP 18.4/R34 Rear Tires, 2 New Front Tires, High-Low 8 Speed Transmission, 6200 Hrs 2 Post Canopy; Dual Hydraulic Hookups; L02950T571602
- 4.** 630 John Deere Moco Mower-Conditioner Disc Cutter
- 5.** Kuhn GF 5 1001 4 Head Tedder
- 6.** Kuhn 8 Wheel Rake SR 108
- 7.** 2004 John Deere 467 Mega Wide Round Baler with Monitor, 4,372 Bales (real nice)
- 8.** Woods 3180 Batwing Bush Hog (in good shape)
- 9.** Onan 3pt Hitch Generator
- 10.** Johnson 135 Gallon Boomless Sprayer 3pt Hitch
- 11.** John Deere 8ft Scraper Blade with Hydraulic Cylinder (in real good shape)
- 12.** 3pt Hitch Bale Spear
- 13.** Shaver Post Driver Hydraulic 10 in
- 14.** Set of Wheel and Tires - LT245/75R16
- 15.** Quick Attach Front Bale Spear
- 16.** John Deere Model 953 4 Wheel Wagon 16ft Bed
- 17.** 1998 Eby 20ft Aluminum Cattle Trailer Maverick
- 18.** John Deere 225 Disc 8ft
- 19.** 2001 Ram 2500, V8 Magnum, 5 Speed Manual Transmission, 4 Wheel Drive, 8ft Bed, 81,512 Miles with Electric Wench and Bale Spear
- 20.** Craftsman 5 HP 33 Gallon Air Compressor
- 21.** Platform Scales
- 22.** Jeffrey Cider Press
- 23.** Dodge Tail Gate
- 24.** 250 Gallon Oil Tank

**Terms:** Cash or good check day of sale. All items being sold "as is, where is". Please do not stop at site except on preview dates out of respect for the family.

**Contact – Barry Muse, Auctioneer, Lic.#2907002679  
at 540-875-6432 or email [brlanda@swva.net](mailto:brlanda@swva.net)**



# Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

Learn how to knit or crochet with library staff at the Radford Public Library; 1 to 2 p.m. Needles, crochet hooks and yarn will be available for tutorials and practice during this session of Crafternoon Delight. This group knits, crochets, embroiders, felts, and paints. Knowledgeable staff can help with needlework craft and can help participants learn how to put a blanket together for Project Linus. Supplies will be provided.

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. This homeschool STEM club will explore science, technology, engineering, and/or math. For ages 8 and up.

At the Blacksburg Library; 4 p.m. Dr. Phil Olson (Department of Science, Technology, and Society at Virginia Tech) joins a group of VT students and local experts to discuss the environmental impacts of different funeral practices, as well as local and regional options. Members of the Blue Ridge Green Burial and the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge will be on hand to answer questions and provide information. The workshop will be offered in person and virtually. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for the workshop link.

## Tuesday, March 15:

At the Christiansburg Library; 4 p.m. Turn shaving cream into a painting at the library.

At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. Giving a child a phone or a laptop can be both freeing and scary. Join this workshop for a look at what both parents and their children can do to be safe online. Offered in person and virtually, the workshop will look at websites and applications as well as common concerns many parents have when giving their children their first bit of digital freedom. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for the workshop link.

## Wednesday, March 16:

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Explore the art of Alma Thomas and create a piece inspired by her work. For ages 8 and up. Registration is required.

At the Christiansburg Library; 7 p.m.

## Thursday, March 17:

At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. Discussed this month is "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive" by Stephanie Land.

At the Blacksburg Library; 4 p.m. The School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech presents Art, Community, and Social Health, a series of talks/workshops by nationally recognized artists and thought leaders on the power and practice of art and culture as essential elements of healthy communities. Dr. Michelle Ramos serves on the boards of Dance/USA and the Performing Arts Alliance. A licensed attorney with a PhD in Cultural Psychology, she has significant organizing experience and has committed her career to serving communities and individuals adversely impacted by issues of race, gender, disability, class, socioeconomic, inequitable laws, and systemic oppression. The colloquium will be available in person and via Zoom.

## Sunday, March 20:

In downtown Christiansburg in the town square quadrant in front of the Christiansburg Post Office at 3 p.m.

## Tuesday, March 22:

This is a seminar on Professional Networking, LinkedIn, and Building Career and Relationships; 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Long Way Brewing. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. No cost for chamber members. \$10 for non-chamber members. Brought to you by the Radford Chamber of Commerce.

