

Saturday, March 25, 2023 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

Radford students shine at Addys



Valerie Ray's product advertising for a fictional Scotch ale, Kilt Guilt, won a Gold and Judge's Choice award.

Sean Kotz
Radford University

RADFORD - Three Radford University Graphic Design majors took home "Addys" at the Western Virginia Advertising Awards in Roanoke.

Seniors Valerie Ray and Emily Woods, and junior Britiany Rorrer, earned two Judges Choice Awards plus three Gold and three Silver awards between them in the student competition.

The competition is sponsored by Roanoke's chapter of the American Advertising Federation to recognize excellence and creativity in advertising across all media platforms. Winning entries are eligible to enter the District 3 awards contest which covers Virginia and the Carolinas. From there, winners can move on to the national competition.

Valerie Ray garnered both a Gold and Judges Choice award in the Sales Promotion Packaging category for a fictional brewery, Backyard Brewing, that subtly played on the university's Highlander identity.

"The idea was Kilt Guilt Scottish Ale would be their first nationally distributed beer," Ray explained, "so it needed unique packaging to be set apart from the dozens of other craft brews available."

"I created a wicked rendition of the Loch Ness monster with a kilt hanging from its mouth to imply it must have eaten a Scotsman."

See Addys, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEOPARDY PRODUCTIONS
Karen Morris, of Christiansburg, at right, appears with Jeopardy host Ken Jennings.

Christiansburg woman competes on Jeopardy

Karen Morris, of Christiansburg, appeared on Jeopardy on Wednesday, March 22.

Morris, a Virginia Tech student pursuing Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees, came in third on the show and won \$1,000.

"With a background that includes a bachelor's degree in Spanish, time spent living in Spain, work in a financial regulatory agency across the street from the White House, singing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and in New York's Carnegie Hall, nature studies at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, and now study toward dual degrees at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, it's little wonder how Morris is multifaceted enough in her interests and knowledge to qualify

for the popular TV quiz show that began nearly 60 years ago," according to information announced by Virginia Tech.

"I'm a mixed tracker in life," said Morris, referring to a veterinary studies track that doesn't specialize on a particular animal type. "I'm a person who can't stop looking at the big picture, and at the same time, memorizing trivial facts."

Morris began the process of qualifying for the show in August 2021 by taking the "Jeopardy! Anytime Test" online.

"Everyone should do it," Morris said. "It's just an online quiz."

Her strong performance on that test led to a proctored test via Zoom and a screen test, which qualified her to be among a pool of potential candidates

See Jeopardy, page 4



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford senior Emily Woods stands displays her Silver award certificate next to her packaging entry, a hypothetical rebranding of Lipton Tea.

KURT CRANDALL AND The Stella Vees
PRESENTED BY THE NEW RIVER BLUES SOCIETY AND THE PULASKI THEATER
TICKETS \$10 \$7 FOR NRBS MEMBERS
Kurt shines like a diamond...experts consider him to be one of the most stylish chromatic players in the world today!
PULASKI
Friday, May 19th
Doors: 6pm Show: 7-9pm

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALIVIA TRIPP AND KURT CRANDALL

Kurt Crandall and The Stella Vees, set to perform at Pulaski Theater, is one of the New River Blues Society's upcoming events.

The New River Blues Society has a mission - share and preserve the blues

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The New River Blues Society is on a mission: to provide opportunities for area community members to experience blues music and preserve its history.

Vernon Kelley, President of the New River Blues Society, shares that blues events are primarily held in the New River Valley at any venues that can pair up with the organization.

The last couple of years saw some series of events postponed due to the pandemic; however, one returning event will be Blues, Brews, and Bloodys, held Sunday afternoons from 2-5 pm, June-September, at Eastern Divide in Blacksburg.

Another event series happens on Wednesday nights at the Rising Silo in Blacksburg. Patrons

See Blues, page 4

Body discovered in search for missing man

A body found in West Virginia might be that of a missing Christiansburg man.

Authorities have been searching for 86-year-old Siegfried Holzer for more than three weeks. He was last seen on February 23 after a trip to a local repair store.

Security cameras showed Holzer at the counter dropping off a chain saw for repairs. When he didn't return home, a GPS locator showed his car in Hardy County, almost three hours away.

The Hardy County Sheriff's Office found his

vehicle around the 11000 block of State Road 55 in Baker, W.Va. and initiated a search. Three different search efforts had not found any sign of the man, but on Wednesday, a body was found just a short distance from where his car was left sitting.

The remains have been sent to a medical examiner's office and police are awaiting positive identification.

The investigation remains ongoing, and no other details are available at this time.

News Messenger staff report



PHOTO BY CLARK DEHART FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi walks with William E. Lavery Professor Kathleen Alexander in front of Burruss Hall.

Botswana president speaks to standing-room only crowd in Blacksburg

BLACKSBURG - When Naya Hughes found out that the president of Botswana was visiting the Virginia Tech campus, she carved some time out of her morning schedule and took a bold step, standing among the dignitaries at Burruss Hall awaiting the president's arrival.

Her courage was rewarded.

Hughes — the lone student from Botswana at Virginia Tech and a member of the Virginia Tech swimming and diving team — introduced herself to His Excellency Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi and spoke with him for several minutes before he went inside for a meeting with Virginia Tech President

Tim Sands.

"I was told of his arrival, and of course, I was very eager to meet him," Hughes said. "I got calls from the ambassador to Botswana, and we talked about his arrival."

"The president was very nice, and it felt very natural to talk to him. It was quite scary at first because he's a very important person and all the media there was overwhelming, but it was nice to get to talk to him. He's well-spoken and confident, and that eased me a lot."

Masisi, believed to be the first international head of state to visit Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus, spent nearly four hours on campus

Tuesday morning, meeting with Sands and later giving a speech to more than 600 people in a standing-room-only Commonwealth Ballroom at Squires Student Center that centered on conservation, democracy, and sustainable development in his country.

A first-year student, Hughes said she liked what she heard from Masisi, whose conservation efforts are well noted in that country. Botswana sponsors students to study abroad, and Hughes received funding to come to Virginia Tech, where she plans to get a degree in veterinary medicine.

See Botswana, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 25:

Fireworks on Drillfield

In celebration of the Virginia Tech Ring Dance, the Class of 2024 invites the Virginia Tech and Town of Blacksburg communities to view the Ring Dance Fireworks Display which will be fired off on the Virginia Tech Drillfield at approximately 11:05 p.m. The Corps of Cadets cannon, Skipper, is also scheduled to fire during this time. Before and during the fireworks display vehicular and pedestrian traffic may be restricted on and around the Drillfield loop. This approximately 15-minute display is being done in accordance to the requirements by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Tech office of environmental health and safety and both the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg police departments. For more information, call the Virginia Tech Advancement Office at 540-231-6285 or email vtclass@vt.edu.

Spring Children's Consignment Sale

Blacksburg United Methodist Church will hold its spring children's consignment sale on 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Whisner Building at the Church Street campus, accessed through the rear entrance at Lee and Penn Streets. Families will be able to get great deals on seasonal kids' clothes and shoes, toys, books, baby gear, sports equipment, maternity clothing and more. Many items are like-new (some even brand-new). Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. but you will want to shop early for the best selection! Cash or checks only. No card or electronic payments.

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.

Vegetable Gardening

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1 -2 p.m. Want to grow your own vegetables but aren't sure where to start? Join Dr. Emma Patterson, VCE Volunteer Master Gardener

to find out more about planning a vegetable garden, caring for it, and keeping it going through year's end. Ages 12 and up. Free seeds and soil testing kits will be provided.

Sunday, March 26:

Community Quilting Bee - Rotary Cutting Fabric

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 -3 p.m. Join fellow quilt enthusiasts. This month we will learn how to use a rotary cutter and ruler to make accurate fabric pieces. Everyone welcome!

Monday, March 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 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.

