

Saturday, February 18, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

Radford School Board votes to renovate Bobcat Stadium

Heather Bell
communitynews@mainstreetnewspapers.com

RADFORD – The Radford City School Board voted three-to-two to renovate the Radford High School stadium at its Tuesday meeting. The school board was faced with three choices for the project – a short-term fix of the concrete that experts said could need additional repairs a year after the initial fix, a reconstruction of the stadium’s current concrete construction, or the replacement of the concrete with an aluminum bleacher system. The short-term repairs came in at an estimated cost of \$95,168 plus an additional cost of up to \$90,000 for caulk replacement due to asbestos. The aluminum bleacher in-fill system came in at a cost of \$2,103,767 and a replacement of the pre-cast concrete system currently in place came in at a cost of \$4,306,762, according to information presented to the board by Jack Murphy of Thompson and Litton. The board voted three-to-two to go

with the aluminum system, with Board Chair Jenny Riffe, Board Vice Chair Dr. Jody Ray and Board Member Jane Swing voting in favor of the proposal by Grandstand Design Southern Bleachers and Board Members Gloria Boyd and Chris Calfee voting against it. Radford resident Ritchie Davis spoke to the board about his desire to keep the concrete construction of the stadium, rather than changing to the aluminum system, during the public comment portion of the meeting. Davis also spoke similarly at a recent Radford City Council meeting. Davis said a lot of people in the community “see the stadium as iconic and the concrete is part of that.” He urged the board to get more public input about the project before making a decision. A petition on Change.org to keep the stadium concrete had received 125 signatures as of Thursday. Superintendent Robert Graham said in order to get the prices quoted at Tuesday’s meeting, the board had to vote

on Tuesday, as those quotes had been made some time back. “They said they would honor this price to wait for today’s meeting, but that’s it,” said Graham. “If we don’t move forward with something, that price is just going to go up.” Riffe said the \$4 million price tag just makes the concrete option untenable. “We appreciate all of our community’s input, trying to sort out the best way to preserve our stadium’s heritage,” she said. “People have been here their whole lives. They’ve played on this field and looked to the stands that have been concrete. But we look at these numbers - four million dollars and up – clearly we just don’t have the money to do that. And if we did do that, it would displace our students from being able to play on the field because it is a much larger undertaking.” “The cost is out of the realm of possibility,” she continued. “I understand heritage and I understand community. But community for me is the people more than it is what we’re sitting on.”

Prior to the vote, Ray said he was willing to vote in favor of the aluminum reconstruction option as long as it did not interfere with facility projects for instructional programs. “What I’m not willing to hear a few months from now is we’re going to sacrifice the science rooms, or another project, because we paid so much for the stadium,” he said. “I’m not willing to go down that road. I don’t want our instructional programs to suffer because of a football stadium. I’m a sports guy, but I’m also a school board member and our main things are safety and strong instructional programs.” The stadium project will be funded primarily with \$1,757,815 in School Construction Entitlement Grant funds from the state, with the remainder coming from the school division’s capital reserves fund. Murphy and Graham told the board the project should be completed by mid-September, and the visitors side of the stadium will be used for the beginning of the season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine
Conductor Theodore Kuchar leads the orchestra in a recent performance. The Ukrainian orchestra will perform in Radford this Tuesday.

Ukrainian orchestra comes to Radford

RADFORD - On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine will perform at Radford University’s Bondurant Auditorium in Preston Hall at 7:30 p.m. The orchestra traces its roots back to its first performance in 1902. The Radford performance will be led by the orchestra’s

principal conductor, Theodore Kuchar, the most recorded conductor of his generation with more than 140 recordings to his credit. The concert will take place just three days before the one-year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine. Despite

See **Orchestra**, page 4

Voice professor channels her recovery from illness into a new book

RADFORD - For some authors, the process of writing can be agonizing. In the case of Denise Bernardini, D.M.A., however, agony was what motivated her to start her latest book. She co-wrote “The Mindfulness of Singing: Creating a Harmonious Mind, Body, and Spirit” with her friend Toni Crowder, and it was published in late January. Bernardini is a Radford University assistant professor of voice and opera, and a classical vocalist who, in 2017, began experiencing aches and pains in her legs and lower back. It was probably sciatica, she told herself, hoping it would improve on its own. It did not. On the contrary, it steadily intensified until, finally, it became impossible to ignore.

“I woke up one day, and I could not get out of bed,” Bernardini recalled. “I was in such terrible pain, just

See **New book**, page 4

Radford High School sends five singers to All-Virginia Choir



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL
Several members of the Radford High School choir, under the direction of Choral Director Darren Goad, participated in the recent All-District Honor Choir, and five of those students will be representing Radford in the upcoming All-Virginia Choir. Participants at All-District Choir include (left to right): Front Row: Whitney McGregor, Alex Bernethy, Emily Crawford, Erin Wilson, and Justin Anzziani and Back Row: Princeton Stevens, Lydia Pratt, Addie Vice, Collin Baron, Sophia Mishoe, and Anna Woolery. All-Virginia Choir Delegates include Erin Wilson, Justin Anzziani, Princeton Stevens, Collin Baron, and Sophia Mishoe.

Radford’s Lori Mitchell named NRCC Dean of Business and Technologies

New River Community College recently welcomed Lori Mitchell as the new dean of the division of business and technologies. “I am excited to work with the outstanding faculty of the division of business and technologies to provide high impact training and education for students seeking credentials and degrees that meet the employment needs of the New River Valley, the Commonwealth, and beyond,” said Mitchell. Mitchell began her new position in January after the previous dean, Debbie Bond, recently retired after 30 years at NRCC. “I am excited to announce that Lori Mitchell has accepted the dean of business and technologies position. Lori brings a wealth of knowledge, skills, and professionalism to lead a dynamic, student-focused division of energetic faculty and staff,” said Dr. Peter Anderson, NRCC vice president for instruction and student services. Mitchell has a bachelor’s degree in history from Virginia Tech and a Master of Public Administration degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also working toward an Ed.D. in administrative

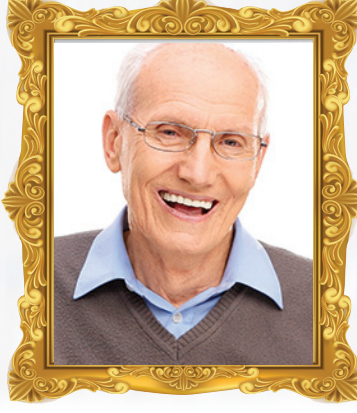


Lori Mitchell PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

See **Mitchell**, page 4

Give your loved one a place of honor....

KNOW YOUR MEMORIAL OPTIONS IN OUR CEMETERY




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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 18:

Free Tax Assistance with NRCA
At the Christiansburg Library; 1 – 4 p.m. Come in for free tax prep assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and NRCA. Income limits may apply. Walk-In Only! For more information visit <https://newrivercommunityaction.org/vita> or call 540-320-3217.

Grownup Board Game Club
At the Radford Public Library; 2 – 4:30 p.m. Bring a friend, bring a board game, or just bring yourself to get some quality board-gaming time in at the library! We have a collection of games here, but you're welcome to bring something from home and teach us how to play it.

The Great Backyard Bird Count Library Scavenger Hunt
At the Radford Public Library; 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Come count birds in a library scavenger hunt in the children's section of the library. Practice your bird counting skills for The Great Backyard

Bird Count. The scavenger hunt will be available all day; any child who finishes the hunt will receive a small prize.

Sunday, Feb. 19:

Chess Club
At the Blacksburg Library; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Come learn chess with US Federation member Rishi. Ages 8+ all skill levels welcome. Supplies provided.