## Wednesday, March 23:

At the Christiansburg Public Library; 6 p.m. This community meeting will discuss modernization and environmental projects and compliance and corrective actions at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Staff members from the U.S. Army and BAE Systems will be on hand to engage with the public. Questions ahead of the meeting may be emailed to [usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil).

# Blacksburg Take Back the Night march, rally set for March 31

The annual Take Back the Night rally and march in Blacksburg will be held on

Thursday, March 31.

The rally and candlelight march seeks to bring the community together to protest gender-based violence and to promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that perpetuate this violence. United Feminist Movement, the event organizer, encourages everyone to take action to change a society in which many women have reason to fear

being out alone, particularly at night.

Participants will assemble between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Henderson Lawn Outdoor Stage on College Avenue in downtown Blacksburg. The rain location is the Graduate Life Center Auditorium at Virginia Tech.

The rally will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a march through campus and downtown Blacksburg.



# Science, art, and Appalachia: ‘Penny P’s Backyard’ takes a unique approach to children’s television

Children’s television is a vast and varied arena — from trippy animations and puppetry to live-action comedy and educational content. There is a lot of room for creativity and innovation in the world of children’s programming.

Chris Valluzzo realized that despite the variety in kids’ TV shows, a voice from Appalachia has been missing in the industry. And so “Penny P’s Backyard” was born out of a desire to highlight the incredible landscapes of Southwest Virginia and to tell stories that present a unique intermingling between science and local art.

“I had a desire to create a children’s television show. I got the idea after finding an awesome location in Yellow Sulphur Springs, an old historic resort in Southwest Virginia. This was around the fall of 2015. At the time, I just had this beautiful location and not much else,” said Valluzzo, a multimedia producer and director at Virginia Tech’s Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies.

“Coincidentally enough, I was working at the university campus around the time when the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) was coming to life, and I really liked the idea of a fusion between art and science,” Calluzzo said. “So I began noodling that concept. Before that, I didn’t have much appreciation for the intersection of art and science.”

Valluzzo received a grant to write the first season of “Penny P’s Backyard,” but the production of a full-fledged TV show is a time-consuming, labor-intensive process. “It’s already been a five-year process, and it will likely take another five years before we can get the show on the air,” Valluzzo said. “We’re currently looking into streaming services in case they’d be interested in producing it. The show is about Penny P, an 11-year-old budding auteur, and her three best friends, Nelly, Ramp, and Sadie. They explore their vibrant Appalachian mountain community by creating short films about the exciting connections they discover between science, art, and culture.

“Penny P and her three friends produce movies and animations about the world around them, and in doing so, they discover the connections between art and science, finding that the two seemingly different fields can share a common language,” Valluzzo said. “It is a fictional, episodic children’s television show that will be shot in the New River Valley. I wanted to create a children’s TV show, but I didn’t really want to have to leave Blacksburg to do it. So I wrote a show around where I live.”

Besides highlighting the beauty of New River Valley, parts of the show will be filmed on the Virginia Tech Blacksburg campus. The university will be fa-



PHOTO BY ANDREW MCELVERY

**‘Penny P’s Backyard’ creator/executive producer Chris Valluzzo, left, discusses a scene set up with director of photography Darren Van Dyke, right, as the crew sets up for another take.**

ilitating production and consultations with faculty experts for the scientific portions of the show.

Valluzzo was a student at Virginia Tech, where he took many Appalachian studies classes and graduated in 1998 with a degree in interdisciplinary studies from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. His background in documentary filmmaking is largely based on the culture and music of the region.

“There are precious few things that the national media ever do to paint Appalachia in a positive light. I wanted to break that mold,” Valluzzo said. “This show gives a chance to people in New York City or Los Angeles and other countries of the world to learn about an area that they only hear negative things about. For me, getting to tell a positive story is a driving force behind making this show.

“And honestly, we’re not trying to say that Appalachia is devoid of any problems,” Valluzzo said. “But we want to start a discussion that good things happen here. There are good people who love their children. There is art and education and interesting stories here, and the region isn’t one homogenous area full of is-

sues.”

Even when it comes to production, Penny P takes the road less traveled. Hollywood is the second highest polluter industry in the Los Angeles area, and Valluzzo has no intention to add to this environmental destruction, especially since the show will be shot in the ecologically important regions of Appalachia.