Book Tasting: Juvenile Chapter Books

At the Radford Public Library; 5 - 6 p.m. Come on out to the Rock n' Read Diner at RPL. RPL is hosting its first ever Book Tasting event. A book tasting is an event during which students "taste", or sample, a selection of books that you've chosen ahead of time. They can rotate among tables to sample the books and record notes about the ones that interested them. We'll have tables of middle grade books set up, so make sure your appetite is ready! All books will be pulled from the J-Fiction and J-Nonfiction

sections of the library.

Tuesday, March 28:

Introduction to Genealogy Research

Are you curious about your family history and wanting to explore your roots, but not sure where to start? The Christiansburg Library has a free Introduction to Genealogy Research class on at 6 p.m. Led by expert genealogist Rebecca Novy of NovyGenealogy, the class includes essential research tips and tricks, website recommendations, useful forms, and much more. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced genealogist, this class is an excellent opportunity to learn valuable skills and connect with other researchers.

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.

Wednesday, March 29:

Radford budget presentation
In City Council Chambers; 5:30 p.m.
City Staff will present the 2023-24 fiscal year proposed budget to members of Radford City Council and the public.

Wednesday, April 5:

Coping Techniques for Caregivers
Commonwealth Senior Living at Radford will be hosting seminar titled "Coping Techniques for Caregivers." The seminar will discuss ways to care for a senior loved one while also caring for yourself.

Thursday, April 6:

American Legion meeting

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

Tuesday, April 11:

Sons of Confederate

Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Camp Member James Evans will speak on "Life in a Northern Prison Camp". For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Wednesday, April 12:

Coping Techniques for Caregivers

Commonwealth Senior Living at Christiansburg will be hosting seminar titled "Coping Techniques for Caregivers." The seminar will discuss ways to care for a senior loved one while also caring for yourself.

Thursday, April 13:

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.

New River Valley Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists

At Radford Library; 6-7:30 p.m. Join us to learn more about becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist and our upcoming training program which starts in August 2023.

On-going:

Cap and Gown Drive

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. It is appreciated if materials are dry-cleaned, but not required. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or sustainability@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.



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Country star Rissi Palmer brings her 'Southern soul' to the Moss

While she has made her mark as a country music artist, Rissi Palmer is equally at home performing R&B and has a gift for reaching across musical boundaries to bring the entire spectrum of popular music to bear.

Palmer will bring what she calls "Southern soul" to the Moss Arts Center for two performances on Thursday, March 30, and Friday, March 31, at 8 p.m.

Palmer will be joined by guitarist Charles Newkirk for both concerts in the center's Cube, located at 190 Alumni Mall.

In 2007 Palmer released her debut album, "Rissi Palmer," charting singles "Country Girl," "Hold on to Me," and "No Air." Since then, she has independently released a Christmas single; her first children's album, "Best Day Ever;" and an EP titled "The Back Porch Sessions." Her most recent album, "Revival," was released in 2019 and has been critically hailed as her most personal and uplifting work to date.

Palmer is one of only five Black women to ever appear on the Billboard country

music charts. In 2007, she became the first Black woman to chart a country song since Dona Mason in 1987. Dedicated to supporting artists of color who have been underrepresented in mainstream country music, her radio show, "Color Me Country with Rissi Palmer," on Apple Music Country provides in-depth and necessary conversations with both new and established artists.

Palmer will be featured in the documentary short series "American Masters: In The Making." Following Palmer as she works on music for her new album while managing family life and the busiest professional year she has had in a decade, "Rissi Palmer: Still Here" aired nationally on PBS on Friday, March 24, at 9 p.m.

This performance is part of "Up 86," a new collaboration between the Moss Arts Center and North Carolina artist Shirlette Ammons, who is serving as the center's first independent guest performing arts curator. Ammons brings a new perspective

to the center's lineup, creating a focus on Black Southern artists who effortlessly cross genres and revitalize time-honored music traditions. In addition to Palmer, "Up 86" features performances by Ammons and Sonny Miles.

"Rissi Palmer's career is a series of left turns," Ammons said. "Her 2017 twangy mid-tempo anthem, 'Country Girl,' made her the first Black woman to grace Billboard's Hot Country charts in over 30 years. She achieved this feat by wading through the prejudices of country music while brandishing the obstinance of the genre's Black forebears. Her radio program, 'Color Me Country,' reminds us that there has never been an absence of Black voices in the country category, just a bigoted radio dial. Palmer's 'Southern soul' is a resounding catchall for the impellent lyrics, fervent vibrato, and palatial strings that bind her country, gospel, rock, and blues inflexions at a common crossroad."

Palmer has performed at the White House, New York's Lincoln Center, and the Grand Ole Opry. She has toured extensively across the country, sharing stages with Taylor Swift, The Eagles, Chris Young, Charley Crockett, and many more. Palmer is also a special correspondent

for CMT's "Hot 20 Countdown," featuring chart-topping music videos, news stories, live performances, and candid interviews from country's biggest stars.

The public can be part of the audience when Palmer records an episode of her radio show "Color Me Country with Rissi Palmer" live in the Moss Arts Center Cube on Thursday, March 30, at 5:30 p.m. Palmer will be joined by Richmond guest artist Tony Jackson. A gifted singer often compared to country superstar Randy Travis, Jackson's strong, emotionally charged, and engaging voice and back-to-tradition style has captured the hearts of millions. The show is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

Palmer also will speak to Virginia Tech students about her path as a musician, foundation leader, and radio show host.

Tickets for the performance are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for student and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Susan Bland for Virginia Tech

Camp Invention coming to Radford

Nationally recognized summer STEM camp makes innovation fun

RADFORD - Camp Invention, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment camp program, is coming to Radford University the week of June 19.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship — all in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features a new curriculum inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors — the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Wonder program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

Catching Air: Taking a confidence-building ride through physics, engineering and art, children design and build their own skate park.

Invention Celebration: Campers take on the role of event



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMP INVENTION

Mimic Bot is one of the camps children can enjoy this June in Radford through Camp Invention.


planners as they throw a party celebrating creativity and innovation.

MimicBot: Children show their unique style when they transform a robot that mimics sounds into a one-of-a-kind animatronic stuffie.

Pop-Up Venture™: Big ideas come to life as campers design their own mini pop-up business.

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 118,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,200 schools and districts across the nation. For more information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

Submitted by Camp Invention



BUY BACK PRICING MARCH 2023

Material	Price/lb
Aluminum Cans (beverage cans only)	\$0.54
Clean Aluminum Scrap	\$0.30
Clean Cast Aluminum	\$0.26
Irony Cast Aluminum	\$0.08
All Aluminum Scrap w/screws (ie storm doors etc)	\$0.07
Aluminum Insulated Wire	\$0.15
Brass	\$0.68
Copper (#1)	\$2.24
Copper (#2)	\$2.08
Copper Insulated Wire	\$0.80
Lead	\$0.34
Steel	\$0.03
White Goods (appliances)	\$0.03

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Lost & Found

ISO: Looking for family or friends of Edward Shanklin, formerly from Radford, VA. His mother's name was Ruth, sisters name Barbara, previously married to Deuncan family. I am in possession of documents and photos that belong with his family. Contact Steve: after 5pm. Cell 540-246-2963 Home 540-298-8054 Collect calls will be accepted.