Monday, Feb. 20:

Blacksburg Presidents' Day schedule
Town administrative offices will be closed. Blacksburg Transit operating on full service in Blacksburg. Visit <https://ridebt.org> for more information. Blacksburg Community Center operating during regular hours. Blacksburg Aquatic Center Operating during regular hours. Trash Pickup-there will be trash pickup in the southeast quadrant.

Tuesday, Feb. 21:

Lviv National Philharmonic

Orchestra of Ukraine

The Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine will perform at Radford University's Bondurant Auditorium in Preston Hall at 7:30 p.m. This unique opportunity brings audiences a chance to hear these remarkable Ukrainian musicians lead by Theodore Kuchar, one of the world's most recorded and decorated conductors. You won't want to miss this. Tickets available online, at the Hurlburt Hall Information Desk or by calling 540-831-5420.

Wednesday, Feb. 22:

Sustainable Blacksburg Lunch and Learn: Become a Tree Rescuer
At the Blacksburg Library; noon – 1 p.m. Learn about the launch of a new program to preserve trees in our area and how you can help. Following the lead of a successful Northern Virginia program, we will show how anyone can take action to protect our local trees.

Movie and a Meal: Respect

At the Radford Public Library; 5:30 p.m. See the movie about the Queen of Soul in honor of Black History Month. "Respect" stars Jennifer Hudson and Forest Whitaker in the telling of the rise of Aretha Franklin's career. Rated PG-13; 145 minutes. Pizza provided.

Thursday, Feb. 23:

Community Quilting Bee
At the Blacksburg Public Library; 10 a.m. – noon. Join us for our weekly quilting and sewing group. Bring your supplies and join us for conversation.

Monday, Feb. 27:

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
See **Events**, page 3



Marketplace



THE FINCASTLE HERALD | The Vinton Messenger | THE NEW CASTLE RECORD | SALEM TIMES REGISTER | News Messenger | RADFORD News Journal

Positions Wanted

Quality Inn
Hiring Full/Part Time
Housekeeping and Front Desk. Apply in Person.
Ph-540-639-3000

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - Montgomery County

Legals - City of Radford

Radford Seeks Applications for CDBG Action Plan 2023-2024

The City of Radford is seeking applications from certified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, for the upcoming PY 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Public service programs include, but are not limited to: health care, recreation programs, education programs, anti-violence programs, services for senior citizens, youth services, services for homeless persons, substance abuse counseling and treatment, domestic violence services, mental health services, immigrant services, disability services, and fair housing/tenant landlord counseling. Applications may be found at www.radfordva.gov. You may mail or deliver your proposal to: Melissa Skelton, 10 Robertson St, Radford, VA 24141 or submit electronically to melissa.skelton@radfordva.gov. Applications must be received by March 10, 2023 to be considered for funding during this Annual Action Plan cycle. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Skelton at the email above or by phone at 540-267-3188.

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT: 2948 Den Hill Road, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073

Tax Map# 082-A-41 / Parcel ID: 021649 IN EXECUTION OF A DEED OF TRUST IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$60,000.00, DATED THE 2nd DAY OF AUGUST, 2013, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2013007664, DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED IN THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE SECURED THEREBY, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOLDER OF THE NOTE, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 24073, ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH

IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, STATE OF VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING at a locust tree on the north side of Virginia Secondary Highway No. 641 located 283 feet west from intersection of Route No. 460 and Route 641; thence a new line thru lands of (now or formerly) Raymond H. Baker, et al in a northwesterly direction 100 feet to a point; thence in a southwesterly direction 150 feet to a point; thence in a southerly direction 100 feet to a point located on said Virginia Secondary Highway No. 641; thence in a northeasterly direction with said road 150 feet to the point of BEGINNING. Tax Map No. 082- A 41 Parcel No. 021649 BEING THE SAME REAL ESTATE CONVEYED ERBIE G. YOUNG AND DOROTHY YOUNG, HUSBAND AND WIFE, TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY WITH SURVIVOR SHIP, FROM RAYMOND H. BAKER AND ROXIE BAKER, HUSBAND AND WIFE, BY DEED DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 1961, AND OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 230, PAGE 207, REFERENCE BEING MADE TO SAID DEED. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE. TERMS OF SALE: CERTIFIED FUNDS OR CASHIER'S CHECK. A BIDDER'S DEPOSIT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE SALES PRICE, WITH FULL SETTLEMENT TO BE MADE WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE OF SALE. ADDITIONAL TERMS MAY BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF SALE. THIS NOTICE IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA 24073 DATE OF SALE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent for Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C., Trustee 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

LOCATED AT: 122 Clowers Drive, Elliston, Montgomery County, Virginia
Tax Map No: 060-A-15D / Parcel ID: 130093
IN EXECUTION OF A DEED OF TRUST IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$64,400.00, DATED THE 12 TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2020-10776, DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED IN THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE SECURED THEREBY, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOLDER OF THE NOTE, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, LOCATED AT: 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA 24073, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
An improved parcel of land located off Old Roanoke Road, Montgomery County, Virginia, being New Parcel 3, containing 0.501 of an acre, shown on survey dated February 23, 2006, recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Montgomery County, Virginia, in Plat Book 26, page 47. TOGETHER WITH an ingress and egress easement over, across and through a private paved drive referred to as Clowers Drive, to and from Old Roanoke Road as shown on plat of survey in Plat Book 26, page 47, and the right to use "New 10" Sanitary Sewer Lateral Easement shown on said plat of survey, and the water line which runs through New Parcel 2 and is adjacent to the said Clowers Drive as more particularly shown on said plat of survey, together with the right of ingress and egress to repair, replace and maintain the said sewer/water lines from time to time, as needed.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Carnival from April 29, 2023 through May 17, 2023 on the property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax

THIS NOTICE IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT: 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
DATE OF SALE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023
TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M.

Daniel D. Hamrick, PC
Substitute Trustee

By: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent for Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C., Substitute Trustee
104 South Franklin Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 382-0131

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, February 27, 2023, at 7:15 p.m., or soon thereafter, to receive public comment on a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Entitled Administration of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia by Creating Division 11, Entitled Cigarette Tax Sections 2-190 through 2-203 in order to Establish, Administer and Create a tax at the rate of forty cents (\$0.40) for each package containing twenty (20) cigarettes and two cents (\$0.02) for each cigarette contained in a package of fewer or more than twenty cigarettes sold or used within the unincorporated area of the County of Montgomery, Virginia. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
F. Craig Meadows County Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on March 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in

Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may 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, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

That the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, February 27, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the intent to adopt a resolution amending the FY 2022-2023 budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget, not to exceed \$9 million, by appropriating CARES/ESSER Funds for the Montgomery County Public Schools capital projects. A copy of the proposed resolution and the current adopted budget is available for inspection Monday through Friday 8:30-5:00 pm in the County Administrator's Suite in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2E, Christiansburg, Virginia. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
F. Craig Meadows County Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinance: A request by Derek M. Lytton (Owner) to rezone property identified as Tax Map 07-A 72D (Parcel ID: 032267), totaling 1.228 acres in the Riner Magisterial District. The applicant requests a rezoning with proffered conditions of 1.228 acres from Residential (R1) to Agricultural (A-1) to place a manufactured home on the lot. The subject property is addressed as 3040 Spaulding Road, and is located approximately 0.15 miles off of Walton Road (State Route 663) and 0.47 miles west of Switchback Road (State Route 719). The property lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

Classified Advertising DELIVERS

RADFORD WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Radford City Police Department Report Jan. 30 – Feb. 12, 2023

Monday, Jan. 30:

2 p.m. Monument: intentional damage, value greater or equal to \$1000, 300 block of Berkley Williams Dr.

