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## Arbor Day Foundation recognizes Radford as a 'Tree City USA'

RADFORD - The City of Radford has again been named a 2021 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Radford achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: forming a tree board or department, creating a tree-care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

"Trees help make our lives better in Radford, not just through their beauty but by helping enhance our environment in many ways and keeping our community green and sustainable," said Radford Mayor David Horton. "I am thankful to the Radford Commission on Beautification and Municipal Forestry, the city horticulturist, and the entire Radford team who does the hard work to help us qualify as a National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA."

City officials say planting trees in urban space comes with a myriad of benefits past the recognition of this program. Urban tree plantings help reduce energy consumption by up to 25%, which will reduce general energy costs and help with the overall cooling of the city as well. In addition, members of the community benefit from properly placed trees as they increase property values from 7 to 20%. Trees also positively affect the local ecosystem by helping to clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity.

"The City of Radford is honored to be recognized as a Tree City USA once again," said Nick Lancaster, Radford's horticulturist. "We planted dozens of trees on public property in 2021, including over 50 new



PHOTO BY ETHAN BELL

**The City of Radford has an impressive number of trees on public land and has once again been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.**

trees on Sundell Drive alone. Our goal is to continue these efforts in 2022 and to engage our citizens in the plantings, so be on the lookout for tree care education resources and information about how you can get involved."

"Tree City USA communities benefit from the positive effects that an urban tree canopy has year after year," said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the

Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees being planted and cared for by Radford ensure that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program helps cultivate a sense of stewardship and pride for the trees the community plants and cares for."

For more information on the program visit: [arborday.org/TreeCityUS](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUS).

## School community invited to take survey for 2022-23 school calendar

**Heather Bell**  
[communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

RADFORD - Parents, guardians and other members of the Radford City Public Schools community are being asked to participate in a survey choosing one of two options for the 2022-23 school calendar.

The two choices follow meetings of each school's leadership team and a survey of all staff members. Now, the community can weigh in.

"RCPS Administration met with each schools' Building Leadership Team (BLT) during February

to discuss the 2022-2023 School Calendar," reads an announcement by RCPS. "Feedback from the team was collected and used to create a slide deck to inform staff members about what was discussed in the meetings and to guide them when taking the Calendar survey."

The results of the staff survey are available at the start of the community survey on the school system website [www.rcps.org](http://www.rcps.org) as a slide deck titled 2022-2023 School Calendar Survey.

"There are a few results that differ from school to school, such as the staggered first days and

RCPS will most likely conference with each school in its decision to stagger the first day or not," the announcement continued. "From the results of the staff, two calendars have been created: Calendar Draft A and Calendar Draft B. RCPS encourages the school community to review the slide deck and to take the 2022-2023 Calendar Survey."

The 2022-2023 Calendar Survey opened March 9, 2022 and can be taken until Wednesday, March 30, at noon. Results will be posted on March

See **Calendar**, page 4

## Fine Arts Center honors young artists and their teachers

PULASKI - March is Youth Art Month, and the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley is celebrating young artists and their teachers through two concurrent exhibits of youth art.

The first exhibit in the Edna B. Love

Gallery, located in the Center, contains winning pieces from across Southwest Virginia in the Scholastic Art Awards. The awards, offered annually, not only

See **Arts**, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**The artwork of area students is currently on display in downtown Pulaski for Youth Art Month, celebrated in March.**

## VT's YMCA recognizes international women community members



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**The YMCA at Virginia Tech celebrated International Women's Day by recognizing three international women community members: Aphie Fancon, Manju Batra, and Rejane Pratelli.**

The YMCA at Virginia Tech celebrated International Women's Day, which falls in March of every year, by recognizing three International women community members: Aphie Fancon, Manju Batra, and Rejane Pratelli.

The three women were recognized for demonstrating a spirit of perseverance, making an impact in their community and setting an example of service in the New River Valley.

Serving in a public office is Aphie Fancon, born and raised in India. She pursued a career in

See **Women**, page 4

## Lenten Rose in bloom in Radford

Radford reader Rebecca Harris captured the beauty of this Lenten Rose recently in Radford. "Spring is here in Radford!," Harris wrote. "The Lenten rose has bloomed in gardens for over a hundred years, and it blooms at the season of Lent." Lenten rose (*Helleborus x hybridus*) is not a rose; it's a perennial hybrid hellebore belonging to the buttercup family. It is bred from crossing *Helleborus orientalis* with other closely related species. The two-part common name of Lenten rose refers to the plant's bloom season, which is around the Christian season of Lent that falls in late winter, and its rose-like flower buds, according to The Spruce, a gardening website.



PHOTO BY REBECCA HARRIS

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Through April 30

**Free prom dresses**  
By appointment only at the Meadowbrook Public Library, which 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.

## Saturday, March 19:

**Click Smarter: Properties of Light with Charlie Whitescarver**  
At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. to noon. Professional photographer Charlie Whitescarver of Whitescarver Photography, LLC will teach on cameras and the skills involved in photography. Properties of light and other tips will be the focus for this program.

**Caturday**  
At the Christiansburg Library; noon to 1 p.m. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

**Teen DND**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. DND for teens.

## Sunday, March 20:

**Unveiling ceremony: African American Memory and Storyboard Project**  
In downtown Christiansburg in the town square quadrant in front of the Christiansburg Post Office at 3 p.m.

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

## Monday, March 21:

**Crafternoon Delight for adults only**  
Learn how to knit or crochet with library staff at the Radford Public Library from 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 participants with their needlework craft. Projects will also be available to learn how to put a blanket together for Project Linus with supplies provided.

**Pokémon Club**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Pokémon fans can bring their DS or Pokémon cards and get ready to battle, trade, and make new friends. All ages.

## Tuesday, March 22:

**Radford Chamber of Commerce seminar series**  
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.

**Chess Club for Teens and Pre-Teens**  
At the Radford Public Library; 6 to 7 p.m. Match chess skills with teen librarian Dave.

**Radford City School Board Meeting**  
The Radford City School Board will have a regular meeting 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).


**Melted Crayon Art**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Celebrate National Crayon Day a little early by creating melted crayon art.

## Wednesday, March 23:

**Radford Army Ammunitions Plant community meeting**  
At the Christiansburg Public Library at 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).

## Thursday, March 24:

**Ortho Virginia presents Concussions**  
At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Dr. Kaitlin Mahoney discusses concussions:



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What are they, what are the symptoms? She will also discuss treatment, prevention, and safety. The workshop will be offered in-person and virtually. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for the workshop link.

**Kids’ Birdhouse Building**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Kids can build and decorate their very own birdhouses.