“I’ve written 12 episodes of this show, and location scouting is going to be very easy for us,” Valluzzo said. “Every location that the script takes place in is a location I have seen. Appalachia is not just a background for the show, it actively shapes the story.”

“Penny P’s Backyard” is a truly homegrown endeavor that utilizes local talent and all the good things that Appalachia has to offer. Valluzzo is particular about who he hires for the show and makes sure that production does not add any extra pressure on the environment.

“One of our big efforts is to make this show as environmentally sound as possible,” he said, “I have hired some very competent freelancers in Roanoke and the broader East Coast. This will minimize traveling and ensure we have input from local talent.”

## Virginia Tech named one of healthiest campuses among U.S. universities

Virginia Tech has received the 2022 Active Minds Healthy Campus Award as one of the healthiest college campuses in the nation.

In its sixth year, the award celebrates U.S. colleges and universities that provide access to quality health care, serve students’ physical health, and give equal priority and investment to mental health.

Virginia Tech joins four other colleges and universities in receiving the Healthy Campus Award: Auburn University, Barstow Community College, Stevens Institute of Technology, and the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg campus.

“At Virginia Tech, we endeavor to see well-being emphasized in every aspect of the student life experience. We are extremely proud of and are committed to continuing the work taking place across campus to support our students’ physical and mental

health,” said Frank Shushok Jr., vice president for student affairs. “We’re also especially excited to launch the complete transformation of our housing model this fall through our Residential Well-being initiative that places well-being, inclusion, and belonging at the forefront of the residential experience.”

“It is quite an honor for Virginia Tech to receive the Active Minds Healthy Campus Award, which places value on an institutional commitment to student well-being, with a focus on proactive work around mental health,” said Chris Wise, assistant vice president for student affairs. “This award not only highlights the work of our well-being units on campus, it also highlights a deep commitment from campus partners in student affairs, academic affairs, the Office for Inclusion and Diversity, student organizations, and many oth-

ers to support the strategic priority of well-being and student success.”

The review panel for the Healthy Campus Award cited the following innovative practices in particular at Virginia Tech:

Commitment to sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented long-term solutions: The Virginia Tech Mental Health Initiatives Task Force has worked to implement recommendations supporting mental health on campus.

Proactively addressing systemic injustices: Virginia Tech’s Principles of Community and the Student Affairs Anti-Racism Commitment, along with InclusiveVT Project 2022, are fundamental to the university’s ongoing efforts to increase access, inclusion, and diversity within its community.

Measuring results and sharing progress to continuously motivate, guide,

and focus action: Virginia Tech takes the evaluation of health and wellness data seriously and is committed to using the evaluations to make informed decisions that lead to positive results.

“Virginia Tech stands out because of their collective well-being-focused approach to ensure a sustainable system uniting mental health efforts on campus,” said Alison Malmon, founder and executive director of Active Minds. “Virginia Tech is a model for prioritizing mental health amongst students and combating this concern by facilitating proactive resources on campus.”

The Healthy Campus Award involves an extensive application process as well as multiple endorsements. Each applicant is assessed across 10 criteria with winners chosen by a panel of students, prominent researchers, and experts in health and higher education.

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You have the opportunity to purchase a great tract of land for sale in Willis VA. This property features +/- 26.384 acres of wooded land. This Floyd County property for sale is in a great location, just 15 minutes from the Town of Floyd and 30 minutes from Hillsville VA and Christiansburg VA. The land is wooded but has the potential for great building spots with some clearing. This property would also be great for hunting or recreational use

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# OBITUARIES

## Akers, Charles ‘Fuzzy’ Williams

Charles “Fuzzy” Williams Akers, 83, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, March 5, 2022.

He was a truck driver for over 50 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Orville and Mabel Akers; a daughter, Susie Quesenberry; a brother, Dockie Akers; and a sister, Carolyn Akers.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Kim and J. D. Owens; son Eddie and Stephanie Akers; the mother of his children, Carole Akers; grandchildren Sunshine Quesenberry, Tre Owens (Meagan), Caitlyn Winemiller (Amy), and Koy Winemiller (Becca); five great-

grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law Wayne and Sharon Akers; and many other relatives and friends.