Tuesday, Jan. 31:

8:50 a.m. Assault: (misdemeanor), Dalton Dr.
7 p.m. Assault and battery of a family member, 1500 block of Staples St.
10:58 p.m. Profane swearing or intoxication in public, Possession of controlled substance, 300 block of Tyler Ave.

Wednesday, Feb. 1:

12:27 a.m. Profane swearing or intoxication in public, 300 block of Tyler Ave.
9:38 a.m. Found property, Robertson St.
4:28 p.m. Assault and battery of a family member, Highland Ave. at West Main St.
7:26 p.m. Petit larceny: less than \$200 not from a person, 800 block of New River Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 2:

10 a.m. Civil; sell tobacco to minor, Dalton Dr.
7:02 p.m. Drugs: distribution/ possession with intent of marijuana less than 1/2 of an ounce, 100 block of East Main St.
9:41 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, 500 block of Second St.
11:16 p.m. Violation of a protective order 500 New River Dr.

Friday, Feb. 3:

12:35 p.m. Assault: (misdemeanor), Dalton Dr.
1:02 p.m. Grand larceny, 400 block of West Main St.
1:02 p.m. Grand larceny, 400 block of West Main St.
7:45 p.m. Shoplifting, 1600 block of Wadsworth St.

Saturday, Feb. 4:

2:03 a.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while

intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), Profane swearing or intoxication in public, 800 block of East Main St.
8 p.m. Monument: unlawful damage, no intent to steal, 1200 block of Second St.

Sunday, Feb. 5:

3:36 a.m. Grand larceny, 1700 block of Staples St.
9:57 a.m. Petit larceny: less than \$5 from a person (pick pocket), 1500 block of Staples St.
12:42 p.m. Assault & Battery - Family Member, Assault: (Misdemeanor), 600 block of Davis St.
8:32 p.m. Profane swearing or intoxication in public, 100 block of East Main St.

Monday, Feb. 6:

6:11 a.m. Assault and battery of a family member, 1200 block of Lawrence St.
11:01 a.m. Driving with a suspended license; DWI: third in 10 years, possession of controlled substance, 1300 block of Rock Rd. West
6:46 p.m. Assault and battery of a family member, 1600 block of Taylor St.
9 p.m. Drugs: possession of Gama-Butyrolactone or 1,4-Butanediol, Assault and battery of a family member, 900 block of Gilbert St.

Tuesday, Feb. 7:

11:14 a.m. Protective order: violation (family abuse), 900 block of Gilbert St.
3 p.m. Weapon: not carry concealed weapon permit, Firearm: possession with a schedule I or II drug, Possession of controlled substance, Falsely identify self to law enforcement, 700 block of Jefferson St.
8:20 p.m. Drugs: sell/provide for resale, 100 block of Jeffries Dr.
11:37 p.m. Assault and battery of a family member, 800 block of Noblin St.

Wednesday, Feb. 8:

9:10 a.m. Monument: intentional damage, value greater than or equal to \$1000, 400 block of Sanford St.
2 p.m. Labor/custody: endanger/cruelly treat child,

1400 block of Staples St.
3:01 p.m. Malicious wounding, Assault on teacher/principal/etc., Dalton Dr.

Thursday, Feb. 9:

12:16 a.m. Possession of controlled substance, West Main St.
2:20 a.m. Convicted felon: possession of firearm/conceal weapon, Possession of controlled substance, Probation: violation on felony offense, 1500 block of Tyler Ave.
10:30 a.m. Indecent liberties with a child, 1000 block of Preston St.
3 p.m. Assault and Battery of a family member, 1500 block of Staples St.
4:47 p.m. Monument: unlawful damage, no intent to steal, 1500 block of Third St.

Friday, Feb. 10:

11:06 a.m. Assault: (misdemeanor), 500 block of Davis St.
11:08 a.m. Trespass: after being forbidden to do so, 300 block of Tyler Ave.
7:52 p.m. Monument: intentional damage, value less than \$1000, 1100 block of Fairfax St.

Saturday, Feb. 11:

12 a.m. Obtain money/etc.: false pretense, Larceny value greater than or equal to \$200, 900 block of New River Dr.
1:43 a.m. Possession of controlled substance, Inspection violation - fail to display, 7500 block of Lee Hwy.

Sunday, Feb. 12:

None

Alcohol round-up
DUI- 1
Drunk in Public- 4
Underage Possession of Alcohol- 0

Virginia's spring fire season in effect through April 30

Virginia has entered the spring fire season as established by the Virginia Department of Forestry, which means the 4 p.m. burning law went into effect on Wednesday, Feb. 15, and will remain in effect through April 30.

The law prohibits burning before 4 p.m. if the fire is within 300 feet of woodlands, brush, or fields with dry grass or other flammable materials.

Although Virginia also has a wildfire season in the fall, more than 60 percent of the commonwealth's annual average of 700 wildfires occur in the spring, especially in March and April. Rising temperatures, low humidity, and windy conditions increase the potential for wildfires and make them harder to extinguish.

Violation of the burning law is a class 3 misdemeanor and is punishable with a fine of up to \$500. Those who allow a fire to "escape" may be liable for the cost of suppressing a fire and any resulting property damage.

To learn more about Virginia's 4 p.m. burning law and fire prevention, visit: <https://dof.virginia.gov/wildland-prescribed-fire/fire-laws/4-pm-burning-law/>

In addition to the statewide 4 p.m. burning law, individual cities and counties may have specific burn laws, bans, or restrictions. Check with local officials in your area

before burning.

"The 4 p.m. burning law is one of the most important tools we have in the prevention of wildfires in Virginia," said VDOF Director of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. "The number one cause of wildfires in the commonwealth is escaped debris burning, and the 4 p.m. burning law goes a long way toward reducing the risk associated with wildfires each year. VDOF coordinates closely with local firefighters and first responders across Virginia, so please call 911 to report a fire."

VDOF suggests keeping these things in mind this spring:

The 4 p.m. burn law applies to any fires not contained within a fireproof device (e.g., campfires, brush piles, warming fires, etc.).

Even when burning after 4 p.m., fires should never be left unattended.

Be cautious of changing weather conditions. Avoid burning during dry and windy conditions.

No fire may be started, and nothing can be added to a fire after midnight.

Have a shovel, rake, and charged hose on hand for controlling the fire.

Call 911 if a fire escapes your control.

Submitted by Virginia Department of Forestry



PHOTO COURTESY OF STROUBLES CREEK COALITION

New River Conservancy to plant 10,000 trees along Stroubles Creek

On Feb. 25 and 26, New River Conservancy will launch the Big Plant, a massive effort to plant over 10,000 trees across 39 native species along Stroubles Creek in Blacksburg. The project will continue through March 5.

It will take place at Virginia Tech Stream Lab with the conservancy's perennial partner, Virginia Tech Biological Systems Engineering.

Anyone and everyone is invited to come out and help with this project. Volunteers can sign up for The Big Plant on Feb. 25 and 26 at [https://](https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/thebigplant/home?pli=1)

sites.google.com/vt.edu/thebigplant/home?pli=1. Volunteers can sign up to plant on all other days through March 5 at <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScy.../viewform>.

Why is the New River Conservancy planting trees?