Legal - Other

Notice of Hearing
Notice is hereby given to Troy Thomas Cox that a hearing will be held in the Family Court of Pocahontas County, West Virginia on June 6, 2023, at 1:00 pm at the Family Court of Pocahontas County, 900 10 th Ave. #D Marlinton, WV 24954 on Petitioner's Abby Snead Cox. Petition for Modification of Parenting Plan. In Civil Action 20-D-9 In Re: The Matter of Abby Snead Cox and Troy Thomas Cox. Copies of the Petition may be obtained from the Pocahontas Court Circuit Clerk, 900 Tenth Avenue Marlinton, WV 24954 Phone Number 304-799-4604. Answer to the Petition shall be served upon the Pocahontas County Circuit

Legal - Other

Clerk and served upon counsel for Abby Snead Cox, Christine B. Stump, Attorney at Law, 230 West Randolph St., Lewisburg WV 24901

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Jones Real Estate Investment & Recycling Company, Inc., Property Owner, to allow a Planned Housing Development for 49 single-family attached townhouses on the property located at 1413 Scott St. NE, further identified as Tax Parcels 499 - ((A)) - 10; 529 - (7) - A; 529 - (7) - 76; 499 - (17) - 48 through 47; and 529 - (7) - 75; Parcel IDs 008134, 008135, 008136, and 210197, zoned Multiple-Family Residential District R-3. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128 Ext. 1120 or by email at btripp@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

Summons and Notice: Child in Need of Protection or Services Matter (CHP-114)
State of Minnesota District Court County of: Pine Judicial District: 10th Judicial District Court File Number: 58-JV-23-32 Case Type: CHIPS In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child of: Christine Carole Holman and Heath Allen Hamilton Skinner Summons and Notice Child in Need of Protection or Services Matter (CHP-114) NOTICE TO: Heath Allen Hamilton Skinner, Above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s). 1. A Child in Need of Protection or Services Petition has been filed in the Juvenile Court alleging that the child(ren) of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) is/are in need of protection or services. 2. This is your notice that this Child in Need of Protection or Services case is scheduled for a remote hearing before the Juvenile Court located at 635 Northridge Drive NW, Suite 320 Pine City Minnesota 55063, on April 14, 2023 at 10:30 AM or as soon after as the case can be heard. Please contact court administration to get the remote hearing information. 3. YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date. 4. You have a right to be represented by counsel. 5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including taking permanent custody of the child(ren) named in the Petition. BY: Jessica Howe Dated March 7, 2023 Pine County Court Administration 635 Northridge Drive NW, Suite 320 Pine City Minnesota 55063 320-591-1500

Legals - Montgomery County

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, April 3, 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. Rezoning request by Jerry L. Beasley and L. R. Ferolino-Beasley, Property Owners, to rezone an approximately 0.802 acre portion of the property located at 2475 Glade Drive SE, Tax Parcel 530 - ((A)) - 6; Parcel ID 027238, from Agricultural District A to Single Family Residential District R-1. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1120 or by email at btripp@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on April 10, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' 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>.

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on property owned by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors to allow a lighted park. The proposed Special Use Permit would allow the installation of lighting at Auburn Park. The proposed lighting plan consists of twenty-one (21) 60-foot light poles, one (1) 70-foot light pole, and eight (8) 80-foot light poles on the athletic fields currently under development. A total of one hundred forty-four (144) individual LED downcast lighting fixtures would be installed on the poles, with fixtures installed at a height of 16 feet and/or at the maximum pole height. The property is located at 3595 Riner Road (St. Rt. 8), and is located approximately 0.1 miles North of the intersection of Riner Road (Route 8) and Turnberry Ln. The property is further identified as Tax Map 119-A 23 (Parcel ID: 019113), 45.683 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Resource Stewardship in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

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Virginia Tech Transportation Institute sheds new light on Virginia State Police vehicles

BLACKSBURG - The difference between red and blue could save lives.

Ronald Gibbons and his team of researchers from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) have found that motorists passing a stopped police vehicle pay more attention when the vehicle has more

emergency lights and uses red lights in its light bar. Now, as the next fleet of Virginia State Police vehicles is being rolled out, the vehicles are being equipped with a new lighting pattern that includes both red and blue lights, based on testing and evaluation by Virginia State Police Driver Training Center staff, nationwide

best practices for police vehicle emergency lighting, vendor input, and recommendations from VTTI's published research.

"VTTI's lighting study findings and recommendations played a significant role in the marking and lighting configuration of our newly designed patrol SUV's," said Col.

Gary T. Settle, superintendent of the Virginia State Police. "We are grateful for the significant research and collaborative efforts that VTTI extended to the Virginia State Police during the multiple phases of the study."

The Move Over Law established in 2002 requires drivers to move over if passing

stopped vehicles with flashing amber, red, or blue lights. Despite the law, 40 officers were killed in 2022 across the nation in traffic-related incidents, a 29 percent increase from 2021, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

Submitted by Virginia Tech

Botswana

from page 1

In return, she will return to Botswana and work for the government as a veterinarian for at least two years. She hopes to work with the exotic wildlife prevalent in her home country.

"I'm going to go back for those two years and hopefully work in the wildlife industry because Botswana has one of the biggest wildlife industries," Hughes said. "Botswana lacks vets and lacks the education system to teach people about animals and how to properly take care of animals. ... I'd like to work with exotic animals. The different animals seem way more complicated to work with and how complicated interests me the most."

Virginia Tech is helping Botswana with its conservation and sustainability efforts. Kathleen Alexander, a professor of wildlife conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, has been conducting research in Botswana for nearly 30 years. In 2001, she co-founded the Centre for African Resources, Animals, Communities, and Land Use (CARACAL), which is a nonprofit organization on the edge of Chobe National Park that promotes conservation efforts while also improving the lives of the people through outreach and educational efforts.

Alexander spoke highly of Botswana's conservation and sustainability efforts.

"Under His Excellency's leadership, Botswana is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and undoubtedly a leader in conservation," she said. "I can truly say without any hesitation that his passion for wildlife is only surpassed by his commitment to the well-being of the citizens of Botswana. His government has prioritized infrastructure development and wealth-creation programs for communities, including the most vulnerable across the landscape. These programs are embedded and advanced and a unique embracement and culture of conservation and democracy."

In 2019, Masisi and first lady Neo Masisi visited CARACAL and met with Alexander

and her research team, and he expressed support for Alexander's efforts. Alexander approaches research through a holistic lens, one that balances positive conservation outcomes with betterment of the people within various communities.

"The government of Botswana and the people of Botswana have a keen interest in studying the epidemiology of diseases of both domestic and wild animals, which can destroy people's herds of livestock," Masisi said. "It's in our national interest to forestall the dire consequences of animal diseases on our communities' livelihoods. Thus, we

See Botswana, page 6

Blues

from page 1

in attendance will find a mix of musicians, locals, visitors, and of course some of the New River Blues Society members.

Termed "The Hump Day Blues," the experience is more of a "jam" or open mike session. Originally, The Blue Monday Band,

led by Doc Hurley, started playing this ongoing event at The Cellar in Blacksburg.

"The musicians, along with Jessica at Rising Silo, presented the idea of Wednesday Blues night as a trial and it was a hit. So much talent, and you never know on any given Wednesday who will be there," said Kelley.

People like Jojo Stockton, Woogieman, Blues Company, and Billy Crawford, and others, take the stage, with each group performing one or a few songs. The instruments provide a rich, full sound and include saxophone,

guitar, drums, and harmonica, drawing a continuous stream of dancers to the floor.

Brickhouse Pizza in Radford will soon be showcasing a night with blues band Delta Dirt Daubers on April 15, 6- 9 p.m. The New River Blues Society is encouraging community and organization members to come out and enjoy the entertainment with the hopes that more events like this one can be offered.

On May 19, at the Pulaski Theater, an out-of-state band will be appearing that will include the talents of a world-class harmonica player, Kurt Crandall,

teaming up with The Stella Vees Band. Kelley says their organization was fortunate to catch the group on their way through the area after they will play a festival in Tennessee.

"Rachel and Pulaski Theater...well they've all been wonderful to work with," Vernon said, "and they have a great sound system; really nice theater."

Just announced in The New River Blues Society's newsletter this week is another big entertainment night on July 22, also at the Pulaski Theater. Big Al and the Heavy Weights, a group out of Louisiana, is band that Blues enthusiasts will

not want to miss.

Currently, Vernon Kelley reports The New River Blues Society has a list of 320 members.

"Not only are there young people in their 20's and 30's coming out, but they are also playing music. To us, it is great that so many people are not just listening but participating in the blues."