The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until noon today, Saturday, March 12, 2022, at the Childress Church of God. Memorial services will begin at noon with Pastor Ronald Smith officiating. Interment will follow in the Newbern Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The Akers family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

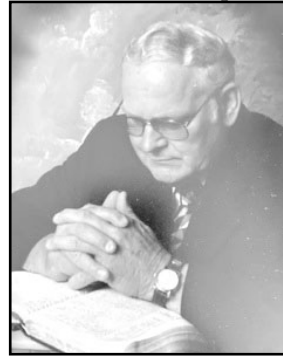
## Buckner, Jerry R.

Jerry R. Buckner, age 80, of Christiansburg, passed away on March 7, 2022.

He is survived by his wife of 60 1/2 years, Freda Jean Buckner; a daughter, Gina Arnold; a son, Dale Buckner and his wife, Renee; four grandsons: Trinity Heckman (Jessica), Brett Buckner (Jesse), Brock Buckner (Devon), and Blake Buckner (Brooke); and a special great-grandson, Zander Heckman.

He will be greatly missed by his family and all his many special friends.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral



Home Chapel with the Rev. Craig Reed, the Rev. Jube Burk, and the Rev. Connie Wilson officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

In lieu of flowers, the children requested monetary gifts for their mother. The family received friends from 5 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

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### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, [www.stphilipsblacksburg.org](http://www.stphilipsblacksburg.org). Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist 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](http://www.sttofc.org) for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hersherberger, 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](http://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](http://www.trinitycburg.org).

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: [www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@Snowville-ChristianChurch.com](mailto:office@Snowville-ChristianChurch.com), Sunday Worship Ser-

vice: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: “Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!”

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 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](http://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](http://clcradford.org). 540-639-2671.

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. [lchristopher695@comcast.net](mailto:lchristopher695@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](http://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](http://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](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc).

# Radford

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### WALK IN HIS STEPS

Read Deuteronomy 32:1 through 34.12

“What would Jesus do?” Pastor Charles Sheldon of Topeka, Kansas, asked his congregation this question in 1896 when he preached a series of messages on the topic. Sheldon then wrote a book of fiction titled In His Steps. The book asks what Jesus would do when confronted with poverty, racism, pride, and homelessness. In the 1990s the motto was revived and people wore bracelets and T-shirts with the letters WWJD?

Before he died, Moses reminding the Israelites to consider God's truths.

“Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life” (Deuteronomy 32:46–47).

Teaching the next generation is the responsibility of the present generation. We do this best by leading by examples. When we face tough issues, we can be sure people are watching our reactions. At these times, it is good to ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?”

Prayer Suggestion: God, with Your help, I will walk as Jesus walked.

Quicklook: Deuteronomy 32:44–47

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

# OBITUARIES

## Nixon, Nancy India Bane

Nancy India Bane Nixon, age 84, (Colleen); a sister-in-law, Julia Styne; born on March 10, 1937, completed her life's earthly journey on March 3, 2022, at home supported by her children.

Nancy died peacefully in her sleep after a brief illness. She was born in Vicksburg, Miss., to her loving parents, the late Howard E. and Mary Harman Bane.

Nancy graduated from Christiansburg High School and then went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Radford University. On Aug. 2, 1958, she married Samuel Henry Nixon, Jr., and they celebrated 52 years of marriage before his death in 2010.

She is survived by her loving children, Samuel H. Nixon III (Kelly) and Rebecca E. Nixon (Michael Collins); six grandchildren, Amanda Nixon (Shane), Morgan Gustafson (Dennis), Shanna McKenzie (Dawson), Eben Collins, Hayden Collins, and Ernie Cross; a brother, Buddy Bane



Humane Society Animal Shelter, 1183 Flanagan Dr., Christiansburg VA 24073.

Special thanks to the Medi Home Health and Hospice team and all the wonderful caregivers that helped Nancy through the years.

A celebration of life is planned for Saturday, March 19, 2022, at 1:00pm at Christiansburg Presbyterian Church. Family will receive friends afterwards in the Church Fellowship Hall.

## Sarver, Virginia Evelyn Johnston

Virginia Evelyn Johnston Sarver, 90, of Pearisburg, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on March 6, 2022, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

She was born in Goodwin's Ferry, Va., on June 4, 1931 to the late Charles and Verna (Kessinger) Johnston.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Alvin Edwin Sarver; her son, Ritchie Dean Sarver of Ohio; her brother, Charles Johnston of Orlando, Fla.; sisters Nancy Epperly and Alice Simmons, both of Christiansburg; and a brother, Thomas, who died as an infant.