**Adulting 101: How Not to Go Broke with Lisa Van Wickler of New York Life**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. New York Life Insurance representative Lisa Van Wickler discusses how to be financially successful in your young adult life. This program will be offered in person and online. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for the link to participate.

## Friday, March 25:

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fill a grocery-size bag for \$5. Larger bags priced accordingly. Individual items: \$1 for hardbacks, \$.50 for paperback, \$1 for CDs, Audio Books, and DVDs. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library. Cash or check only please.

## Saturday March 26:

**Introduction to Quilting for Kids: How to Sew a Straight Seam**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Make and take a standard size pillowcase while learning the basics of sewing machine use and the importance of stitching on a straight line. Kits will be provided. Ages 8 to 12 accompanied by an adult. Participants are encouraged to bring their own sewing machines, but machines will be provided. Irons will be provided and used by adults. Class is co-sponsored by The Quilting Party.

## Monday, March 28:

**Scams Against Older Adults with Better Business Bureau**  
At the Radford Public Library; 1 to 2 p.m. Presented by Riley Ginger, Community Outreach and Events Coordinator of the Better Business Bureau serving Western Virginia. Register to attend by emailing [Elizabeth.Sensabaugh@radfordva.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Sensabaugh@radfordva.gov). Sandwiches will be provided via registration. Options include vegetarian or turkey 6” from Jimmy Johns. Participants can email their sandwich preference when they register to attend.

## Saturday, April 2:

**Blacksburg Leaf Compost Pick up**  
Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive for composting, and is available to Blacksburg residents for pick up. This is an important service as composted leaf mulch keeps leaves out of the landfill. Leaves can take up valuable landfill space and produce harmful greenhouse gasses.  
This year, the compost can be picked up on April 2, from 8 a.m. to noon. To arrange for pickup, residents must register and follow these guidelines: Leaf compost service is for Blacksburg residents only. Register for a 15-minute time slot. Do not arrive more than 10 minutes early. Remain parked in the upper lot until town staff provide directions to the compost zone. There the staff will load up the vehicle. The limit is two cubic yards per vehicle. Do not block access to the road leading to the compost zone. Once the vehicle is loaded, please exit promptly.

## Tuesday, April 5:

**50 Years in the Making: Celebrating old time, blues and bluegrass music**  
All concert ticket sales will benefit the Montgomery Museum of Art and History. The concert is presented by the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). at the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Children 12 and under are \$5. Seating is limited and tickets are now available online at <https://montgomerymuseum.org/events/50-years-in-the-making/>. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Moss Arts Center box office during certain open hours. For more information, call the box office at 540-231-5300. A mask, photo ID, and proof of COVID19 vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of the event are required for admittance.

## Thursday, April 7:

**American Legion Meeting**  
The American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

## Tuesday, April 12:


**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at Aly’s Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Thursday, April 14:

**River City Quilt Guild**  
The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

## Saturday, April 16:

**Radford Easter Egg Hunt**  
At Bisset Park; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The schedule for the age groups is as follows: Noon: ages 3-5; 12:25 p.m.: ages 6-8; 12:30 p.m. :ages 9-12; 12:45 p.m.: ages 3 and under. Bounce houses, fire trucks, police cars, food trucks, and photos with the Easter Bunny will be part of the fun.. Please bring a basket.



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# OPINION

## Buddy King: Second in a series promoting Christiansburg’s really big reunion June 10-11

Growing up in a small community where your dad was Superintendent of Schools was not easy. I don't remember being too much affected by the experience until high school, but looking back on the time later, I realized that he was the “boss” of all my teachers and coaches and principals from the time I entered first grade until I graduated from high school. And many of my classmates noted that he signed all of their report cards. So there was an every-6-week reminder to my peers of who I was and an everyday reminder to my teachers when they called roll.

To compound my situation, my doting old maid Aunt Maggie was the longtime government teacher at CHS, a renowned educator known for her high standards for her students, but one who would have thought I was the best and brightest even if I hadn't been able to spell cat and had participated in the Manson murders.

My Mom had also been a teacher and my other doting aunt – Mary Alma – was in the midst of a long run as the math and algebra teacher at Auburn High just a few miles away. Teaching was the family business and the faculty at CHS was my extended family from the time I was born.

I am sure that I must have received favorable treatment at school. At least subconsciously, my teachers and coaches would not want to think I was going home and laying them out in front of the folks. I immodestly note here that I did very well in the Montgomery County Public School System. I pretty much got all “As” and won many academic awards and played several sports. But how much was I helped by my father's position?

I learned later, after I was at UVA undergrad and William & Mary Law, that my Dad was relieved that I did quite well in my “higher ed” years, validating my years in the MCPS. I think he felt that the college years showed that I wasn't purely the beneficiary of favoritism from the schools that he ran. Notwithstanding my superlative record during the “Christiansburg Years,”; however, I did have my moments where I didn't please my parents.

This is one of those, perhaps the ultimate failure. I have written before about the great group of pals I had at CHS: Bo, George, Bobby, John, Jay, Garry, Bob, Russell, the “Gregs.” More or less model students in our younger years, we became a bit rebellious in our last two years of

high school, the classic big fish in the smallpond; however, we were much more like Richie Cunningham's gang on “Happy Days” than Leonardo DiCaprio's in “Gangs of New York,” generally performing harmless pranks and amateurish (and largely unsuccessful) attempts at catching the attention of the girls in our class. But one episode stands out as the lowlight of those years, a point in time which I would change if I could. It was more than I should have put my Dad and others through.

It was the spring of my senior year, a “dangerous” time for most kids. Your die was largely cast, your grades were pretty much fixed, your plans for the next several years were mostly laid out, your college admission was in hand if you were lucky enough to be able to go, your sports career was over, thus eliminating the fear of coaches' discipline. You get my drift: a time of minimal risk and plausible deniability.

Back to the story. A few weeks before graduation, several of the science classes at CHS were booked for a trip to the chemistry and biology laboratories at Virginia Tech, presumably to ready some of us for what we would soon be facing. I was a particularly odd choice to go, given that my future plans had nothing to do with taking classes that involved spending time in “labs” or being on the campus at Tech. But it beat sitting in class.

Now, as Paul Harvey used to say, here is “the rest of the story.” Our classes were divided into four groups for the trip. To this day I recall that my pals and I were “Group 4””: Mrs. McKee's physics students. For several years after, my gang and I liked to yell “Group 4” over here!” when we got together.

At this point, the teachers in charge of the field trip made a significant tactical error. They all sat together on one bus, “Group 4” and the nondescript “Group 3” getting on the second bus unchaperoned. To make matters even worse, the driver of our bus was a student, a classmate, hardly someone “Group 4” saw as a threat to a good time. Jimmy.