Additional information about venues or membership can be found at <https://www.newriverbluessociety.com/>, or the organization's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nrvBluesSociety>.

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Jeopardy

from page 1

chosen at random. Her number came up late this past year and she flew out to Culver City, California, for shooting in January.

Morris said "everything and nothing" was going through her mind as she stood in front of the board of categories for the first time, looking out at "Jeopardy!" host and 74-time "Jeopardy!" winner Ken Jennings.

"I was worried about buzzing," Morris said. "I was worried about just physically pressing the button properly, at the right time."

Morris said 10 "Jeopardy!" episodes were recorded in two

days of filming, and she grew close to the other contestants at the studio.

"So, all those people are my best friends forever - and my mortal enemies because we're all competing against each other," Morris said. "But I think there's kind of a summer camp sense of camaraderie, like our moms just dropped all of us here, and we're all in the same tent for the next couple days. So, we're best friends now."

Submitted by Virginia Tech

Addys

from page 1

Ray said the product came out of a course project and the most difficult part was physically constructing the beer caddy. She had to print and then apply the paper to a regular grocery store carrier by hand.

In addition to this, Ray also picked up a Gold for her Burpee Seeds packaging and a Silver for Nichols and Sheppard advertising. Emily Woods's Silver Addy

came from her work rebranding Lipton Tea that she produced last fall in her Packaging and 3D Design class. The project asked her to redesign the Lipton Tea logo and branding currently seen in stores.

"We also had to design six tea packaging boxes that each would hold 20 tea packets," Woods said.

"Each tea packet had a restriction of only using two

colors. The project in total had over 120 mockups between the tea boxes and the tea packets."

Britiany Rorrer also did very well at the competition. She won a Silver for her Nature Anatomy poster series and both a Gold and Judge's Choice award for "Cooking and Cuisine." Her entry was featured in the ceremony's official program as was Ray's Kilt Guilt.

CROSSWORD

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Medical products manufacturer
 5. Depletes gradually
 9. Metrical foot used in poetry
 13. Brand of clear wrap
 14. Gabriel was one
 16. Famous for his window's & glass
 18. H. Potter's best friend
 19. Tennessee's flower
 20. Narrow inlet
 21. Puts it on the chopping block
 22. Fed
 23. Hall of Fame DJ Rick
 24. Most loathsome
 27. Farewell (Spanish)
 29. Plant germination vessel
 30. Am. Heart Assoc.
 32. Sock repair
 33. Gather fabric in rows
 35. Muscat is the capital
 36. Goat and camel hair fabric
 37. Raised meeting platform
 38. Oral polio vaccine developer
 39. Yield to another's wish
 40. A country's entry permit
 41. Hero of Spain El ___
 42. Partner of pepper
 43. Famous grandma artist
 46. Freedom from difficulty
 47. Supervises flying
 50. In spite of
 53. Insatiable
 54. Source of chocolate
 55. Sulk
 56. CCC
 57. Amounts of time
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Popular Mexican dish
 2. Fe
 3. Obstruct
 4. Fixes firmly in
 5. Indian frocks
 6. Music, ballet and literature
 7. What part of (abbr.)
 8. More deceitful
 9. Informal term for data
 10. Chinese gelatin
 11. Repair fabric
 12. Nellie __, journalist
 13. Single Lens Reflex
 15. Away from one's home
 17. Mined minerals
 21. Longest division of geological time
 22. Affirm positively
 23. Paul Adrien __, Br. physicist
 25. Ballroom dance
 26. Tai (alt. sp.)
 27. Dental group
 28. ABA ___ Honeymoon
 29. Female sibling
 31. Today host Curry
 33. Deriving pleasure from cruelty
 34. Went quickly (archaic)
 35. Kiln for drying hops
 37. Misrepresentation
 38. Absence of sound
 40. Many blood vessels
 42. Satisfies to excess
 43. Glandular fever
 44. Capital city of Shiga, Japan
 45. Hit sharply
 46. This (Spanish)
 47. Payroll tax
 48. Freshwater duck genus
 49. In the past
 50. A small drink of liquor
 51. Own (Scottish)
 52. Daughters of the Am. Revolution

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OBITUARIES

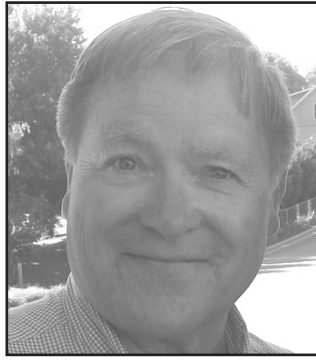
Albert, Kenneth Leroy

Kenneth Leroy Albert, 73, of Christiansburg, died Tuesday March 21, 2023. He passed away into the waiting arms of his Heavenly Father, as he napped peacefully in his home. His faith was in his Lord Jesus Christ.

Kenny retired from the Brooks Center at Virginia Tech after 30 years of service. He was their main machinist, and he was also in charge of running the sawmill.

He served his country for several years as an enlisted member of the Army Reserves where he was a sergeant first class.

Kenny enjoyed several hobbies during his lifetime. Making fun of his children was on the top of his list. He was known as an avid car, truck and motorcycle guy and he enjoyed going to car shows with Paul and Ray and Kevin. Kenny was a do-it-yourself guy and if something needed to be fixed, he was a teacher and motivator to Paul and Kevin. There wasn't anything he couldn't fix or improve. Kenny loved to travel and he and Paul took a wonderful trip in recent years out west and visited the Grand Canyon. Kenny was also able to take vacations with Kevin's family to Treasure Island and to Key West Florida, where he soaked up the sun and enjoyed watching the sun set at Mallory Square. Other special memories are times that Trena spent eating



breakfast with Kenny at Cracker Barrel and Country Kitchen and just sitting in the swing sharing laughs and good times. Always on a Tuesday, Kenny could be found with Ray at El Rodeo and on Thursdays at El Bronco with Trena.

Kenny is survived by his devoted wife of 44 years, Barbara Olinger Albert. She lovingly cared for him during his brief illness, and he was able to remain in his home surrounded by his loved ones. He is also survived by his son Kevin Albert and wife Lisa, son Byron Albert, and daughter Trena French and son-in-law and friend Paul French.

He has four grandchildren, Christopher and Joshua Albert, Renee Albert and Bryson Albert, and two great grandsons.

Kenny is also survived by his sister, Peggy Eads; brother-in-law and best friend Ray Eads; and sisters-in-law Sarah and Joe Denig and Connie and Boyd Huff.

Kenny was predeceased by his brother-in-law, Richard Olinger, and his parents, Doug and Birdie Albert.

Kenny's family received friends Thursday, March 23, 2023 at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive SW Blacksburg, and held a service in the chapel celebrating Kenny's life, with family friend Rev. Jimmie Lee Price and daughter Trena French officiating. There was no graveside service.

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, VA24347, 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

CITIES OF REFUGE

Read Joshua 18:1 through 20:9

Once the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, it had to be divided amongst the tribes. Joshua asked for a survey to be done, and with that information he carefully assigned each tribe their portion.

Chapter 20 addresses an interesting issue that reflects God's passion for justice. The "eye for an eye" principle was in vogue in those days, and God wanted justice for those who killed someone accidentally.

"Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood." (Joshua 20:2-3).

What a great picture of Jesus and His compassion for us. Our sins can be accidental or unintentional, but sadly we sometimes disobey on purpose. Yet in either case, Jesus invites us to come to Him, confessing our sin. He promises to forgive us and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). He provides us the ultimate refuge from our mistakes.

Prayer for Today: Lord, when my thoughts, words, or actions are not pleasing to You, I will run to You because I know You are my "city of refuge."

Quicklook: Joshua 20:1-9

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

Christian, Donna Kessinger

Donna Kessinger Christian, 57, of Christiansburg, was suddenly carried away by the loving arms of Jesus into the Kingdom of Heaven on Monday, March 20, 2023.