Evelyn is survived by her son, Paul Sarver (Sharon) of Christiansburg; her daughter, Verna Sarver Pack of Pearisburg; her grandchildren, Melissa Sarver Simpkins (Phillip), Amy Sarver King (Todd), and Michael Sarver (Grace). Also surviving are several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, some nieces and nephews; special friends Rita and Jerry Palmer, Rachel

Johnston, Shirley Meador, George Harris, and Daniel Puckett, and the girls at Friends & Family Restaurant in Pearisburg.

The family received friends Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg, VA 24060 at 1:00 p.m. The funeral followed at 2:00 p.m. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

Flowers are appreciated, but in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund at the Pearisburg First United Methodist Church, 401 Hale St., P.O. Box 400; Pearisburg, VA. 24134.

The funeral service was also live-streamed on Sharon Sarver's facebook page for those who were not able to attend.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the family requested masking and social distancing. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.



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Legals - Montgomery County

JEFFERSON", DATED JUNE 21, 1988, PREPARED BY CLEAN WATER ENGINEERS, INC., AND DESIGNATED AS DRAWING NUMBER S-8, WHICH MAP IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 158. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). VA-307497-2.

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, March 22, 2022 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 Jacqueline Marshall, owner, and Shaun Chuyka, lessee, to allow a contractor's equipment storage yard in the General Business District (B-3) on property located at 301 Depot Street, NW, Tax Parcel 526 - ((23)) - (BK1) - 12, Parcel ID 007535. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.  
  
B. Rezoning request by John D. and Armeda V. Elmore, owners, and Garand Hopkins III, contract purchaser, from Agricultural District A to General Business District B-3 for a portion of the property located at 710 Peppers Ferry Road, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 23; Parcel ID 021274. The property is designated as Residential 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 Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1120 or by email at [btripp@christiansburg.org](mailto:btripp@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2828 RALEIGH CIRCLE, SHAWSVILLE, VA 24162.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 20, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$83,020.59 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 03014311. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia on April 18, 2022, at 3:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE SOUTH FORK OF ROANOKE RIVER, WHICH POINT IS N. 2 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 44 SECONDS W. 50 FT. FROM THE CENTER LINE OF VIRGINIA SECONDARY ROUTE NO. 637, AND BEING THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF PARCEL NO. 2, AS SET FORTH AS SECOND IN DEED TO FERDINAND W. WASKIEWIEZ, JR. AND TERESA A. WASKIEWIEZ, HUSBAND AND WIFE, DATED JUNE 16, 1977, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 385, PAGE 46, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA; THENCE LEAVING SAID ROANOKE RIVER, S. 2 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 44 SECONDS W. 513.06 FT. TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THE PROPERTY OF THOMAS F. WOOLWINE (SEE DEED BOOK 380, PAGE 488); THENCE WITH THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID THOMAS E. WOOLWINE PROPERTY, N. 87 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 56 SECONDS

Legals - Montgomery County

W. 177.91 FT. TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 5 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 40 SECONDS W. 102.03 FT. TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 4 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 20 SECONDS E. 99.00 FT. TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 11 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 20 SECONDS E. 333.0 FT. TO THE SOUTH FORK OF ROANOKE RIVER THENCE S. 80 DEGREES 53 MINUTES E. 139.23 FT. TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 2.072 ACRES AS SHOWN ON SURVEY MADE FOR ALFRED T. WHITELOCK BY JACK G. BESS, CERTIFIED LAND SURVEYOR, DATED OCTOBER 17, 1978. TOGETHER WITH A ONE-HALF INTEREST IN THE WATER LINE AS APPURTENANT TO SAID REAL ESTATE, LEADING FROM SAID HOUSE AND LOT SOUTH ABOUT 560 FEET TO THE SPRING AS SAID PIPE LINE IS NOW LOCATED, TOGETHER WITH NECESSARY EASEMENT FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF SAID WATER LINE FROM THE SAID HOUSE AND LOT TO THE SAID SPRING, WITH THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS UPON THE LANDS OF D.V. AND EFFIE M. JEWELL AS SET FORTH IN DEED FROM JEWELL TO LEWEY OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 107, PAGE 437, AND ALSO RIGHT TO TAKE WATER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES FROM THE SPRING AS SET FORTH IN DEED FROM EFFIE JEWELL SISSON AND HUSBAND TO JAMES L. SISSON, DATED FEBRUARY 5, 1958, AND OF RECORD IN SAID CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 208, PAGE 52. THIS IS EXCEPTED FROM THIS CONVEYANCE THAT PART OR THE LAND CONTAINED IN VIRGINIA SECONDARY ROUTE NO. 637, AS CONVEYED TO COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 171, PAGE 304, IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE. THIS CONVEYANCE IS MADE SUBJECT TO 12 FT. ROAD RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT ALONG THE WESTERLY SIDE OF CAPTION PROPERTY

Legals - Montgomery County

LEADING FROM VIRGINIA SECONDARY ROUTE NO. 637 TO ADJOINING PROPERTY; TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). VA-325893-2.