The 7- or 8-mile trip over to the Tech campus, as well as the tour of the labs (you've seen one, you've seen 'em all, right?) were uneventful. The return trip is where things went sideways.

Literally. Leaving Blacksburg, the bus carrying the “Group 4” miscreants was behind the first one carrying the adults.

Someone, I truly don't remember who, decided that it would be unacceptable to finish second, so we started a chant: “Pass the bus Jimmy, pass the bus.” Our student driver, a kid who took his responsibilities seriously, and one who truly did not want to become part of a news story, refused our demands. As I recall, we got stopped at the red light at the bowling alley near the outskirts of Christiansburg. At this point, we elevated our demands to “threat level.” We told Jimmy that if he didn't pass the bus in front of us we would turn his bus over. So, we started “rocking” the bus with about 20 kids standing and swaying heavily from side to side.

I was told by passengers in the first bus that they could actually see our bus going from side to side on its wheels while we sat at the stop light. Needless to say, our performance did not go unnoticed. Within seconds of pulling up behind the school, several members of “Group 4” were accosted by horde of administrators, most notably our principal Oma Ross and assistant principals, Dick Ballengee and Wayne Booth. I remember being whisked by Mr. Booth into his office. He was sponsor of the Student Council and was thus heavily invested in me since I was president of the organization. I still remember that he was so angry he couldn't talk, finally just pointing to the door to get me out of his sight.

When I went home that evening, my Dad had of course heard accounts of the incident. He was only mildly relieved to learn that “rocking” the bus did not involve throwing rocks, as he had incorrectly interpreted the story. To say that this was the maddest I ever saw him would be a gross understatement.

The postscript to this story was what happened the next day at school. A group of girls in our class, a few even marginal participants in the incident, led I believe by the indomitable Sara S., had gotten a bunch of large metal buttons (originally carrying Mad Magazine slogans) and had painted “Don't Rock the Bus” on them. We wore them in class. This memorialized one of the least noteworthy events of my high school years.

*Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Septoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@septoe-johnson.com.*

## Arts

from page 1

provide an opportunity for students to win awards for their art but also to have them displayed publicly, with the top winners moving on to the national competition. Winning art is also available on the Fine Arts Center's website in an online gallery.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are the country's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7–12 and are sponsored by the nonprofit organization, the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. At the national level, students compete for more than \$37,000 in scholarships from the Alliance and may have an opportunity to have their art displayed in New York or in a national exhibit. The national winners were announced on March

17, and Southwest Virginia winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony at the Pulaski Theatre on March 27 at 3 p.m.

In addition to the Scholastic Awards, each March the Fine Arts Center honors art from students of all ages which is submitted by area art teachers. This year the Center is once again displaying over 100 pieces of student art in the windows of nearby local businesses along Main Street as well as the Pulaski County Library, located at 60 Third Street NW.

“We enjoy hearing many appreciative comments from people who pass by the window displays, sharing the fine work our students create and the dedication of the art teachers who are helping them develop their art skills,” said Fine

Arts Center for the New River Valley Executive Director Becky Latucca.

Visitors to downtown can view the Scholastic Award-winning pieces during the gallery's open hours, but much of the Youth Art Month display is viewable any time. The shows run through the end of March.

The Fine Arts Center is located at 21 West Main Street in historic downtown Pulaski. The center is supported, in part, by funding from the Town of Pulaski, Pulaski County, the C. E. Richardson Benevolent Foundation, the Randolph Foundation, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts as well as through membership and donations. For more information about the Fine Arts Center and to view other events or to sign up for a class, please visit their website at FACNRV.org.

## Women

from page 1

city planning when she and her family moved to Florida in 2002. Fancon got her graduate degree from the University of Florida. In 2015, she moved to Blacksburg. She is currently working as the Community Development Director

at the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC). Her volunteer work in the community has included helping in several programs such as Meals on Main and Welcoming Week with the YMCA, Renew the New, and food drives for Feeding Southwest Virginia and Radford Head Start.

One of the YMCA's longtime volunteers, Manju Batra is an active member within the international community. Batra grew up in India in an extended family and learned from an early age to be a helper in her neighborhood, just like her mother. She came to the United States in 1972 after getting married. Before coming to Virginia, she lived in Missouri where she was involved with her children's schools and volunteering at the BW Robinson State School for children with disabilities.

Batra joined the YMCA at VT when the family moved to Blacksburg in 1994. She loves to welcome newcomers and help them make friends

with other community members. It gives her a sense of fulfillment to help newly arrived international people to settle down as she was once in their shoes and remembers how challenging it was to find her way when moving to a new country.

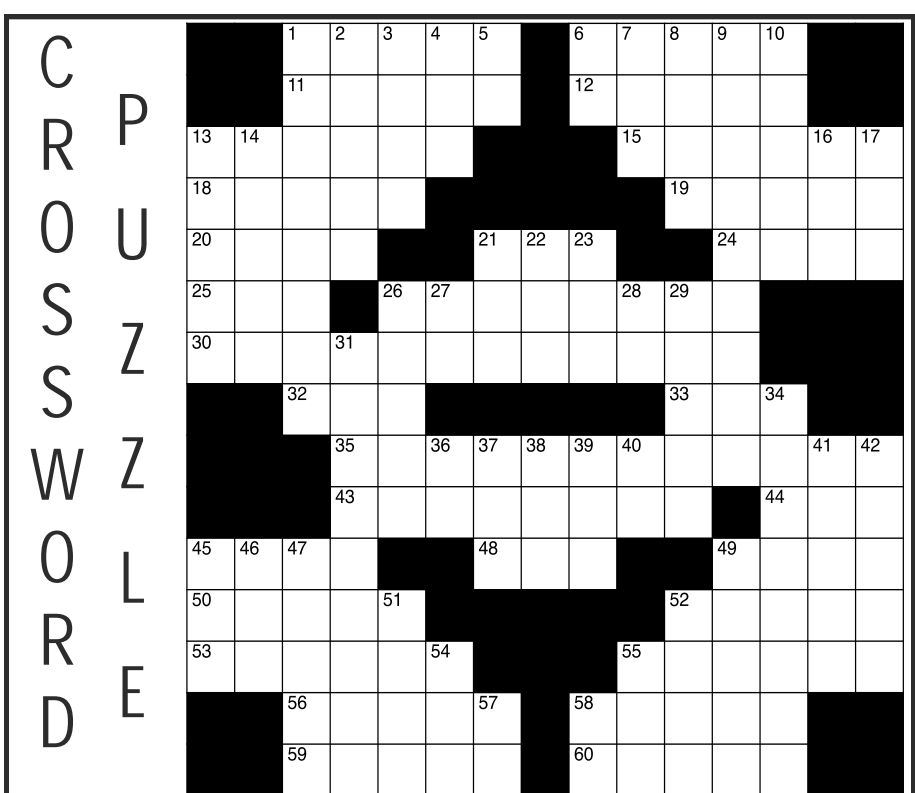
In the face of adversity, Réjane Prатели discovered her strength and new path in arts. Born in France, she earned a PhD in plant biology and pursued her research in various countries. She arrived in the U.S. in 2007 and settled in Blacksburg in 2009. In 2013 an aneurysm left her unable to speak and unable to use her fingers for a number of months and brought her academic career to an end.