She was born in Radford on May 31, 1965, to the late Harold Richard Kessinger and Clarice Opal Fain Kessinger. Donna was a loving wife, mother, and "Mimi" to her husband, children, and grandchildren. Her family is what made her thrive, smile and enjoy life; she just couldn't wait to bring them all together to make memories.

Donna was an insurance professional for more than 34 years and was a current agency owner with her husband at Christian Insurance Agency in downtown Blacksburg. She was a longtime volunteer with the American Cancer Society and was currently serving as the Main Event Lead for Montgomery County's "Relay for Life." She was a very active member in the Women's Ministry and sang in the Choir at Christiansburg Baptist Church.



She is survived by her husband Zane Fitzgerald Christian; three sons, Christopher Ryan Cox, (wife Jenna Dawn Cox), Zane Chandler Christian, and Brandon Wesley Cox; grandchildren, Emma Grace Christian, Kaylynn Marie Cox, Clinton Wayne Meadows, Zane Gray Christian, and Isabella Elizabeth Christian;

uncle Charlie Whitaker and other adopted family members include John Jamar Buckner; Wendell and Amy Smith; Debbie Whitaker and Jimmie MacConnell; and "many" other special friends that are like family. Funeral services will be conducted Friday, March 31, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Belmont Christian Church with a visitation from noon - 2 p.m. before the service. Interment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens. In Lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Montgomery County "Relay for Life" in C/O: Pat Worrell at 1108 Horseshoe Lane; Blacksburg VA 24060.

Owens, Frances Flinchum

Frances Flinchum Owens, 84, grandchildren and 10 step great grandchildren; sisters, Vivian Marshall, Verily Simpkins (Harold), and Vickie Moles (Tony); brother, Rickey Flinchum (Donna); and many other relatives and friends.



Survivors include her daughters, Kathy Archer, and Karen Delp (Rusty); son, Tony Owens (Donna); nine grandchildren and four step grandchildren; 13 great

Baptist Church. Memorial services followed with Pastor Tony Hart officiating.

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

Patty, Anna Johnson

Anna Johnson Patty, of business field and restaurant field Christiansburg, passed away on March 18 after suffering a long battle with Alzheimer's. She was born on August 25, 1937, daughter of the late Henry Richard Johnson and Gertrude Smith Johnson.



Anna is survived by her daughter, Robin Patty of Murfreesboro, Tn.; her son, C. Wayne Patty, Jr. and daughter-in-law Angela Patty of Christiansburg; and her daughter, Christine Snider, son-in-law Mike Snider, and her grandson Robbie Snider of Christiansburg. Anna was preceded in death by her ex-husband C. Wayne Patty, Sr. of Blacksburg.

Anna graduated from Vero Beach High School in Vero Beach, Fla. in 1955. She was a member of the band in high school where she played the oboe and piano. She was voted "Most Likely to Succeed" by her senior class. She obtained a bachelor's degree in 1959 from The University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. She was a stay-at-home mom until her divorce, and then worked various managerial jobs in the

including three years in Germany managing a Burger King. Later in her life, she went back to school and obtained a master's degree in 1995 from Virginia Tech in education. She went on to become a middle school teacher in math in Hampton Roads. During the summers, she worked at Busch Gardens as a tram driver. Upon retiring from teaching, she moved to Christiansburg. She kept busy working various volunteer jobs, including a CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children).

The family would like to thank Heritage Hall, Good Samaritan, and especially Michael Mullins for their compassionate care during her battle with Alzheimer's and all their help and support for her caregiving.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that a memorial donation be made to the Alzheimer's Association in Anna's name. Per Anna's wishes, she is to be cremated and have her remains scattered over Mt. Pisgah.

Mattox, William Ray

William Ray Mattox, 80, of Riner, passed away Friday, March 17, 2023. He was a U. S. Navy veteran and a retired sheet metal worker.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph, Sr. and Ruth Mattox; and daughter, Shelly Dickerson.

Survivors include his loving wife of 62 years, Janet Mattox; daughters and sons-in-law, Gayle and Terry Semones, and Denise and Earnie Hackney; grandchildren, David Dickerson (Ashley), Andrew Dickerson, Carrie Simpkins, April Simpkins, Craig Simpkins (Sasha), and Teri Goodhart (Joel); 10 great



grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Jay and Patsy Mattox; sisters, Bonnie Epperly and Polly Carver; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Ray McDaniel and Stewart Roberts officiating. Interment followed with full military honors at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Olinger, Clyde "Richard" Pierce

Clyde "Richard" Pierce Olinger, of Blacksburg, passed away on March 19, 2023.

He was predeceased by son Ben Perkins; sister Judy Horne; and parents Clyde and Lucy Olinger. He leaves behind sisters Connie Huff, Barbara Albert and Sarah Denig; and brothers-in-law Boyd

Huff, Kenny Albert and Joe Denig. He also leaves behind a granddaughter Autumn Grace Perkins and numerous nieces and nephews.

Richard enjoyed hunting and fishing and the outdoors and he was loved by many. No services are planned at this time.

Radford University art education student selected as inaugural Virginia Art Education Association Pre-Service Board Member

RADFORD - Junior Art Education major Raeven Harris, of Radford, represented Radford University as the inaugural pre-service board member at the Virginia Art Education Association (VAEA) Winter Conference. She was selected from nominees from across the Commonwealth through the support of Stuart Robinson, Chair and Associate Professor in the Art Department, and Lou Ann Thompson, Adjunct Faculty member in the Art Department. Travel support was provided by the Radford University Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS).

Harris thanked these professors, stating, "without them I would not have had this wonderful



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIV. **Raeven Harris (right) with VAEA President Holly Bess Kincaid (left), at the Virginia Art Education Association Conference.**

opportunity." Harris had the opportunity to "meet with other preservice members and ask retired teachers the burning questions we had and they helped quell our fears as well as give beneficial advice."

Harris was able to gain valuable professional development and workforce readiness skills through workshops and feedback on lesson planning, interviewing, and resumes. She said the

event was inspirational as "everyone there was friendly, knowledgeable, willing to share and that helped me to think outside of the box to increase class participation and morale."

At the conclusion of the transformative three-day experience, Harris won a raffle for a handmade book by a member of the community.

Submitted by Radford University

Registration open for annual Scrabble tournament for literacy

Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley 15th Annual LVNRV Scrabble Tournament will be held Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Sinkland Farms in Christiansburg.

"This event not only helps raise funds for our adult literacy programs but also raises awareness for our mission," LVNRV announced. "We are expecting 120 participants to join us for a fun evening of friends, food, drinks, and exciting Scrabble play! We could use your help to make this our best year ever."

"All proceeds from this fun evening support free tutoring for adults to

provide them with the skills they need for personal independence and family self-sufficiency," the announcement continues. "Our programs include one-on-one tutoring, Skill Up NRV and Family READS programs, our GED and U.S. Citizenship preparation classes, and our Bridge to Digital Learning initiative. Words can change the world! We look forward to seeing you there."

Registration is now open. Register at www.lvnrv.org or call 540-382-7262.

Submitted by Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley

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Botswana from page 4

believe that Virginia Tech can reasonably share their experiences, research insights and advances in veterinary sciences to help us improve efforts in managing and containing contagious diseases of wildlife. The ground is fertile for entering a mutually beneficial partnership."

Masisi received applause during his speech when he noted that more than 40 percent of Botswana's land had been dedicated to conservation. He said he wants to use Botswana's natural resources to transform its economy and uplift people's livelihoods, and that means assisting communities while ensuring that wildlife and ecosystems are managed sustainably.

That also means embracing the challenge of listening to all the different opinions on conservation strategies from

various groups of people - local governments, businesses, institutes of higher learning, citizens, and students. Masisi wants every voice to be heard.