Stroubles Creek is a federally listed 'impaired waterway.' One of the top stressors leading to the impairment is a lack of native riparian buffers. A riparian buffer is a strip of native vegetation along a waterway that

1. Improves water quality by filtering out

pollutants and lowering the cost of drinking water

2. Absorbs excess stormwater runoff, thus reducing the risk of catastrophic flooding

3. Stabilizes stream banks and reduces erosion

4. Provides vital food and habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and

5. Connects fragmented ecosystems and wildlife migration corridors

A number of partners are joining to make this massive project happen:

The Virginia Department of Forestry

See Trees, page 4

Events

from page 2

Supervisors meeting

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

Tuesday, Feb. 28:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Lunch and Learn with New River Community College

At the Radford Public Library; 1 -2 p.m. Adult Career Coach & Community Outreach Specialist Stephanie Addikis of New River Community College will talk about the many resources and support services available for students of all ages. Whether you're a teenager or a senior or any age in between, there's something for you at NRCC. Stephanie will give a brief presentation and a financial aid advisor will be present to help with questions about enrollment and affordability. Contact Elizabeth at Elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov to place a request for a free lunch (an assortment of sandwiches, chips, apple and a drink).

Wednesday, March 1:

Blacksburg business license renewal forms due

Town of Blacksburg business license renewal forms for 2023 are due by Wednesday March 1, 2023. Businesses are assessed an annual license tax based on prior year's annual gross receipts.

Tax and fees must be filed and paid by March 1, 2023, to avoid late filing and late payment penalties of 10% each plus 10% interest.

Renewal forms were mailed in early January. If you have not received the form, email businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov or call 540.961.1108.

Thursday, Mar. 2:

Crab Creek Watershed Project kick-

off meeting

Come to the Crab Creek Watershed Project Kick-Off Meeting to learn about how to get involved and receive funding to install watershed-friendly landscaping on your property! At the Loft at Great Road on Main (100 W Main St. Christiansburg); 6 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 9:

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn from others, this guild is for you. We welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

Women's Leadership Conference

At the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. The deadline to register is March 2. Register at <https://montgomerychamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/9932>

On-going:

Cap and Gown Drive

Support the 2023 BHS Senior Class by donating extra caps and gowns for use during graduation! The Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office is partnering with Blacksburg High School and Sustainable Blacksburg to encourage re-use of previous years' graduate gear

for the 2023 senior class. Gowns (blue

only - from 2018 and later), caps, stoles, and cords are accepted. Donations can be made between 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Main Entrance of Blacksburg High School. In an effort to keep project costs affordable, it is appreciated if materials are dry-cleaned before donation, though it is not required. For more information, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or sustainability@blacksburg.gov.

Blacksburg 2023 Citizens Institute

Want to learn more about the Town of Blacksburg? Are you a new resident, retiree, or just someone who wants to get involved in the community? Join us for the 2023 Citizens Institute to meet town staff and to learn about the functions of your local government. Classes will be held on Monday evenings beginning April 6, from 6 - 8 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older, and residents of the Town of Blacksburg. Space is filling up fast! To register, call the Community Relations Office at 540-443-1090 or email cro@blacksburg.gov.

Free GED Classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 - 8 p.m. The classes began on Tuesday, Jan. 17 and end on Thursday, May 11. For more information or to sign up please call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Trees

from page 3

The Environmental Coalition at Virginia Tech
The Virginia Tech Office of Sustainability
Virginia Tech Stormwater
The Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment

The Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation
The Virginia Tech Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
The Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental

Sciences and the hundreds of volunteers who have already signed up to make this happen.

- Radford News Journal staff report

New book

from page 1

debilitating.”
Doctors diagnosed her with stenosis of the spine – a narrowing of spaces within the spinal column, often caused by injury or aging, which creates painful pressure – and they recommended surgery as soon as possible.

After surveying a range of options, however, Bernardini opted to take a different approach to the problem.

“I said I would like them to send me to physical therapy for six weeks. And if I’m not better within six weeks, I’ll be back, and we’ll see what we can do,” she said.

She also began taking joint health supplements, underwent cold water therapy, started walking about 15,000 steps each day and gave her fridge a cleansing purge.

“I threw out every bit of disgusting food in my house,” she said. “All the processed food? Out of the house!”

Although Bernardini had maintained a fairly active lifestyle prior to that, the enhanced level of work she was

doing quickly began to make a clear difference.

“Physical therapy helped me get upright. I don’t have any problems with stenosis anymore. I’m pain-free from that,” she said in January.

Another valuable benefit emerged as well. As she recovered, she found that her voice had regained a greater range, and she could hit higher notes that previously had drifted away from her.

“I started singing and went, ‘Oh, my God!’ And it was like a lightbulb went off in my head,” Bernardini recalled. “I’d been doing all these things. Eating better. Doing all this movement, all this stretching. And it literally gave my voice a reset.

“If your body isn’t healthy, the mechanism suffers. You really have to treat the body as if it’s your entire instrument. You can’t ignore a part of the instrument. That’d be like trying to play a wind instrument and going, ‘Oh, so what if my reed is cracked.’”

Armed with those revelations, she decided to build a book around them.

She pitched the idea to her close friend, Toni Crowder, a yoga teacher and performer, and together they devised methods to link the practice of mindfulness to the use of one’s voice. Their book walks readers through what the authors call the “SING method,” a four-step process to help bring awareness to the mind, body and spirit.

“I say this all the time. The mechanism for singing is here,” Bernardini said, pointing to her throat. “And here is where the voice lies,” she added, touching her forehead.

“And if those things are disconnected in any way, singing suffers, artistry suffers, and getting something across to the audience suffers.”

As she and Crowder were writing the book, they also launched a podcast on the same subject and with the same title, “The Mindfulness of Singing.” Between late 2020 and early 2022, they hosted 36 episodes, ranging from about 30 minutes to an hour, which are free on iTunes, YouTube and Spotify. Now that their book has been published, they hope to resume producing



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Denise Bernardini, D.M.A.

episodes later this year.

Ultimately, while her book is about singing, Bernardini said it’s not just for seasoned performers.

“I’d like the book to be for everybody, anybody, whether they sing or not,” she said. “People who struggle with being mindful can find a path to it using the power of the voice. If you sing in the shower or in your car, this could be a fun book for you.”

“The voice is so integral to who we are, and the vibratory response of the body is very powerful.”

Neil Harvey
Radford University

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Serving Radford since 1884

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*..... editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*..... communitynews@ourvalley.org

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*..... aboyd@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant* advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view: communitynews@ourvalley.org

To subscribe: (540) 389-9355

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

Radford News Journal (USPS 387-780) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in the City of Radford, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

Mitchell

from page 1

leadership at Carson Newman University. She has more than 20 years of experience in student services at Virginia Tech,

Radford University and NRCC that includes work in career services, health professions advising, cooperative education

and internship programs, student activities, leadership development, enrollment management and academic advising. She most recently

served as NRCC’s student success coordinator.

Submitted by New River Community College

Orchestra

from page 1

the obvious hardships, the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine has remained committed to its United States tour to share its talent with appreciative American audiences.

Concert goers can expect to hear three important and dynamic works

from Ludwig van Beethoven, Max Bruch and Ukrainian composer, Yevhen Stankovych.