She turned to art to heal and ground herself. An introductory sterling silver jewelry workshop in Blair Anderson's studio near Washington, D.C., sparked a deep love and respect for that metal and provided the outlet she needed. After a few years of practice, she fully recovered the use of her fingers and grew both her

skills and her confidence.

Through the YMCA's annual Craft Fair she found that her art was well received. She eventually started her jewelry business, Anvil, Fire & Time, in 2018. Since then her work has focused on the exploration of textures, using them to reflect the complexity of the human psyche and to fight the pressure society places on all of us, but especially on women. Prатели has been helping the YMCA since with planning and organizing the annual Craft Fair.

The YMCA at VT also took the opportunity to celebrate Women's History Month with an open house and presentation on the life and achievements of Lucy Lee Lancaster, who was one of the first five women students at Virginia Tech (1925). She led an active life leading many organizations while working as a librarian and traveling to 52 countries. Lancaster was a board member of the YMCA at VT for many years and before her death bequeathed her house to the organization.



<b>CLUES ACROSS</b>		35. "Sophie's Choice" actress	3. Marshland area of E. England	36. Mobile camper
1. Duck cartoon character	43. Encloses completely	44. Decaliter	4. Flood Control District	37. Affirmative (slang)
6. Town in Guinea	45. Makes angry	48. Commercial free network	5. Canadian province (abbr.)	38. Bachelor of Laws
11. Upright posture	46. Makes angry	49. Latvian capital	6. Project Runway designer	39. ___ Angeles
12. Rest on your knees	47. Grooved surface of a tire	50. Tycho ___, Danish astronomer	judge's initials	40. State police
13. Move upward		52. Leave slowly and hesitantly	7. Along with	41. U.S. gold coin worth 10 dollars
15. Disposed to take risks		53. Harm to property	8. Orderly and clean	42. Bets on
18. Makes a sweater		55. Dining, pool and coffee	9. A short-barreled pocket pistol	45. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
19. Grooved surface of a tire		56. Remove all traces of	10. Extraterrestrial being	46. Macaws
20. Identical in kind		58. Yemen capital	13. Ancient capital of Ethiopia	47. Julie Andrews and Judi Dench
21. Radiotelegraphic signal		59. Passover feast and ceremony	14. Goof	49. Capital of Morocco
24. "Picnic" author William		60. Trenches	16. Annoy constantly	51. Oh, God!
25. Bashkir Republic capital			17. Haitian monetary unit (abbr.)	52. ___ Carvey, comedian
26. Male highlanders			21. Arrived extinct	54. Point midway between E and SE
30. Doing several things at once			22. Belonging to a thing	55. Principle of Chinese philosophy
32. Title of respect			23. Tounge click	57. Trauma center
33. Old world, new			26. Fireman's signal	58. Atomic #62
			27. Connecticut	
			28. 3rd tone of the scale	
			29. Language spoken in Russia	
			31. Split occupancy	
			34. Diacritics for s's	

## Calendar

from page 1

31, 2022. The survey can be accessed at [www.rcps.org](http://www.rcps.org) on the home page under the heading “2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR SURVEY.”

The two calendar choices are as follows:  
Calendar A - Staggered First Days (August 15/16)  
Holiday Break (December 22 - January 4)  
Workdays (Jan. 5-6) Students return January 9, 2023  
Winter Break (March 10/13)

Spring Break (April 10-14)  
Last Day of School (June 2)  
Calendar B - No Staggered First Days - All students come August 17  
Holiday Break (December 21 - January 3)  
Workday (January 4) Students return January 5, 2023  
No Winter Break  
Spring Break (April 10-14)  
Last Day of School (May 31)



# OBITUARIES

## Hepler, Anna Woods

Anna Woods Hepler, age 92, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at her home.

She was born in Christiansburg on Aug. 30, 1929, to the late Lloyd and Bertha Akers Woods. She was preceded in death by her infant brother, William F. Woods; her first husband, William (Bub) H. Graves; and her second husband, Paul Hepler.

She was a past member of First United Methodist Church, Pearisburg, and was a member of Blacksburg Baptist Church at her death. Ann was an X-Ray Technician at Bluefield Hospital, at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, and for Dr. Seagle's orthopedic office. She was an avid golfer and was a loyal friend to many. Ann loved to travel and traveled the world.

She is survived by her daughter Pat Graves; cousin Rick and Dot

Cupp; sister-in-law Vi Graves; nieces and nephews Deni Dillon, Cathy and Rick Alcorn, Pam and Don Huvar, Gary and Sharon Graves, Charlie Graves, Cindy Graves, and Eddie Joe and Sandy Graves.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, March 20, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, March 21, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Blacksburg Baptist Church with Tommy McDearis and Todd Millsaps officiating. Interment will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bright Focus Foundation for Macular Degeneration Research, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871.



## Long, Eleanor Ann McRoberts

Eleanor Ann McRoberts Long, 81, of Pulaski County, passed away Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents, John Edgar and Lucille Akers McRoberts; and daughter, Lorna Shumate.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Tyrone "Tony" G. Long; children, James "Jimmy" Long of Radford, Connie Creed (Kenny) of Blacksburg, Susan Ramsey (Greg) of Raleigh, N.C., and Dana Scott of Fredericksburg; son-in-law, Ron Dellinger of Roanoke; grandchildren, Carl Powers (Tara), Brad Powers (Maureen), Jason Powers (Elizabeth), Michelle Lawrence, Jamee Thornton, Carrie Eaves, Ty Ramsey, Walker Ramsey, Joshua Scott (Denise), and Rebecca Scott; great-grandchildren, Kourtney, Cody, Keegan and

Luka Powers, William Whitlock, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Calli and Chloe Thornton, and Taylor and Kaylee Lester; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 3 until 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2022 at the Fairlawn Church of God. Funeral services will follow at 5 p.m. with Minister Dana Scott and Pastor Marcus Harrison officiating. Entombment will be private in Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Fairlawn Church of God, 7858 Peppers Ferry Blvd., Radford, VA 24141.