"Botswana has an urgent need to develop its economy and improve the lives of its people," Masisi said. "Our conservation ideals are people-centered, with a view to getting benefits for local communities, who are the custodians of our natural assets. ... There must be open and transparent consultation with all involved across sectors of society. It is against this backdrop that, as a country, we lead the continent on merging conservation, democracy, and sustainable development."

Rich Mathieson for Virginia Tech

RADFORD SPORTS

Inside the Bracket: Breaking down the teams in Seattle

In front of a sold-out Cassell Coliseum, the Virginia Tech women's basketball team earned a spot in the Sweet 16 for just the second time in program history, advancing to the regional semifinal round following wins over Chattanooga and South Dakota State.

The top-seeded Hokies will make the cross-country trek to Seattle ahead of their clash with No. 4 Tennessee on Saturday, March 25. Tipoff time is set for 6:30 p.m. ET on ESPN2.

The winner of that game will play the winner of the UConn-Ohio State contest on Monday, March 27, with a trip to the Final Four up for grabs.

Take a deeper dive below into the other three squads joining Virginia Tech in the Emerald City this weekend.

NO. 4 TENNESSEE

No stranger to March Madness, the Lady Vols are making their 36th Sweet 16 appearance, the most for any women's or men's program in NCAA Tournament history. Tennessee has won eight national championships in its storied history, trailing only UConn and its 11 national titles.

Virginia Tech and Tennessee met earlier this season in Knoxville, a 59-56 win for the Hokies behind a team-high 18 points from Kayana Traylor. Elizabeth Kitley was held to just six points in that contest, one of only three games this year in which she failed to reach double figures.

The Lady Vols appear to be peaking at the right time, having scored 94 points and 95 points, respectively, in their first two NCAA Tournament games. They have won eight of their last 10 games, and the last time they lost to a team that was not No. 1 South Carolina was a 91-90 setback to Mississippi State back on Feb. 6.

Ricke Jackson and Jordan Horston,

both First Team All-SEC picks, pace Tennessee's offensive attack, averaging a combined 35 points per game.

The Hokies are 3-8 all-time against UT, including an 0-1 mark at neutral sites. Interestingly enough, that one neutral site game happened to be Virginia Tech's first Sweet 16 trip back in 1999, a game the Hokies lost 68-52 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Tennessee Head Coach Kellie Harper was a starting guard for the Vols in that game in 1999.

NO. 2 UCONN

A program that needs no introduction to women's basketball fans, UConn is appearing in its 30th Sweet 16. In the midst of a seven-game winning streak and having won 10 of their last 11 outings, the Huskies defeated Vermont and Baylor this past weekend to claim a spot in Seattle and extend their run to 29 consecutive Sweet 16 showings.

Forward Aaliyah Edwards joins Kitley on the Naismith Player of the Year semifinalist list and boasts averages of 17.0 points per game on 59% shooting along with 9.0 rebounds per game. Azzi Fudd, the nation's top-ranked recruit in the Class of 2021, recently returned from injury and put up 22 points in the Huskies' win over Baylor Monday evening.

Virginia Tech and UConn have met 11 times but have not faced one another since 2006 in an NCAA Tournament second-round game, a 79-56 victory for the Huskies in University Park, Pennsylvania.

NO. 3 OHIO STATE

The Buckeyes needed a buzzer-beater to defeat North Carolina on Monday to claim their second-straight trip to the Sweet 16. Ohio State is in the midst of its 25th NCAA Tournament appearance and is pursuing just its second Final Four in program history.



Fans gave the Lady Hokies a grand send off Wednesday as they left for their the Sweet 16 in Seattle.



Virginia Tech's Georgia Soule thanks fans as the Lady Hokies climbed into the bus for the trip to the airport as they prepared for their next game in the NCAA tournament.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

OSU's offense is one of the best in the country as the Buckeyes average 80.4 points per game on 46% shooting while dishing out 17.4 assists per game. Guard Taylor Mikesell leads the team with 17.2 points per game.

The Hokies won their only previous meeting with Ohio State back in 2018 at the West Palm Invitational in Florida.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Hokies begin spring practices

Pry hopes to make them tougher

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Virginia Tech jumpstarted its spring football practice this past week with second-year Coach Brent Pry looking to make his players tougher against all competition.

Matter of fact, he told reporters that might include bringing in a special consultant to instruct the team on hand-to-hand combat.

He might not have to look too far down the hallway as basketball Coach Mike Young has signed a new guard with lots of experience in dealing with much larger people, or at least his father has.

Brandon Rechsteiner is a 6-1 guard from Acworth, Ga. His game resembles current Hokie Sean Padulla as he averaged 22 points a game this past winter.

He chose the Hokies over Gonzaga, Tennessee, Miami (Fla.), LSU, Xavier, Clemson and Notre Dame.

His father is "Big Poppa Pump" Scott Steiner, who spent a career beating up people in the squared circle of professional wrestling.

The 6-1, 220 Steiner is perhaps best known for his time in World Championship Wrestling (WCW), and has also wrestled for Jim Crockett Promotions (JCP), World Wrestling Federation/Entertainment (WWF/WWE), Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (TNA, later Impact Wrestling), and Extreme Championship Wrestling (ECW). He is a four-time world champion in wrestling, being a one-time WCW World Heavyweight Champion, a one-time WWA World Heavyweight Champion, and a one-time WWC Universal Heavyweight Champion and a one-time WWA World Heavyweight Champion (Indianapolis version). He is the eighth WCW Triple Crown Champion.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Steiner wrestled alongside his older brother Rick as The Steiner Brothers. He has won several tag team titles, including the WWF Tag Team Championship, WCW World Tag Team Championship, IWGP Tag Team Championship, and the TNA/Impact World Tag Team Championship. He headlined multiple pay-per-view events for WCW and TNA.

On the practice, Pry said the Hokies' roster will look a lot different.

"The investment and sacrifice are much better," said Pry. "We're now heading into phase two, which is really good for us. It's taking everything we did in phase one into phase two, which is spring. We are really excited about that. The roster looks completely different, and we got some new coaching changes."

"Watching the guys work this morning, they're really efficient and smooth in what they're doing," Pry continued. "I'm fired up we got an open practice for everybody on March 25. We did this last year and have another one this spring, which will be in Lane Stadium. I believe that's our fifth practice. It will be a chance for everybody to come out and see what we're about."

Tech added 19 newcomers for the spring semester, with 13 of the players being on offense, five on defense and one specialist. Wide receiver was the position group with the most influx (5), while offensive line was a close second (4).

Of course, two new assistants had to jump into the deep end of spring ball. Pry called it a crash course.

"There's some familiarity, right? Through the interview process you have a lot of discussions on Zoom. You can talk multiple times and talk technique and fundamentals. Where we're at. What they believe in. Philosophies. And then familiarity with the offenses they've been around. That was important in the process. It sure makes the transition better when there's a lot of familiarity," he said.

Virginia Tech recently announced the addition of Ron Crook as offensive line coach. Crook's career has spanned three decades and includes stops at Cincinnati, West Virginia, Stanford, Harvard and Illinois, while spending the previous season at South Dakota.

Maryland's Elijah Brooks was named running backs coach, following a successful run with the Terps and powerhouse DeMatha Catholic High School.

The Hokies will hold their annual Spring Game, presented by PMSI, in Lane Stadium on Saturday, April 15 at 3 p.m. More specifics about that day's events will be released when finalized.

Registration is also now open for Virginia Tech's annual 3.2-mile Run in Remembrance, which will take place that Saturday, April 15. The event will begin with a moment of silence at 9 a.m. to honor and remember the lives of the 32 students and faculty who were tragically taken from us 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, the Virginia Tech Pylons and will take runners and walkers through Lane Stadium.

Visit 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.



Jessica Wollmann, a 2019 Radford University alumna, is the recipient of an NCAA postgraduate scholarship.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford Women's Soccer alumna awarded NCAA postgraduate scholarship

RADFORD - Radford women's soccer alumna Jessica Wollmann '19 is one of a select few student-athletes in the nation to be awarded an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.