Tickets are available online at radfordactivities.com, at the Hurlburt Student Center Information Desk or by calling 540-381-5420. They may also be

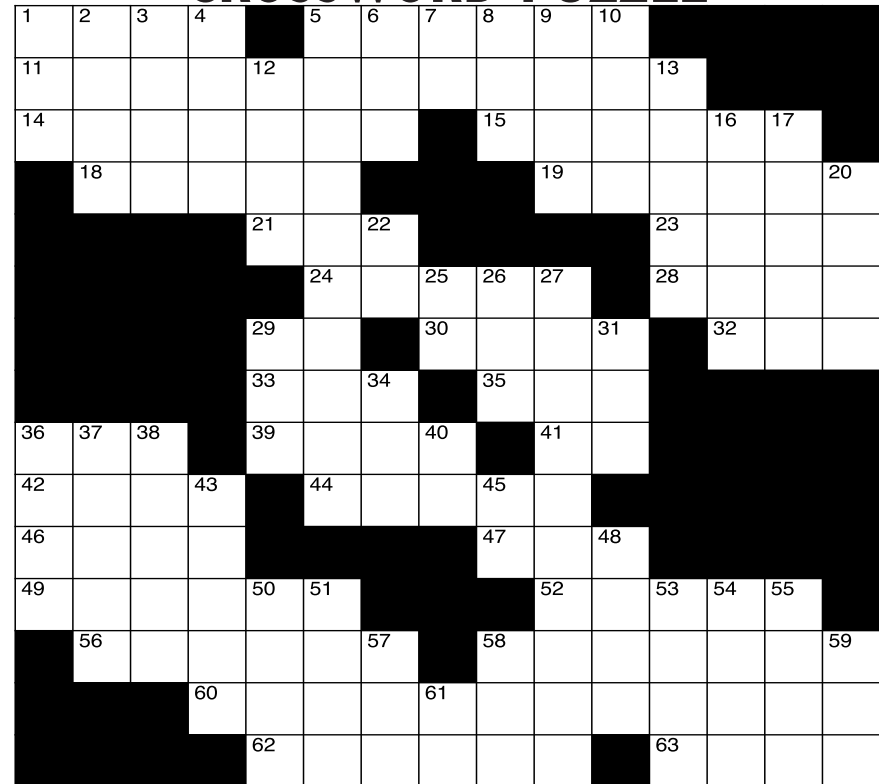
purchased at the door.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for those under 12 years old and free with a Radford University ID.

Submitted by Radford University

radfordnewsjournal.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Emperor of Russia
 - 5. Abounding in rocks
 - 11. Increase in speed
 - 14. Music app
 - 15. Not nice
 - 18. Tables (Span.)
 - 19. Decomposes
 - 21. ___ student: learns healing
 - 23. Nursemaid
 - 24. Joke-teller
 - 28. Male parent
 - 29. Group of countries (abbr.)
 - 30. “Rambling Rose” actor Lukas
 - 32. Midway between south and southwest
 - 33. Cartoon Network (abbr.)
 - 35. Peacock network
 - 36. Principal ethnic group of China
 - 39. Made of fermented honey
 - 41. Exclamation of surprise
 - 42. Evaluates skill or knowledge
 - 44. Stage in ecological succession
 - 46. Ethnic group of SE Asia
 - 47. Not small
 - 49. A cat is one
 - 52. Broken piece
 - 56. French president
 - 58. Artist’s workroom
 - 60. Ability to apply knowledge and skills
 - 62. Visually stunning
 - 63. Ancient region south of Dead Sea
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Used to pour beer
 - 2. Con game
 - 3. Skin disorder
 - 4. Communists (slang)
 - 5. Subjects to hostility
 - 6. A major division of geological time
 - 7. Hitting statistic (abbr.)
 - 8. British thermal unit
 - 9. Influential envoy to Woodrow Wilson
 - 10. Fits on neck of animal
 - 12. Fertile soil
 - 13. Type of battery
 - 16. Khoikhoi peoples
 - 17. Consist of two parts
 - 20. Small group of trees
 - 22. Execute or perform
 - 25. Millihenry
 - 26. 007’s creator
 - 27. Associated with esoteric doctrine
 - 29. Electronic counter-measures
 - 31. Schenectady County Airport
 - 34. No (Scottish)
 - 36. Position of leadership
 - 37. Statement
 - 38. Raccoons belong to this genus
 - 40. One who diagnoses
 - 43. True mosses
 - 45. Blood type
 - 48. Albanian
 - 50. Emergency response notification system
 - 51. College reservists
 - 53. Away from wind
 - 54. Tough outer layer
 - 55. Art ___, around 1920
 - 57. Born of
 - 58. The greatest of all time
 - 59. Georgia rockers
 - 61. Natural logarithm

YOUR LOCAL NEWS JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

RADFORD News Journal Serving Radford Since 1884

DIGITAL ONLY One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00

DIGITAL & PRINT Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$72.00

PRINT ONLY Yearly Print Only Subscription \$45.00 Radford \$54.00 Virginia \$58.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at radfordnewsjournal.com or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed _____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@mainstreetnewspapers.com

OBITUARIES

Agee, Ruth Talbert

Ruth Talbert Agee, 93, of Radford, and Madeleine Harris and Duncan Shipman; and many other family members and friends.



She was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and Ethel Talbert; her nine siblings; and her daughter, Carolyn A. Bower.

Survivors include her husband of 73 years, Murray Franklin Agee; a son, Murray Franklin Agee, Jr.; grandchildren Erin B. Harris, Christina A. Shipman (Philip), and Brian Agee; great-grandchildren Alisa

The family will receive friends from noon until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Don Smith officiating. Burial will be held privately.

The Agee family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Graham, Dorothy McDonald

Dorothy McDonald Graham, 80, McCroskey; her brother and sister-in-law, Kevin Timothy and Sherri McDonald; and many other family members and friends.



She was preceded in death by her parents, Wilbur Lee and Dorothy Radcliffe McDonald; her husband, David Alan Graham; and her brother, Wilbur "Buddy" McDonald, Jr.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Michelle Graham; a daughter, Kelly McCroskey; grandchildren Tyler and Megan Graham, and Noah and Zachary

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. today, Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

The Graham family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford. **Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'Burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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 (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN

Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

PLACE OF REFUGE

Read Numbers 32:1 through 36:13

Select some towns to be your cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone accidentally may flee. They will be places of refuge from the avenger, so that a person accused of murder may not die before he stands trial before the assembly. (Numbers 35:11,12).

God commanded that if anyone died because of violence, and murder was assumed, the murder suspect was not automatically to be considered guilty. Instead, he was allowed to flee to a city of refuge (one of six to be chosen in the Promised Land) that would assure the accused would be treated justly and justice would be done. In this way God provided justice in a culture where protecting the innocent was not a typical response.

When we hear accusations of guilt against others, our first response should be to provide them with a place of refuge in our hearts. That is, we should not rush to judgment, assume their guilt, and be careless in our speech about them. We should treat them fairly, as God intended.

Prayer for Today: Ask the Lord to make your heart and mouth a place of refuge rather than a fount of accusation for others.

Quicklook: Numbers 35:6-15

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

email and on website: clcradford.org. 540-639-2671.

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

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry

Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph, for Sunday School at 10 am and Worship and Children's Church at 11 am. Our Interim Minister is Steve Willis. Phone 639-2585. Watch the worship services on Facebook, which can be accessed through the church website at www.pcradford.org or through the Presbyterian church of Radford Facebook page. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond.

UNITED METHODIST

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

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

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

Obituaries from page 5

Naff, David Arnold, Sr.

David Arnold Naff Sr., 93, entered his heavenly home on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022.

He was born to the late Archie and Melissa Naff on Oct. 11, 1929.

Preceding him in death was his wife of 72 years, Dorothy Christine Rutter Naff; six brothers: Preston Naff, J.T. Naff, Elbert Naff, Paul Naff, Bill Naff, and Harold Naff; and three sisters: Ruth Ziegler, Melba Bryant, and Dianne Trump.