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



See **Obituaries**, page 6

### 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. [l.christopher695@comcast.net](mailto: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](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

## OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Read Joshua 14:1 through 17:18

Sometimes, in the pursuit of God's will, we "spiritualize" our natural desire for comfort. We make "faith statements," claiming that if God is leading us, every problem should resolve itself. That is not the reality of godly living. Scripture is filled with examples of God's people encountering obstacles while following divine directives.

Division of the Promised Land among the Israelites came with the responsibility of engaging enemy nations. Israel's record in fulfilling that responsibility is spotty. As just one example, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh claimed their inheritance was too small.

"If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites" (Joshua 17:15).

Joshua reminded the descendants of Joseph that much of their inheritance in the Promised Land remained to be conquered. They needed to step up to that challenge.

Prayer Suggestion: As God shows you what He wants you to do, pray in faith that He will help you overcome the obstacles.

Quicklook: Joshua 17:14-17

**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

## Fisher, Naomi Faye Adkins

Naomi Faye Adkins Fisher, 76, took the hand of Jesus and stepped into her heavenly home on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

She was a 1963 graduate of Dublin High School, retired from Inland Motors and a member of Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Iva Adkins; her brothers, Marvin and Roger Adkins; and her sisters, Elizabeth Hill, Doris Tolley, and Colleen McGhee.

Survivors include her husband, Michael Lee Fisher; daughters Dawn Draper (Clovis) and Rhonda Batchelor (Raymond Maxwell Jr.); son David Alan Meredith (Donna); five grandchildren: Clovis Draper, Jr., Jessica Meadors (Jacob), Joshua Richards, Jeremy Richards, and Emmerson Scott; four great-grandchildren: Joel, Mya, Jace and

Raylon; a special little brother, Ronald McGuire; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

The family thanks her caregivers, Angela East and Medi-Hospice, especially Rachel Megan, Pastor Rob, Pastor Mike, Mindy, Desiree, Kandis, Alecia, Kim, Kimberly, and her loving neighbors, for all their love and tender care.

The family received friends on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at 6 p.m. with the Rev. Lee Sarver and the Rev. Perry Slaughter officiating. Interment was held on Friday, March 18, 2022, at 10 a.m. in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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



## Wills, Jr., Wirt Henry

Wirt Henry Wills, Jr., 98, of Blacksburg died after a short illness on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. in Christ

Episcopal Church with the Rev. Scott West officiating. The family received friends prior to the service at the church. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## PETS OF THE WEEK



Blue is a pawsome pup looking for his furever home. In his short time at the Animal Care and Adoption Center, he has come out of his shell. He arrived a little skittish but has grown to be sweet, friendly, and curious to meet new people. He enjoys hanging out with other dogs and will gladly sit for a delicious treat.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Honey can be a little vocal upon first meeting, but she is as sweet as her name, once she gets to know you. She enjoys being petted by her favorite humans. She would love a quiet home free from too many distractions and sounds that may startle her. Honey has a neurological condition that impacts her walking but it may subside with time and medication.

# Turmoil in Ukraine, the world's breadbasket, adversely affecting Virginia farmers

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is impacting global grain exports and production, oilseeds, fertilizer and petroleum, and is creating volatility for Virginia farmers.

"Ukraine is a country that's sensitive to shipping and sensitive to agricultural production," said Robert Harper, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation grain manager. "Ukraine is one of the top five corn producers in the world."

Harper said that over 1 billion bushels of corn are exported from Ukraine, but because of the conflict, that crop will not be planted this year.

"This is creating extreme volatility in the futures markets," he said.

Qu Dongyu, director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, wrote in a Morning Ag Clips op-ed that Russia is the world's largest exporter of wheat and Ukraine is the fifth largest. Together, they supply 19% of the world's barley, 14% of wheat and 4% of corn, making up more than one-third of global cereal exports.

Since more than 30% of the world's wheat comes from the Black Sea nations like Russia and Ukraine, "traders see that as 30% of the world's wheat disappearing," Harper said. "And the world is trying to figure out what we'll do if we lose 30% of our wheat."

Compounding this is the inability of commercial vessels to travel freely through the Black Sea, where Ukrainian ports have shuttered. That affects grains, crude oil, and fertilizer, Harper said. "Producers in Virginia will be dealing with the consequences of that."

Dr. Mark Alley, professor emeritus of crop and soil environmental sciences at Virginia Tech, told a gathering of cotton growers recently that the components of major fertilizers used in Virginia agricul-

ture also are affected.

"Belarus and Russia are significant exporters of potash and nitrogen, and these are now off the world market," Alley said. Fertilizer prices in the U.S. have increased as much as 200% from this time last year.

Lewis Everett, a cotton, peanut and small grains farmer in Southampton County, said the rise in fertilizer prices is negatively affecting his farm.

He said even though prices for cotton are decent, inflation, supply issues and extremely high fertilizer costs mean that he'll operate in a deficit. "Even though we're looking at a high commodity price, our cost of production is going to offset the margin difference in accelerated or inflated cotton price," Everett said.

Everett added that he's concerned about the availability of supplies as well as the increasing costs of fertilizer and fuel. "And at what level of the ratio between the commodity price and the cost of production does it fall out at a net margin?"

He said the cost of nitrogen has more than doubled, and he typically applies it to the cotton throughout the growing season. "So that's just one fertilizer product ... that will definitely sting a little bit as we move into the '22 production year."

Amelia County beef cattle, small grains and produce farmer Kenney Barnard said he's noticed fertilizer prices increasing for a while now. Last fall when he fertilized his small grains, it cost \$150 per acre. "Within six weeks it had gone up \$30 an acre," Barnard said.

Even though that was before the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he's concerned now. Increased input costs for fertilizer and fuel "are the highest I've ever seen," said Barnard, who's been farming since 1968.

# Students vie for prizes in today's Nutshell Games

Today, March 19, 30 Virginia Tech graduate students will take the stage at the Moss Arts Center to share their work as participants in the 2022 Center for Communicating Science Nutshell Games.

Each contestant will have 90 seconds, roughly the time it takes to air three Super Bowl commercials, to wow the audience and a panel of judges using everyday language and a single prop to tell the story of their work and their passion for it.

Center Director Patty Raun, Associate Director Carrie Kroehler, and their team developed the games in 2017 to help students develop the ability to share their work with almost anyone and to do so in a concise way, "research in a nutshell."

The games are designed to offer a platform for practice in a fun, competitive way, and the time limit, about 30 seconds longer than the average elevator speech, provides added incentive to focus on the essence of the research and hold the audience's attention. Five winners each receive \$500, and all contestants receive a video of their presentation.