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email [lhurst@ourvalley.org](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

Legals - Montgomery County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1650 BOW HILL ROAD, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 25, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$43,700.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 06000887. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia on April 11, 2022, at 3:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THOSE CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND BEING ALL OF TWO (2) TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY STYLED "PLAT OF PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED BY NELL T.

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Radford, Auburn boys face teams loaded with talent in state finals

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Both the Radford and Auburn boys' basketball teams will play in their respective state championship games with Radford facing John Marshall, the no.1 ranked team in Class 2. Auburn will play underdog Washington and Lee.

The John Marshall Justices are 21-4 overall including a 44-point win over Greenville County in the Region 2A Championship game.

Auburn will seek back-to-back state titles. Washington and Lee beat Lancaster in the semifinals to reach the title game.

John Marshall can go big with a front line of 6-10, 6-7, and 6-6 or can go completely with a five-guard offense.

Sophomore Damon "Lil' Redd" Thompson and senior Reginald Robinson bring a lot of quickness to the backcourt with the Justices going at least 10 deep.

On a team of stars, none shines brighter than 6-foot-6 junior Dennis Parker, Jr.

Already a top national college recruit, he can play point guard or move to center. He already carries scholarship offers from LSU, NC State, Texas A&M, the University of Mississippi, and VCU.

Radford should also expect to see a lot of 6-10 Tyler Mason and 6-7 Malachi Dark.

After dropping from Class 3, John Marshall has dominated state hoops in the lower enrollment classification in recent years. The Justices won state titles in 2014, defeating George Wythe-

Wytheville 74-56; in 2018, defeating Western Albemarle 63-42; and in 2020, defeating Gate City 75-57.

W&L (15-7) shocked Lancaster 59-57 to advance to the state championship matchup with Auburn. Lancaster had beaten W&L three previous times including a 74-42 romp in the Region 1A championship game.

The game marks Washington & Lee's first appearance in the state finals since 1998 when the Eagles defeated John S. Battle 68-62 to claim the championship.

## Sports notes: Hokie Hi weekend, RU Red and White Gala

The Virginia Tech athletics department has announced plans to hold its first-ever "Hokie Hi: Weekend at Home" event, an expansion of festivities held on campus in Blacksburg surrounding Tech football's annual spring game presented by PMSi.

The inaugural weekend will take place April 14-16 and will offer Hokie Nation the chance to cheer on a number of Tech sports, including softball, baseball and men's tennis. The weekend will culminate with Virginia Tech football's spring game, its first under head coach Brent Pry, set for 4 p.m. in Lane Stadium.

Additional details surrounding "Hokie Hi: Weekend at Home" will be announced closer to the dates.

Tech football will hold its first practice of the spring at noon on Saturday, March 19. Current season ticket holders and the general public are invited to attend. Admission is free, and gates will open 30 minutes prior to the start of practice.

Current season ticket holders will be receiving exclusive communication via email regarding Tech's open practice.

Following the Hokies' football practice that Saturday, fans are invited to attend a number of other sporting events on campus, including lacrosse against Syracuse at 1 p.m., softball against North Carolina at 2 p.m. and baseball against Pitt at 3 p.m.

**RU Red & White Gala**  
 Radford University Athletics and the Highlander Club have announced that the 2022 Red & White Gala will

take place on Friday, June 3, inside the Dedmon Center.

The evening will feature a silent auction that can be attended in person or virtually, as well as a live auction, dinner, and an open bar. Former Radford Athletics radio voice Wes Durham will be in attendance to serve as the event's guest of honor.

All proceeds from the event will go toward the Radford Athletics Scholarship Annual Fund, helping to ensure all of the university's student-athletes have the necessary financial means to compete for championships and provide the best collegiate experience on and off the playing field.

Individual tickets will cost \$125 per person while a pair can be purchased for \$225.