Those left to cherish his memory include five children: Stephen Naff (Leisa), David Naff (Peggy), Darryl Naff (Beckie), Joan Handy (Kenny) and Byron Naff (Missy); three sisters: Helen Altizer, Joyce Moore, and Lola Clower (Harless); two sisters-in-law: Dorothy Rutter and Nancy Naff; 14



grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Christiansburg Church of the Brethren. Following the service, the family extends an invitation to a reception and visitation with family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Music Department at Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, Post Office Box 3050 Christiansburg, VA 24068.

To send flowers, contact the Northside Flower Shop at (540) 639-9361 or 5964 Belspring Rd, Radford, VA 24141.

Sweeney, Carmen Fernandez

Carmen Fernandez Sweeney, 88, of Blacksburg, formerly of Mandeville, La., died Dec. 2, 2019, at her home.

She was born in Norco, La., on June 10, 1931, to the late Alvin J. and Lucille Lehmann Fernandez. She was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Shannon Ann Sweeney, and a sister, Mrs. Betty Jo Guttuso.

She is survived by daughters Dr. Erin S. Champagne (Tom) and Kerry S. Lockamy (Bill); two granddaughters, Dr. Stephanie G.

McGarvey (James) and Dr. Camille W. Graham; a great-grandchild, Clare; a sister, Lucile (Bobbie) Siragusa; as well as many beloved family and friends.

Carmen was a longtime member of the Catholic Church having attended local churches where she lived. She enjoyed art, music, cooking, and time with family. She was a devoted wife and mother.

A memorial will be held at a later date in Louisiana.

Sweeney, II, Neil

Neil Sweeney, II, 92, of Blacksburg, formerly of Mandeville, La., died Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, at his home.

He was born in New Orleans on July 28, 1930, to the late Robert Price and Geraldine Cupit Sweeney. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carmen Fernandez Sweeney, and an infant daughter, Shannon Ann Sweeney.

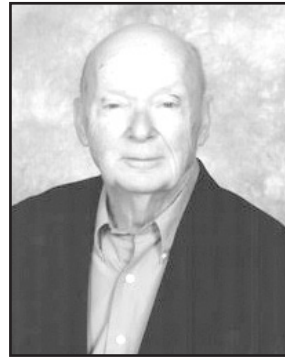
He was a veteran of the United States Navy and a lifetime member of the Catholic Church having attended the local churches where he lived. Neil gained dual citizenship by tracing his genealogy to County Donegal,

Ireland. His wife and he enjoyed camping, sailing, traveling, and visiting with family and friends. He was a devoted father and husband.

He is survived by his daughters, Dr. Erin S. Champagne (Tom), Kerry S. Lockamy (Bill); and granddaughters Dr. Stephanie

G. McGarvey (James), Dr. Camille W. Graham; and great-grandchildren, Clare, Kate, and James; as well as many other beloved family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in Louisiana.



Powers, Wanda Gale Sheppard

Wanda Gale Sheppard Powers, 80, passed away Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at her home in Fairlawn.

She was retired from the Accounting Department at Virginia Tech.

Wanda Gale was preceded in death by her parents, T. Ward and Hattie Sheppard, and her son, Darren Yates.

Survivors include her husband, Aubrey Powers, Jr.; a son, Dillard Yates; a daughter,



five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

A graveside service will be held for Wanda at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 20, 2023, at the Stanger Cemetery in Christiansburg with the Rev. Sebert Rorrer officiating.

The Powers family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Wilson, Elmer Allen

Elmer Allen Wilson, 84, passed away Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, at his home in Pulaski.

He was a member of Newbern Church of God and retired from Lynchburg Foundry where he was a master steel worker.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wildie and Vina Mae Wilson; and a sister, Duffie Jean Berard.

Survivors include his wife, Katherine Coe Wilson; sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Ashley Wilson and Wildie Allen and Jennifer Wilson; a brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Dottie Wilson; a sister and brother-in-law, Betty and William Barton;

grandchildren Michael, Peyton, Katherine, Gensis and Ashton Gray; a great-grandson, Julius; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services with full military honors were held on Friday, Feb. 17, 2023 in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

Memorial services will be held on Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, at 4 p.m. at the Newbern Church of God, 5271 Wilderness Road, Dublin, VA 24084, with the Rev. David Cruft officiating.

The Wilson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.



Prater, Betty Jo

Betty Jo Prater, of Blacksburg, passed away on Feb. 3, 2023.

Betty Jo was born on Nov. 19, 1933, to Douglas and Juanita Robinson of Blacksburg. She graduated from BHS in 1951 and married Jack Prater in 1954. Moving from town to town, they made happy homes, lifelong friends, and lasting memories together.

Betty Jo is survived by her brothers James L. Robinson and Douglas Robinson, Jr., and a sister, Bertha Crabtree and her husband Bill; her sons Steve and his wife Elaine, and Will, and a daughter, Molly; grandchildren Corey Tucker, Samantha Boeji and husband



Michael, Jack Prater and wife Hanna, Kristina Williams, Chad Eveleth, Danielle Prater and Julie Eveleth; and her great-grandchildren, McKenzie, Maddison, and Maverick Boeji, Hope Williams, and Layla Lancaster.

Services will be held Feb. 25 at noon at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg. Following the service, a reception will be held at The Inn at Virginia Tech, Smithfield Room, from 1 to 3 p.m. As an expression of sympathy in lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Montgomery Regional Library Foundation, Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St., Blacksburg, VA 24060.

radfordnewsjournal.com

Construction of new hand-in-hand playground to begin in March

The Hand-in-Hand playground, a wooden play structure located in Municipal Park, has served the families of Blacksburg for thirty-one years, but the passage of time has brought inevitable wear and tear to the structure. Thus, beginning March 1, the playground will undergo a refresh and renewal, bringing it up to current national safety standards.

Leathers & Associates, the same company that designed the original playground, was once again contracted by the Town of Blacksburg to design and construct the new outdoor experience using modern materials. The new playground will be built on the footprint of the current Hand-in-Hand and will continue to serve ages 2-12.

The refurbished playground will include benches and small tabletops throughout the space and will feature American Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant engineered wood fiber chips as its base. The natural integrity of the playground will be preserved by the continued presence of shade trees that will be pruned and maintained to encourage healthy long-term growth.

In another nod to the original Hand-in-Hand playground, the existing

personalized fence pickets will be refurbished and re-installed as part of a new playground fence. Those who wish to purchase a new engraved picket may do so by visiting Let's Talk Blacksburg and completing the order form. Each panel costs \$75 and can accommodate a maximum of 12 letter spaces. Orders and payment must be made by May 1, 2023 for inclusion in the playground's grand opening activities. Families may choose to engrave their surname or names of family members, and non-profit organizations may use their name.

The Blacksburg Parks and Recreation department, in partnership with the Blacksburg Housing and Community Connections office, worked to ensure citizens had a voice throughout the design process. Through online and in-person engagement opportunities, citizens worked closely with the town to suggest improvements and additions for the new Hand-in-Hand playground.

"We tried hard to understand the elements of the playground that people loved, and worked to keep those essential elements while creating a base for the new design," said Kim

Thurlow, Manager of Housing and Community Development Initiatives for the town. "Through this thoughtful design that marries the old with the new, citizens will recognize the new playground as the unique 'hidden castle in the woods' that they remember, a feeling that is a recognizable hallmark of Hand-in-Hand," said Thurlow. "Favorite items like the tire bridge will exist alongside exciting new additions of a climbing wall, treehouse, and features that promote accessibility site-wide: ramps, ground-level play features and accessible swings, to name a few. These and other new design concepts that encourage discovery, play, and exploration will ensure Hand-in-Hand remains a local favorite for generations to come."