Because the aim is to reach people from a range of backgrounds and experience, the seven judges include academics and members of the larger Blacksburg community, including a seventh-grader. Graduate School Dean Aimée Surprenant is a member of the panel.

The games go to the heart of the center's mission. Raun has said that

researchers and scholars in the physical and social sciences need to be able to communicate their work clearly and effectively with people outside their disciplines and with the general public to build trust and relationships. She has noted the increasing need to address thorny problems in an interdisciplinary manner and with people outside the academy, and strong communications skills are key to success in such ventures.

"This year the event is being held as part of the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the center," Kroehler said. "We launched the center in 2017 with the Nutshell Games, and we're really looking forward to hearing this year's talks — and to being back in person."

The games begin at 4 p.m. at the Moss Arts Center and admission is free.

The judges are Carol Davis, Town of Blacksburg sustainability manager; Sylvester Johnson, director of the Virginia Tech Center for Humanities; Elin Kelsey, spokesperson, scholar, educator, and author, University of Victoria School of Environmental Studies; Karen Roberto, executive director of the Virginia Tech Institute for Society, Culture and Environment; Daniel Sui, senior vice president for research and innovation, Virginia Tech; Aimée Surprenant, dean of Virginia Tech's Graduate School; Asaiah Townes, a seventh-grader from Dalton Intermediate School in Radford.

**For Sale - Misc**

**FOR SALE**  
Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

**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 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

**Legals - Montgomery County**

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 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

**Legals - Montgomery County**

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 AFORSAID CLERK'S OFFICE. THIS CONVEYANCE IS MADE SUBJECT TO 12 FT. ROAD RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT ALONG THE WESTERLY SIDE OF CAPTION PROPERTY

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

**Legals - Montgomery County**

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 Mortgagee, 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.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.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: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). VA-325893-2.



# RADFORD SPORTS

## Former CHS baseball player suffers damage to eyesight

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Former Christiansburg High School player Ian Perkins, who two years ago enrolled at Southwest Community College to play ball at the junior-college level, is fighting to retain his eyesight after a freak accident near the college campus.

According to reports, Perkins and several of his teammates were attending a bonfire event earlier this week when someone threw a bottle into the fire. It exploded, sending fragments flying.

Perkins was struck in an eye by the debris. He underwent emergency surgery at a Johnson City, Tenn., medical facility on Monday, and so far, his updated condition

is not known.

This past summer in travel baseball, he batted .438 with five doubles, two triples, one home run, 25 RBIs, and 21 runs scored.

An outfielder and pitcher, Perkins has appeared in 15 games this season for SWCC and is batting .263 with one home run, three RBIs and 10 stolen bases.

## Auburn's Allyson Martin named Mt. Empire District's girls basketball player of the year

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Auburn High School's Allyson Martin has been named the Mt. Empire District's 2021-2022 girls' basketball player of the year.

Martin was joined on the first-team by teammate Hannah Huffman. Kaitlyn Lafon was named to the MED second-team while Amelia Terry and Morgan Mundy were honorable mention.

On the boys' side of the court, Auburn's Ethan Millirons was named to the MED first team while teammate Nick Millirons was named to the second team as was their teammate, Bryce Gill.

Samuel Duncan and Michael Wilson were honorable mention.

Auburn's Terry Millirons was

named the Class 1 Region C coach of the year

Eastern Montgomery's Morgan Bahnken was named to the girls' all-region second-team.

In the Three Rivers District, Radford High School placed three players on the boys' first team: Gavin Cormany, Landon Clark, and Elijah Kelly. Teammate Nate Wesley was named to the second team.

Radford's Laney Cline was named to the Three Rivers District girls' first team while Haley Whit and Jada Dean were second-teams.

Cormany was named to the Class 1 Region C boys' basketball team, and Landon Clark and Elijah Kelly were second team. Cline was joined on the girls' first-team all-region squad by Radford teammate Jada Dean while Haley Whit was second team.

## Key dates for Tech football's offseason

With Virginia Tech's first spring practices under head coach Brent Pry set to begin this week, plenty of excitement and positive momentum surround the next chapter of Hokies Football.

New season tickets are still available for as little as \$350 with flexible payment plan options.

From the team's open practice today, March 19, to 100 days until kickoff in late May and everything in between, here are some of the key dates during Tech's offseason.

**Today, Saturday, March 19 | Open Practice**

Season-ticket holders and fans are invited to attend Tech's practice in Lane Stadium today. Gates open at 11:30 a.m. and admission is free.

**Tuesday, March 22 | Pro Day**

Earlier this month, six former Hokies were invited to the NFL Combine in Indianapolis to showcase their talents in front of NFL personnel executives and coaches. After turning in some impressive performances, including an astounding 4.36-second 40-yard dash from Amare Barno, those six players will be joined by additional Tech alums for the Hokies' Pro Day in Blacksburg starting at 2 p.m.

Be sure to follow Tech Football on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for full coverage.

**Thursday, March 31 | Hokie Scholarship Fund Giving Deadline**

The Hokie Club's annual Hokie Scholarship Fund benefits giving deadline falls on Thursday, March 31, this year. All gifts must be received by that date to solidify membership level and priority point ranking ahead of the Lane Stadium seat improvement process for football season ticket holders later this spring.

**Saturday, April 16 | Spring Game**

After paying respect to the 32 Hokies who lost their lives on that fateful day in 2007, the Hokies will hold their annual spring game in Lane Stadium at 4 p.m.,

presented by PMSi. The spring game will be part of Tech's first-ever "Hokie Hi: Weekend at Home" event, taking place from April 14-16 and offering Hokie Nation the chance to cheer on a number of Tech sports, including softball, baseball, and men's tennis.

Registration is also now open for Virginia Tech's annual 3.2-mile Run in Remembrance, which will take place that Saturday, April 16. The event will begin with a moment of silence at 9:43 a.m. to honor and remember the vibrant lives of the 32 students and faculty who were tragically killed in 2007. The event's 3.2-mile loop around the Blacksburg campus begins and ends on the Virginia Tech Drillfield near the April 16 Memorial and passes by landmarks such as the Duck Pond, the Grove, and the Virginia Tech Pylons, and will take runners and walkers through Lane Stadium.

Visit [RecSports.VT.edu/RunFor32](https://RecSports.VT.edu/RunFor32) for registration details, T-shirt purchasing options, and event updates. For more information on Day of Remembrance activities, visit [WeRemember.VT.edu](https://WeRemember.VT.edu).

**April 28-30 | NFL Draft**

The 2022 NFL Draft will take place in Las Vegas with a few Hokies expecting to hear their names called as they take the next step in their football journey. The first round begins at 8 p.m. on NFL Network, ABC, and ESPN.