**Wells secures new job**  
 Former Blacksburg head football coach Thad Wells has a new job. Lakeway Christian School's Board of Directors has announced his hiring as Lakeway Christian's head football coach. The school is located outside Knoxville.

Wells previously spent 10 years in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina with a 106-48 career coaching record.

CHS graduate named Marshall special teams coach

Former Blue Demon and Virginia Tech tight end Johnathan Galante has been named the new special teams coach for Marshall University. Galante has served as an analyst at the University of Alabama since 2019. He also worked previously as a graduate assistant working with special

teams at Tech.

**H2okies qualify**  
 Senior diver Teagan Moravek placed first in the women's 1-meter event at the 2022 NCAA Zone A Championships Monday afternoon with a score of 610.70, punching her ticket to the Women's NCAA Championships in Atlanta.

Moravek was joined in the competition by senior Izzi Mroz, who was a finalist and ended the competition in 17th place, and freshman Miah Fisher.

On the men's side, Noah Zawadzki and Daniel Valmassei qualified for the finals with Zawadzki placing seventh, just 17.6 points away from an NCAA invite. Valmassei earned a top-10 finish as well, placing 10th.

**CHS grad places on relay team**

The Concord University men's track & field team has had five athletes selected to the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches' Association (USTFCCCA) All-Atlantic Region Team, the organization announced Tuesday afternoon.

The top five individuals in each event from each region earned All-Region distinction, in addition to each member of the region's top 3 relay teams.

Joining Prather on Concord's all-region distance medley relay team were freshman Ethan Board, senior Cedric Drennen, and junior Alex Watty of Christiansburg.

The team missed a school record at the Mountain East Conference Championships by five seconds as the quarter clocked a time of 10:11.25.

## Five teams take part in Blacksburg Soccer Jamboree



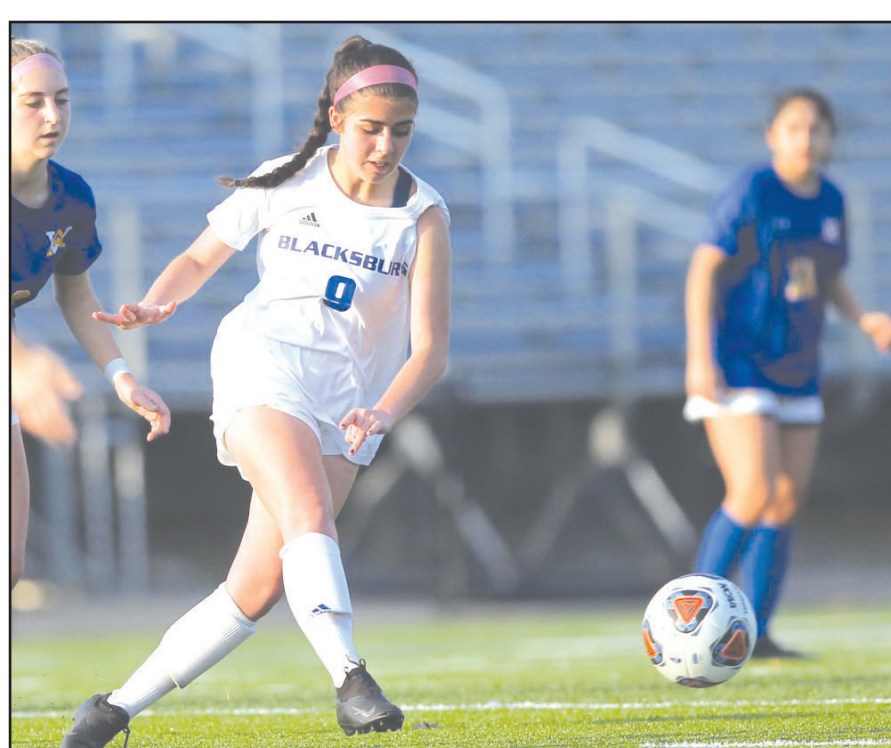
**Christiansburg's Jordin Harris advances the ball against Liberty Christian Academy during the Blacksburg Soccer Jamboree held last Saturday. Five teams took part in the jamboree: Christiansburg, Spotswood, Harrisonburg, Liberty Christian, and Western Albemarle. Each team played two scrimmages to help get ready for the spring soccer season.**



**Christiansburg's Lilly Shepard looks for a teammate during a preseason scrimmage against Harrisonburg at the Blacksburg Soccer Jamboree.**



**Blacksburg's Julia Howland possesses the ball along the Blacksburg backline against Harrisonburg as the Bruins hosted a preseason soccer jamboree last Saturday.**



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

**Blacksburg's Ava Massjouni passes upfield against Western Albemarle during the Bruins' Soccer Jamboree held last Saturday.**

## Christiansburg's Allen to play football at Concord

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Reid Allen became the sixth player from last season's Christiansburg High School football team to commit to play college ball when he announced a commitment to Concord University where he will compete for a job as a long snapper.