The demolition of the current wooden structure is scheduled to begin on March 1, 2023. The completion date of the new playground is projected for May 2023, just in time for summer fun. Families who would like to say their goodbyes to the current Hand-in-Hand structure should plan to stop by this month and are encouraged to visit the new playground this summer.

- Town of Blacksburg



PHOTO COURTESY OF DARIO CALMESE

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacquelin Harris

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's main company to perform in Southwest Virginia for the first time

A groundbreaking company that has forever changed American dance and culture, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, comes to the Moss Arts Center for two performances on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and Wednesday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Marking the first time the main company has performed in Southwest Virginia, each evening performance features a distinct and diverse repertory of new and classic works as well as founder Alvin Ailey's masterpiece, "Revelations."

The performances will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

The program on Tuesday, Feb. 28, will include Robert Battle's "For Four" (2021), featuring four amazing Ailey dancers and Wynton Marsalis' jazz score - written in 4/4 time, and Paul Taylor's 1964 "Duet," set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn.

The evening also includes a new production of "Survivors" (1986), Alvin Ailey's impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, which will be seen this season for the first time since 1988. A soundtrack of Max Roach's richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln's powerful vocals sets the emotional tone for a work that presents a portrait of people transformed by injustice and lifts up those who resist oppression in any form.

The performance on Wednesday, March 1, will include acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham's "Are You in Your Feelings?" (2022), a celebration of Black culture, Black music, and youthful spirit, scored to a mixtape of soul, hip-hop, and R&B featuring artists such as Jhené Aiko, Drake, Lauryn Hill, Kendrick Lamar, Jazmine Sullivan, and Summer Walker.

Using an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia, "In a Sentimental Mood" (2022) by Jamar Roberts bridges the past and present, making these musical classics freshly relevant and timely.

Both evenings will include performances of Alvin Ailey's "Revelations." Since its creation in 1960, "Revelations" has been seen by more people around the world than any other modern dance work, moving audiences with its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. Springing from Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the South and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, "Revelations" pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African American and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

- Virginia Tech

RADFORD SPORTS

Six RHS wrestlers head to state competition



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Six Radford High School wrestlers are participating in the state wrestling competition this weekend at the Salem Civic Center. Pictured: Charlie Davis, Taven Williams, Lance Duncan, Dawson Martin, Cole Martin, and Zeb Martin.

RADFORD - Six Radford High School wrestlers will be competing in the VHSL state tournament this weekend.

The tournament began Friday, Feb. 17 and concludes today, Saturday, Feb. 18.

"An amazing thing happened today at the Region 2C wrestling tournament," the high school announced Feb. 11. "We are taking six wrestlers to state. This is an accomplishment that has not occurred for at least 15 years. So proud of the hard work and wrestling that happened today."

The following wrestlers are participating in the state competition, listed with their placement at the regional competition:

Charlie Davis- First place at the 215-pound weight class.

Taven Williams- Second place at the 150-pound weight class.

Lance Duncan- Second place at the 175-pound weight class.

Dawson Martin- Second place at the 190-pound weight class.

Cole Martin- Third place at the 157-pound weight class.

Zeb Martin- Third place at the 285-pound weight class.

Also receiving medals at the regional tournament:

Jacob Lewis-Fourth place at the 138-pound weight class.

Jackson Gilbert- Fifth place at the 144-pound weight class.

Dominic Mays- Fifth place at the 165-pound weight class.

The VHSL state wrestling competition is taking place at the Salem Civic Center.

- Radford News Journal staff report

Radford University baseball set to begin 2023 season

With Opening Day just days away, Radford University breaks down the Highlanders' roster in advance of the season opener on Friday against Iona. Led by first-year head coach Alex Guerra, Radford features a solid mix of returning veterans and newcomers.

Infielders

Radford returns several key pieces from last year's infield, headlined by Zack Whitacre, who slashed .324/.395/.441 in 29 games a season ago. He will be complemented by Avery Spencer, who came on strong towards the end of last season to hit .375 with nine RBI across 19 starts. Spencer's season was cut short due to injury, but the freshman from Pottstown, Penn., is now fully healthy and will be a key cog in the Radford offense.

Also returning are first baseman Ryan Gilmore, who started 31 games last year, and utility man Tanner Barrs, who posted a .391 on-base percentage in 43 games and has experience at both first base and in the outfield.

Among the newcomers, transfers Zack Mallia (UNC Greensboro) and Tristan Shoemaker (Virginia) have both shown promise in the offseason. Mallia is a two-way player who can pencil in as both a DH and a closer while Shoemaker saw playing time as a reserve for the top-25 ranked Cavaliers a season ago.

Sully Tibbs has been one of the team's most impressive freshmen, and he can play multiple positions. Adding to the infield depth is Miles LeVere, a transfer

from Prince George's Community College.

Outfielders

The Highlanders return center fielder Cameron Pittman, who had a sensational freshman campaign in 2022. The Virginia Beach native batted .301 with 20 RBI and 11 stolen bases, pacing the team in runs (40) and walks (30). Pittman had a keen eye at the plate, leading the Big South Conference in fewest strikeouts per at-bat at 11.1, a figure that ranked 37th nationally and third among all freshmen.

Paul Moore also returns for Radford, having played 35 games last season. New faces in the outfield include Peyton Henry, a transfer from John A. Logan College, and Austin Stalker, a freshman who provides a big left-handed bat.

Catchers

Among the most important returning pieces for Radford is catcher Julian Rojas, a senior from Humble, Texas, who played 44 games last season while putting up an impressive .300/.413/.457 slash line. Rojas tied for the team lead with four home runs while also leading the Highlanders in slugging percentage and being hit by a pitch (16). As a senior, he provides valuable experience at the backstop position, having played in more than 100 career games.

Freshman catchers Garrett Pancione and Bannon Brazell will also figure into the mix.

Pitchers

Though Radford loses its top three starters from last year, the Highlanders do return graduate senior Alex Perkins, a righthander

from Christiansburg who posted a 1.35 ERA across six appearances last year. Though he missed the majority of the season due to an injury, Perkins was lights-out in 2021, notching a 2.86 ERA in 17 outings. He will be leaned on heavily as the team's most experienced arm.

Another starting candidate is Scott Rouse, a transfer from Ohio Dominican University who collected 79 strikeouts in 12 starts for the Division II Panthers a season ago. Rouse was a third team All-Great Midwest Athletic Conference selection as a rookie in 2021.

Freshman Dylan Howard, a righty from Greenville, S.C., is also primed to be a weekend starter.

The Highlanders have significant continuity in their bullpen as they return grad senior Ty Burton and Foster Seitz. As a freshman, Seitz appeared in 19 games and held opponents to a .243 batting average. Also returning in the pen are left handers Luke VonGoedert and Gannon Kadlecik and righthander Landon Higginson.

Several new faces highlight a promising young pitching core, including freshman Ben Keefe and Collin Williams. Lefthanders Carter Seabrooke, a transfer from the College of Central Florida, and Eli Parks, a redshirt sophomore from Midlothian, Va., will also provide innings out of the pen.

- Submitted by RU Athletics

Tech's Kenny Brooks on national watch list

In an announcement made Wednesday, Feb. 15, Virginia Tech Head Coach Kenny Brooks has been added to the 2023 Werner Ladder Naismith Women's Coach of the Year Late Season Watch List.

Brooks has guided the Hokies to a 20-4 record this season, and the Hokies are currently ranked 11th in the AP Poll. The VT women are currently in a tie for third in the ACC with a 10-4 record, occupying the third seed in the ACC Tournament if the season were to end today.

In last week's early reveal, the NCAA Selection Committee dubbed the Hokies a four seed, meaning they would host the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2004.