Last April, Tech had four players selected in the NFL Draft: cornerback Caleb Farley (Titans, No. 22 overall), tackle Christian Darrisaw (Vikings, No. 23), safety Divine Deablo (Raiders, No. 80), and running back Khalil Herbert (Bears, No. 217).

**Wednesday, May 25 | 100 Days to Kickoff**

The Hokies open their 2022 football season against Old Dominion in Norfolk on Friday, Sept. 2. The countdown to kickoff officially begins on Wednesday, May 25, as that date marks 100 days to Tech's season opener.

## Elizabeth Kitley centered on more than basketball

By Jimmy Robertson

On a random February afternoon, shortly after a visit to the sports medicine area to secure treatment for midseason aches and pains, Elizabeth Kitley looked at her phone to assess her inventory of missed calls.

The Hokies' superstar center on the women's basketball team — recently named the ACC Player of the Year, ACC Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and currently getting ready to lead the Hokies to their second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance — smiled and shook her head. One number, with the corresponding person designated by a purple heart, showed up multiple times on her screen.

Her biggest fan was trying to reach her.

"She calls me all the time," Kitley said.

"She" is Kitley's older half-sister, Raven. Though separated by nine years' age, the two share an undeniable bond.

Once roommates in the home of Ralph Kitley, their father, they are now each other's best friend. They share a love for sports. They express an affinity for competition.

"We're two peas in a pod," Raven Kitley said. "We've pretty much always been that way."

Yet, they differ in one respect. Elizabeth Kitley is one of the nation's best basketball players. Raven Kitley is autistic.

"She was diagnosed around middle school, but I don't know if I ever really understood it honestly until eighth or ninth grade," Elizabeth Kitley said. "We've never really talked about her as being autistic. She's my sister. She's Raven."

Being autistic doesn't preclude Raven from being competitive. She participates in Special Olympics, which provides athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, in basketball, volleyball, softball, and roller skating. These games not only provide opportunities for physical fitness, but they also allow these athletes to establish needed friendships outside their families.

The social interaction alone is invaluable.

"It is so important to find ways to welcome and include all people of differing abilities," said Angela Scarpa, the director of the Virginia Tech Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research located in VT's College of Science. She has a son who is autistic. "Special Olympics provides one

Opportunity[for inclusion]. These sorts of activities offer a sense of belonging and foster the kind of confidence that we all want for our loved ones," Scarpa said.

The Kitleys would echo those sentiments. They also make Special Olympics a family affair. Elizabeth Kitley even participated with Raven in Special Olympics as part of a unified team while in high school.

"It's cool to see her with other people that



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

**Elizabeth Kitley has been special on and off the court this season, earning ACC Player of the Year honors and maintaining a close relationship with her half-sister, Raven, who has attended all but a couple of her games.**

she feels get her," Elizabeth said. "She made a lot of friends on that team, which is cool because she's 30 years old and she's not in school, so she doesn't get that experience to see people her age or people like her anymore. Special Olympics gives her that opportunity."

Raven Kitley found a close friend when Virginia Tech coach Kenny Brooks started recruiting Elizabeth early in her career at Northwest Guilford High School. Brooks and Raven bonded quickly when Brooks visited the Kitleys' home in Summerfield, N.C., so much so that Brooks gave her his phone number and the two stayed in touch regularly.

"He was the first coach that actually didn't see just Elizabeth," Raven said. "He saw the family. He and I have a relationship based off that."

That relationship played a role in Elizabeth's decision to come to Virginia Tech. She made visits to other schools, but no staff made her sister feel as important as Brooks and his staff. In fact, the coaches made a lanyard specifically for Raven when she came up for a visit with Elizabeth. They made her feel as if she were a recruit, too.

"We went to another school, and we went into the lobby to sign Elizabeth in," said Ralph Kitley, a former player at Wake Forest. "They gave Elizabeth a lanyard, and there was no lanyard for Raven. Raven then walked into the building and was like, 'No, I don't see this happening. She's not going here.' I think Virginia Tech had set that bar so high with how they had treated her."

Understanding the demands on a head coach, Ralph put a limit on

See Kitley, page 8

**Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance**



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# At the 100-year mark, the women of Virginia Tech are helping other women thrive

By Melody Warnick

In the hundred years since Virginia Tech admitted its first five female students, women have become a mighty force at what was once an all-male institution. Their biggest champions? Often other women. Here, the women behind four female-focused campus communities share how they stand up for faculty, staff, and students.

United Feminist Movement

At the end of March, more than 600 T-shirts will flutter from ropes strung across the Drillfield, each color-coded to represent different kinds of pain. Red, pink, and orange are for survivors of rape or sexual assault; yellow is for survivors of battery and assault; purple is for those who have been attacked because of their sexual orientation; green and blue are for survivors of incest or childhood sexual abuse; black is for those who have been disabled by violence; and white is for those who have died. Up close, the messages they bear about gender-based violence become visible: “I will not get over it, but I will get past it.” “I am a survivor, and I will fight for those that cannot.”

Since the Clothesline Project was brought to the New River Valley in 1994, over 600 shirts have been made, many by women at Virginia Tech. “Those shirts are homegrown,” said Susan Anderson, a senior instructor in the Department of Mathematics and the long-time faculty advisor to United Feminist Movement, the student organization that coordinates the project on campus. “We live in a fairly safe community here in Blacksburg, but this kind of violence still happens here.” She talks about a United Feminist Movement member who was raped in an off-campus apartment. “It took her a long time to be able to sleep at night.”

At the Take Back the Night rally on March 31, United Feminist Movement students will offer simple strategies

for creating positive change, such as intervening as a bystander or politely condemning sexist or homophobic jokes. “We do not believe that just coming to a Take Back the Night is going to stop violence in our community,” Anderson said. “But we do believe that if 500 people are at Take Back the Night and they all listen to survivors’ stories, then they in their own individual everyday life can do these small little steps. By collectively doing these things every day, 500 people are going to lessen violence in our community.”

Hypatia Living-Learning Community

Of 2,321 first-year students accepted into the College of Engineering in 2021, only 501 were women. But when Haritha Gnanasegar was a first-year computer engineering student, she had no idea she was in such a minority. That’s because she lived in the Hypatia living-learning community for female engineering students.

In Hoge Hall, Hypatians, as they’re called, live, study, and socialize among fellow female engineers. It’s where Gnanasegar found a built-in support system in a male-dominated major. “It is empowering and encouraging to see that you’re not the only one struggling, and you have other people there to hold your hand while you all walk together,” she said.