The Blue Demons finished 10-2 this past season as the Region D Class 3's top team.

Concord was the first school to show interest in Allen, and after going on a visit, he said he really liked the coaching staff, the school, the atmosphere, and the campus.

"I think I can go and compete for

a starting spot while getting a great education," he said.

Concord University is a public university in Athens, W. Va., with an enrollment of 1,800, is an NCAA Division II school, and is a member of the Mountain East Conference. Concord finished 4-6 this past year in Dave Walker's first full season as head coach.

"I want to make the dress squad and compete for the starting spot in week 1," Allen said. "I also want to gain as much knowledge as I can to help prepare me for my coaching career in the future."

Allen plans to major in health and physical education/history to gain his teaching degree.

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# Radford girls eliminated at state



Radford High Senior Laney Cline drives around a Gate City defender in state playoff play. Radford lost 47-39 and was eliminated from the Class 2 playoffs. Cline finished with 11 points.



Radford senior Jada Dean gets into the lane for a layup and two of her six points in the Bobcats' state quarterfinal game. Radford finished the season with a 15-7 record.

## Auburn team wins rec department's senior league tourney



The team from Auburn won the Montgomery County Recreation Department's senior basketball league championship after beating a squad from Eastern Montgomery 21-17 this past week to finish the season 7-1. Pictured (front row, left to right) are Gage Tawney, Micah Tawney, Steven Bussey, Kruse Kuhn, James King, and Izac Lucas; (back row, left to right) Assistant Coach Eli Tawney, Trenton Gurnee, Aiden Ballard, Colt Lawson, Danton McClellan, Kamdon McClellan, and Coach Michael Pennington.

## PETS OF THE WEEK



Billy Ray came to the Animal Care and Adoption Center a bit unsure and timid, but over time he has opened up and shown himself to be a sweet pup. He will need a patient, loving home where he can get acclimated to the sights and sounds of the world around him.



Handsome Baloo has been a resident at the center for a short period of time. He is a gentle boy looking for the bare necessities of life: an indoor home, good food, and loving humans to call his own. Stop by to meet Baloo. He could be your purrfect match!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

|         |        |         |
|---------|--------|---------|
| NOWAY   | REC    | COMB    |
| ALAMO   | EDO    | ASIA    |
| RERAN   | DIN    | EACH    |
| CASSIA  | OFT    | SKAT    |
|         | NIXIE  | AAHS    |
| CANASTA | CMDR   |         |
| IRANIAN | EPA    |         |
| DATING  | OUTAGE |         |
|         | COD    | ARBITER |
|         | SENE   | BASEMEN |
| STOA    | INCUR  |         |
| CHUB    | SSR    | YAHOO   |
| ARIL    | TEE    | LOATH   |
| BIDE    | ISO    | MUFTI   |
| SPAS    | CTN    | ARSON   |

## Airman

After several examinations, misidentifications, burials, exhumations, and re-examinations between 1945 and 1953, the other three men were conclusively identified, but one set of remains, designated X-188 Fin-schhafen #3, couldn't be positively identified. X-188 was buried at Fort William McKinley Cemetery, now known as Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, in the Philippines, and Benson was declared non-recoverable.

In May 2003, Benson's son,

James H. Benson, reached out to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), a DPAA predecessor, requesting another assessment of association between his father and X-188. Later that year, he also submitted a thorough, detailed research report by retired Marine Col. Jack O. Forgy about the complexities of the case.

Disinterment was not a common practice for JPAC, despite many attempts by Benson's son to move the case forward over the

years. Shortly after DPAA was formed in 2015, Benson's son reached out in another attempt to move the case forward. X-188 was disinterred in January 2020 and sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, for analysis.

To identify Benson's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

used mitochondrial DNA and autosomal DNA analysis.

Benson's name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Manila, Philippines, along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Benson will be buried May 14, 2022, in his hometown.