In his seventh season at VT, Brooks has amassed a record of 144-73 (58-56 in ACC play) and has secured 20 or more wins in each season that was not shortened due to COVID-19.

Under his leadership, the Hokies have made two consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament, set multiple records when it comes to ACC victories, and have had several athletes earn conference and national honors.

Brooks is 88-25 at home on Carilion Clinic Court losing just once in non-conference play and owning a 24-3 record over the last

two seasons.

Prior to Brooks's tenure in Blacksburg, the most wins that the program had earned in ACC play was six. Coach Brooks's Hokies have won six or more six times including 10 or more wins in three of the last four seasons, including this one with four more games remaining.

Under Brooks's tutelage two athletes have been recognized on the ACC's All-Defensive Team, three have been on the ACC's All-Freshman Team, four have been named All-ACC, and he has coached the Sixth Player of the Year, the Freshman of the Year, and the Player of the Year.

In addition, Aisha Sheppard and Elizabeth Kitley have each earned AP All-America recognition with Kitley becoming the first VT athlete to be named to an All-America team (Third Team in 2022).

Sheppard is the program's all-time leading scorer as well as the conference's leader in career 3-pt. field goals. She was selected 23rd in the WNBA Draft (the highest selection for a Hokie) to the Las Vegas Aces who won the WNBA Championship in her first season in pro basketball.

- Submitted by VT Athletics

OUTDOOR REPORT

Bear, deer, turkey harvest data announced

Wildlife biologists with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) have compiled preliminary figures for the 2022-23 hunting season. Not unexpectedly, bear, deer, and fall turkey harvests all decreased from the previous season.

BLACK BEAR

Hunters reported harvesting 2,232 bears during the 2022-23 bear hunting seasons in Virginia,

some 25% lower than the year (44%). Significant harvest decreases during the 3-day early firearms season (36%), the archery season (24%), and the muzzleloader season (55%) were the main contributors to the overall

See Outdoor, page 8

WE ARE THE PLACE FOR FUN!

- ★ Team Building, Corporate Party, ★
- ★ Birthday Party or Holiday Party ★
- ★ * 32 BOWLING LANES * ★
- ★ * 2 LEVEL LASER TAG AND ARCADE * ★
- ★ * SPIN BUMPER CARS * ★
- ★ * AXE THROWING * GREAT FOOD * ★
- ★ Call 540-382-5525 for more information or booking your party! ★

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

T	S	A	R	P	E	B	B	L	E				
A	C	C	E	L	E	R	A	T	I	O	N		
P	A	N	D	O	R	A	U	N	K	I	N	D	
M	E	S	A	S		D	E	C	A	Y	S		
	M	E	D		C	O	M	I	C	D	A	D	A
		E	U		H	A	A	S		S	S	W	
		C	T	N		N	B	C					
H	A	N			M	E	A	D	A	H			
E	X	A	M		S	E	R	A	L				
L	I	S			B	I	G						
M	O	U	S	E	R		S	H	A	R	D		
M	A	C	R	O	N		A	T	E	L	I	E	R
		I	N	T	E	L	L	I	G	E	N	C	E
		S	C	E	N	I	C		E	D	O	M	

Auburn girls defeat Bland Co., Mundy sets school record



Auburn's Morgan Mundy brings the ball up the court in Monday's 53-24 win over Bland. During the game, Mundy broke the Auburn basketball single-season record for steals that was set by Brittany Kirtner (147) back in 2022. Mundy now has the new record with 158.

Carli Christian looks up the court as she brings the ball up in the Lady Eagles' win over Bland County. She finished the game with 14 points.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Auburn boys roll past Bland County



Drew Royal drives the base line in Auburn's 73-41 defeat of Bland county this past Monday. With the win, the Eagles advanced in tournament play.

Auburn's Coahan Gordon goes up for a tough shot under the basket in his team's win on Monday night over Bland County.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Outdoor from page 7

decline in the 2022-23 statewide bear harvest. The youth/apprentice weekend harvest decreased by 10%, and the firearms season decreased by 17% from the 2021-22 season. The bear harvest during the 2022-23 season decreased in both western (30%) and eastern (19%) Virginia compared to the previous season. Although the magnitude varied regionally, a decline in bear harvest was

observed across all regions of the state, suggesting the influence of a common factor. **WHITE-TAILED DEER** During the 2022-23 deer hunting season, hunters harvested 184,968 deer in Virginia, down approximately 3% from the 190,582 deer taken during the same time frame the previous season. This year's total included 90,242 antlered bucks, 1,113 bucks that had shed their antlers, 11,921 button bucks,

and 81,692 does (44%). The youth and apprentice deer-hunting weekend resulted in a harvest of 2,358 deer. Archery hunters took 16% of the total deer harvest while muzzleloading deer hunters and firearms hunters took 24% and 60% of the total harvest, respectively. The 2022-23 deer harvest was down 8% from the last ten-year average of 200,351 and was likely impacted by above-average hard mast conditions across much of the state which generally lead to decreased deer movements and lower harvests. Weather during the 2022-23 deer season was also highly variable with unseasonably warm temperatures or precipitation falling on the opening day of multiple seasons (archery and

muzzleloader). **WILD TURKEY** A total of 1,621 wild turkeys were harvested in Virginia during the 2022-23 fall turkey hunting season, a slight decrease over the 2021-22 harvest of 1,644. While Virginia's turkey population appears to remain robust, fall harvests will fluctuate due to a number of other factors beyond the population size. These factors, which vary across the state, include the length and timing of the fall season, annual variation in reproductive success, acorn abundance, hunting pressure, and weather. Reproductive success can vary widely; inclement weather in May and June can lead to nest losses or death of the young turkey poults.

In 2022, the productivity estimate (1.9 poults/hen) was below the long-term average (2.6 poults/hen) for Virginia. Since juvenile birds account for 40-60% of the fall harvest, reproductive success greatly influences turkey population size and subsequently fall harvest. Acorn abundance also has a significant impact on fall harvest rates. In years with abundant acorns, like 2022, wild turkey home ranges are small, which makes them harder for hunters to find. They also tend to spend more time in the woods foraging rather than in open habitats where they would be susceptible to harvest. As a result, harvest rates often decline when mast is abundant. On the other

hand, during years of acorn scarcity turkeys must range further to find food and this typically helps hunters find and harvest more birds. Like the 2021-22 season, the archery harvest (bows and crossbows combined) remained relatively high, making up approximately 22% of the overall harvest. Thanksgiving Day and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving continue to be popular fall turkey hunting days. This year a total of 368 birds were harvested during that two-day timeframe, accounting for nearly 23% of the total fall harvest. Thanksgiving Day accounted for the single highest day of harvest with 232 birds or 14% of the total fall harvest. The decline in fall turkey hunting participation has been an ongoing issue for Virginia and many other eastern states. One of the goals of the DWR Wild Turkey Management Plan is to reverse the general decline in fall turkey hunting interest. The October youth and apprentice fall turkey hunting weekend and the late January fall season were designed to encourage interest in fall turkey hunting. Unfortunately, it appears the declining trend is continuing despite these efforts.

RED IS FEBRUARY'S BEST COLOR

See the Selection Now at Its Best

BONOMO'S
WOMEN'S CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

860 University City Blvd, Blacksburg
Mon - Sat 11:00am-4pm

The Thomas Jefferson Hour
Live from Radford University
Wednesday February 22 at 6 p.m.

Davis Performance Hall
in the Covington Center

admission is free

with humanities scholar
Clay Jenkinson

Public Radio
WVRU
89.9 FM

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Paige Pearson, Public Information Officer, Va DWR