Women living in Hypatia are invited to network with corporate partners and alumni looking to mentor or recruit women in engineering. They also take a first-year experience course specifically for Hypatia students where they “find a safe space to have those open and honest conversations about being a woman in engineering,” said DeAnna Katey, director of undergraduate student programs for Virginia Tech’s Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity (CEED).

Behind the scenes, Katey and her CEED team even batch Hypatians

into first-year science and math classes together so they’ll feel less alone. “They can see, ‘OK, they’re might not be a lot of us, but I’m not in here by myself.’”

Many female students, including Gnanasegar, appreciate the sense of camaraderie so much that they return to Hypatia as upper-class leaders. Last semester, Gnanasegar, who’s now working on a master’s degree in computer engineering at Virginia Tech, took a graduate class where she was the only woman among 18 students. Luckily, her support system of fellow Hypatia women still had her back. “These are the people I want as my bridesmaids,” she said. “I’m still friends with them.”

Women’s Center at Virginia Tech

Knowing what to do after you’ve experienced something like sexual assault or harassment isn’t always clear. That’s where Christine Dennis Smith and her team of trained advocates at the Women’s Center at Virginia Tech step in. Since 1994, the center has been key for students, faculty, and staff grappling with the trauma of gender-based violence. “It’s very important to have somebody walk with you through that,” Smith said. “And that’s really an honor to do.”

As co-director of the Women’s Center, Smith acts as a guide for victims navigating their options. (Despite the center’s name, Women’s Center clients can be of any gender identity.) She may connect them with medical help or counseling resources, such as the Cook Counseling Center, the Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley’s 24-hour crisis hotline, or support groups hosted by the Women’s Center. She might accompany a client making a police report. Or she might explain the procedures for a Title IX investigation. “They have a confidential resource while they’re determining what they want to do, and then we provide support and advocate for whatever folks want or need in those various processes,” Smith explained.

Sometimes Smith has the privilege of seeing people grow and heal. One woman she accompanied to court is now in law school.

Often, she will simply sit with people in their pain. “I think it’s less about giving advice,” she said, “and more about listening, believing, and providing support and empowerment to folks to do what they need to do in their own healing journey.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**At a Take Back the Night Rally at Virginia Tech, T-shirts from the Clothesline Project — decorated by victims of gender-based violence — hang behind speakers advocating for change.**

Women’s Alliance and Caucus

Things have changed significantly for women at Virginia Tech in the past 100 years. But members of Virginia Tech’s Women’s Alliance and Caucus know there’s more to be done.

The group, established in 2016, advocates for female faculty, staff, and graduate students at Virginia Tech on issues that affect them: for instance, equity in hiring, promotion, and compensation; efforts to remove systemic barriers to advancement; identification and resolution of safety issues; and access to quality child care for university employees and students.

Part of the Women’s Center, the Women’s Alliance and Caucus works with the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity to submit concerns and proposed resolutions. “We want to make sure that women feel that the caucus can be a means to, if not initiate a conversation, amplify that conversation about areas of concern and actions that need to be considered,” said Lujean Baab, chair of the executive committee of the Women’s Alliance and Caucus and senior director of grants for Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies.

Baab believes that progress on women’s issues will advance more rapidly as more women are informed about options to address gender bias, defy conventional gender roles, and call out inequities. “I see our role as clearing the path for those women who are ready to be where we want them to be,” she said. “I think the upcoming generations of women joining Virginia Tech are ready to speak up for the changes they see need to be made, and we are here to lead and support them.”

## Kitley

from page 7

Raven’s outreach to Brooks, holding her to one text conversation per week. But Brooks’s willingness to embrace Raven’s differences made an impression on the family.

“It just emphasized the family environment here,” Elizabeth said. “It made me feel like I’d be taken care of because they actually cared about me on a deeper level than just basketball.”

Brooks and Virginia Tech showed that love for the Kitleys this past fall when the women’s basketball program designated its Dec. 12 non-conference game against Radford as an Autism Awareness Game.

The team partnered with the VT Supporting Autism Friendly Environments (SAFE) Program and the VT Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research to use the game as a SAFE event. The team wore T-shirts with the word “LOVE” displayed in multiple colors, which resembled the Autism Awareness Ribbon. Before tipoff, Brooks brought Raven out to mid-court for a special presentation.

“It was so awesome,” Raven said.

“You can imagine that she’s overshadowed a lot

because baby sister gets a lot of attention, but this was her day,” Brooks told Evan Hughes, Virginia Tech’s radio play-by-play announcer, following the game.

“She’s taught me what it’s like to be around people that are living with autism. She’s very high-functioning. She knows what she likes, and I just love her innocence,” Brooks said.

The Hokies won the game and achieved an even higher purpose. A few days afterward, Elizabeth talked about autism awareness on Packer and Durham, arguably the ACC Network’s most popular show.

“That whole day was tremendous for Raven, no question,” Ralph said. “Raven is autistic, and she owns that. To see it highlighted was special for Raven, and you could see the emotion on Elizabeth’s face. It meant tons to her to honor Raven because Raven’s always in the background cheering for Elizabeth. This reversed the roles a little bit. It was so awesome for Coach Brooks and his staff to put that together for both the girls.”

The Kitleys’ relationships with Virginia Tech extend beyond the coaching staff. Like any member of a team, Raven knows the players very well, particularly Cayla King, who was a high school teammate of Elizabeth’s at Northwest Guilford. And the Kitleys have bonded with the players’ families, too, with every game serving as a family reunion of sorts.

Ralph Kitley travels to most games, often with Raven in tow. Raven lives

with her mother and stepfather in Winston-Salem for part of the year, but usually moves in with her father during breaks when Elizabeth returns home and also during basketball season.

There are practical reasons for the latter.

“It just makes more sense,” Raven said. “I have a hard time not talking about basketball when I’m with my mom and stepdad.” “And it makes going to games easier,” Ralph said.

They drove to Syracuse in late February for the Virginia Tech-Syracuse game and took a detour to see Niagara Falls, a first for both. But mostly, they go to support Elizabeth. That support extends to everything she does.

Elizabeth is pursuing a degree in human nutrition, foods, and exercise within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She plans to go to medical school and work in health care, though she hasn’t chosen a specific role. Perhaps that role involves working with autistic people.

“That would be awesome,” she said.

She has one more year before that decision needs to be made. Another year of studying, playing basketball, and hopefully winning. Another year with her sister, like always, encouraging her every step of the way.

“When I’m thinking about challenging myself, she’s definitely in the back of my mind,” Elizabeth said. “She’s just so positive about life and opportunities, and she wants to take advantage of everything she can, so that makes me want to do the same, even though the opportunities are different.”

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