The NCAA awards up to 126 postgraduate scholarships annually. The scholarships are awarded to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are at least in their final year of intercollegiate athletics competition.

The one-time non-renewable scholarships of \$10,000 are awarded three times a year corresponding to each sport season (fall, winter and spring). Each sports season there are 21 scholarships available for men and 21 scholarships available for women for use in an accredited graduate program.

All former student-athletes who earned an undergraduate degree from an NCAA member school are eligible to be nominated by that school for an NCAA graduate degree scholarship, regardless of when they received their undergraduate degree.

"In order to provide Ms. Wollmann with the best reference possible, we had a series of Zoom interviews and email exchanges," noted Radford Athletics' NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative Holly Cline. "I have enjoyed getting to know Jessica on a personal level. She is smart, kind, and extremely impressive. She has a clear vision as to why she is pursuing a PhD. And it is no wonder why she competed so fiercely in her sport. Within ten minutes of talking to her, I could tell that she was driven to achieve her graduate degree and destined to be successful."

Wollmann finished her undergraduate studies with a perfect 4.00 GPA while majoring in anthropological studies. She was named the 2019 Virginia Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC) Scholar of the Year, Big South Woman of the Year and Scholar-Athlete of the Year, a CoSIDA Academic All-America First Team member and most recently the Big South Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Wollmann was a Top 10 Finalist for the Senior CLASS Award and a recipient of the Big South's

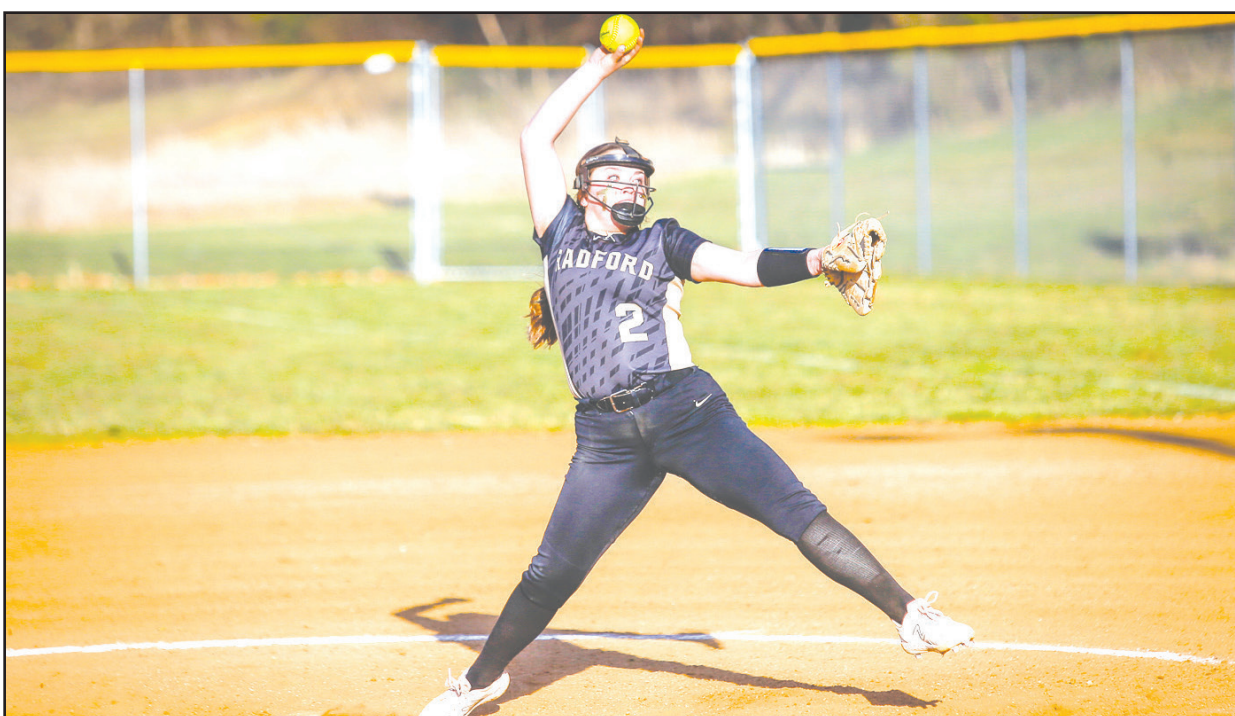
prestigious Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence.

The Blacksburg native was also awarded the Radford Artis College of Science and Technology Outstanding Student Award at the end of her senior year. Wollmann's volunteer activities included the Blacksburg Girls Soccer Program, Martin Luther King Day of Service, the Montgomery County Special Olympics, and Fear 2 Freedom - student-made kits for when sexual assault survivors are released from the hospital. She was also involved in the Radford University community with the Center of Accessibility Services, Student Government, the Anthropology Club and the Board of Visitors.

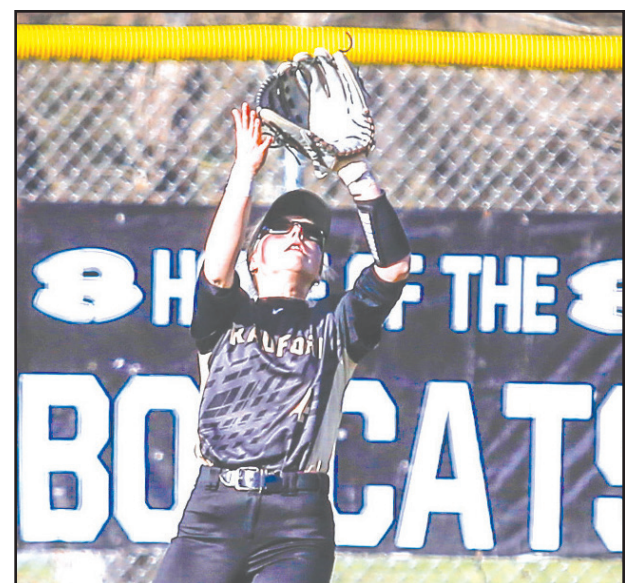
See Wollman, page 8

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Radford softball downs East Mont



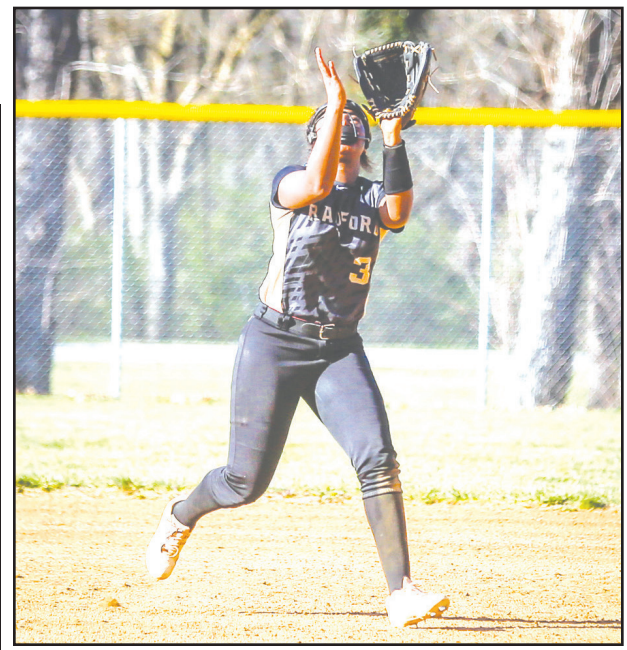
Pitcher Makaylee Hughes went the distance for the win over the Mustangs as Radford moves to 2-1 overall on the season. Hughes surrendered two runs on four hits over seven innings, striking out four.



Centerfielder Addie Saunders tracks down a fly ball for an out against Eastern Montgomery.



Addie Saunders powers an extra base hit in Tuesday's win. As a team, Radford racked up 18 hits as Saunders finished three hits.



Shortstop Kaydence Rollins hauls in an infield popout in Tuesday's game as the Bobcats picked up a 10-2 win over Eastern Montgomery.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

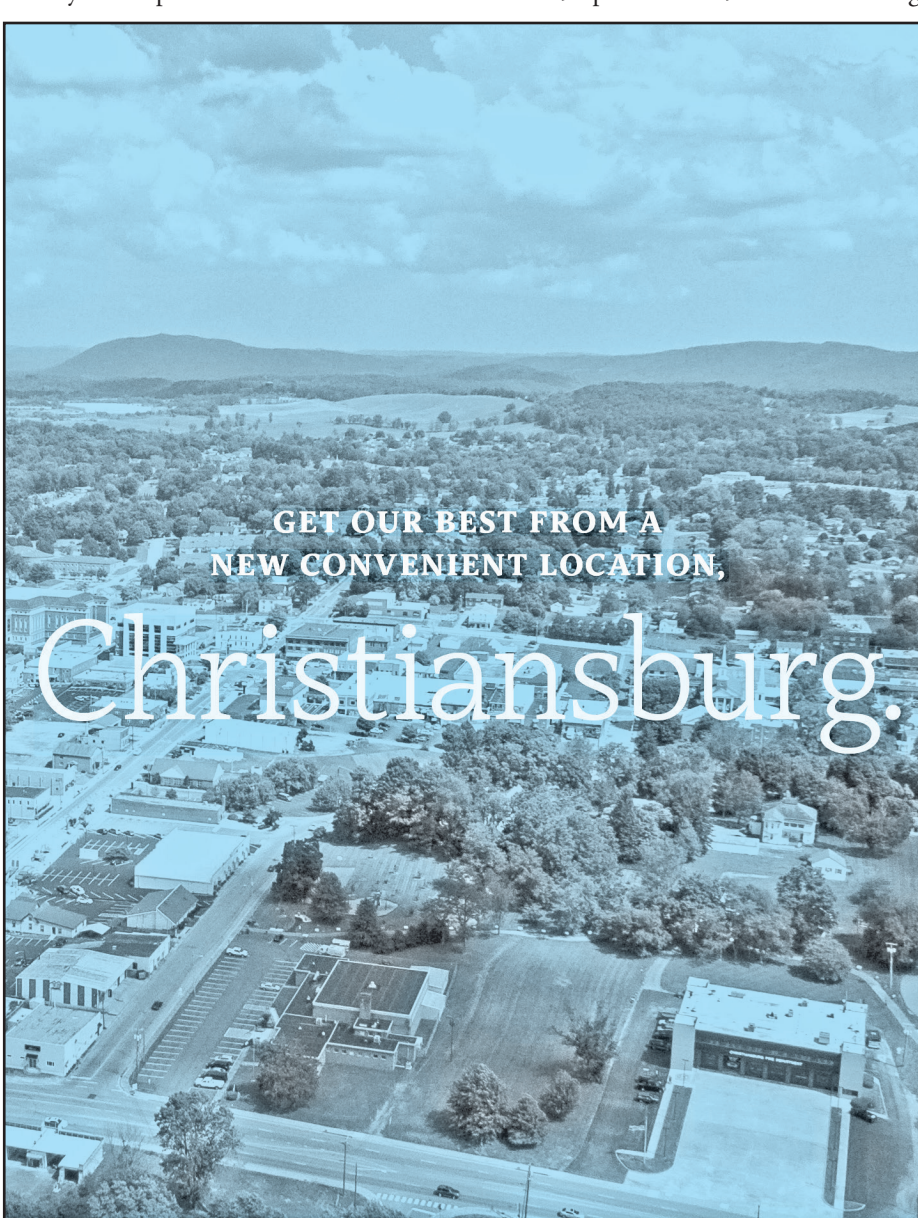
Highlanders season concludes at CBI

The 2022-23 season had its curtain call on Tuesday night as the Radford University men's basketball team fell to Charlotte, 63-56, in the CBI semifinals. In Darris Nichols' second season leading the way, the Highlanders finished 21-15 overall, the 12th team in program history to eclipse the 20-win mark. This

squad also became the first in program history to win multiple postseason tournament games in a single season. It was a cold shooting night all around for Radford, with Bryan Antoine and Josiah Jeffers serving as the only exceptions. Antoine paced all scorers with 19 points on 9-of-14 shooting

while Jeffers added 12 points on 5-of-9 shooting. In total, the Highlanders were just 26-for-63 (41.3%) from the field and 2-for-13 (15.4%) from three-point range. It didn't help that the free throw margin was so lopsided; Charlotte was 17-for-19 at the line while Radford was just 2-for-4.

The 49ers raced out to a 10-2 lead to start the contest before the Highlanders finally acclimated themselves to their high-screening offense which orbits the 6'11", 275-pound Aly Khalifa. Radford battled all the way back make it a 27-24 deficit at halftime and even took a 36-34 lead with 13:36 to go in the second half. Charlotte didn't take it well, as they flipped the script back in their



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Track and Field/Cross Country office named in Jerry Gaines' honor

Ceremony recognized Tech's first black scholarship student-athlete

Virginia Tech director of athletics Whit Babcock announced that in recognition of Jerry Gaines, the director of track and field/cross country office is officially named in his honor.

The Dr. Jeremiah "Jerry" Gaines Jr. '71 Track and Field/Cross Country Director's Office, which is located on the third floor of Cassell Coliseum, was unveiled during a special VIP dedication ceremony Monday morning.

Gaines opened the way for black athletes to compete in track and field as the first black full scholarship athlete at Virginia Tech. His school record in the outdoor long jump (24' 10" (7.57m)) stood until 2013, and his 120-yard hurdles record still stands at 14.1. Gaines graduated from Tech with a degree in Spanish in 1971.

"Virginia Tech, as much as anything, gave me validity – undeniable proof that I could indeed compete on this huge stage as well as anyone," said Gaines. "A Virginia Tech class ring meant that I could stand alongside anyone, and never again have to endure those stares that might label me as anything less than 'legitimate.' It meant that I could not only function, but excel in any type of environment – academic, athletic, social, or any other."

Gaines continued to excel after college, first serving in the Army as a second lieutenant. He then found his way back to the classroom as a high school Spanish teacher and coach. He was awarded coach of the year in 1987 by the Portsmouth Sports Club and was named teacher of the year in 1990. Gaines greatly influenced the lives of thousands of students before retiring in 2011.

favor with a 15-2 run over six minutes of game time to pull away. Brice Williams dropped a 14-point, 11-rebound double-double to help the 49ers fend off each and every comeback push that came their way. Lu'cye Patterson added 13 points and Isaiah Folkes ended the game with 11 points of his own.

KEY STATS
Radford earned a 36-to-26 advantage in points in the paint. Charlotte's bench was responsible for 22 points while Radford's bench only mustered six points. The 49ers tallied 13 assists on 20 made baskets.

Radford University Athletics

"Great leadership is never a matter of lauding one's power over others, but to help others to greatness in whatever endeavor they might choose to pursue in life," said Gaines.

As one of only 20 black students on campus, he helped build a path for every black athlete to find greatness at Tech, standing against racism and prejudice in the classroom. With the support of family, teammates, coaches, and a special English teacher, Gaines learned the power of encouragement and the difference between success and significance.

"This is a significant honor for Jerry because it is a permanent reminder of what this amazing individual means to not just the athletics department at Virginia Tech but the entire university," said director of track and field/cross country Dave Cianelli. "Every student-athlete who attends Virginia Tech will now know how much Jerry Gaines influenced their opportunity to attend Virginia Tech and be a student-athlete."

In November of 1990, Gaines was the first black athlete inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame. Although he continues to feel humbled by the recognition, he is well deserving of the honor as a seven-time conference champion and an eight-time national championship qualifier.

"I feel honored and blessed to have been given the opportunities to serve Ut Prosim," said Gaines. "My life's riches lie in the memories stored away in this old heart – gold coins that are represented by the thousands of individuals I have been blessed to meet and get to know."

Virginia Tech Athletics