

# News Journal



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## Radford Police Department seeks public input for accreditation process



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE RADFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

RADFORD - Since 2021, the Radford City Police Department has been working toward meeting national law enforcement accreditation standards with the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Now it is looking for public input for the accreditation process.

The Radford Police Department issued the following statement about the accreditation process and the request for public input:

“Some of the accreditation work has included ensuring that our policies and procedures for our department are in compliance with nationally recognized standards from CALEA. Additionally, the Radford City Police Department has worked hard to strengthen its partnerships with the Radford community, and we continue to deliver the highest quality law enforcement services to the Radford community that are consistent

See **Police**, page 4

## Radford Community Garden season begins soon

Jim Graham

Community Garden volunteer leader

RADFORD - The Radford Community Garden will be enjoying its fourteenth year this upcoming growing season.

Sign-ups for the upcoming growing season begin next week.

The garden is located near the Radford Pump Station on Pulaski Street. The site has a six-foot fence enclosing it, has a gate that is locked at all times, and has sufficient space for the current size of 42 plots.

Gardeners who sign for a plot are given a rules and regulations document that defines their responsibilities in great detail, as is necessary in such an undertaking. The plots cost \$20 for the 20 x 20-foot size and \$10 for the 20 x 10-foot size. The fee provides funds for plowing in the fall, tilling just before the planting season, and any necessary clean-up after the growing season.

Many of the same gardeners have been in the community garden for years and a strong feeling of brotherhood exists as they all have a common interest. A variety of vegetables is grown each year with tomatoes, green beans, and various greens being the most popular.

Sign-up for the 2023 gardening season will begin on March 13, 2023 in the Radford Administration Office. Plots are assigned in the order of sign-up with priority given to those who previously had a plot.

## Locks offer a look into the past



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION, MUSEUM AND GALLERY

Locks would have intricate details included as another way to display the owner's wealth.

RADFORD - Glencoe Mansion invites the community to take some time to slow down and enjoy the details.

A surprising place to find intricate details is keyholes and escutcheons, decorative covers for keyholes. Over the course of the 1800s many industries began to boom, creating a newly wealthy middle class. As members of the middle and upper classes began to amass more possessions of worth, they needed locks to keep their items safe. This meant new, more intricate metal locks for doors and windows to keep thieves out, as well as new locks for indoor safes as they began to employ household staffs and conduct business from



As wealth increased in the 1800s, locks became more necessary to keep possessions safe.

home, welcoming “strangers” into their houses. Locks would have intricate details included as another way to display the owner's wealth.

Examples of these intricate locks with their rich details can be found at Glencoe Mansion, which is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

-Submitted by Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery

## NRV Fine Arts Center to open trash-to-treasure art show on April 21

RADFORD - The Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley (FACNRV) will open a new exhibit, “Recycled, Repurposed, Reimagined,” on Friday, April 21, just in time for Earth Day, that will highlight creative reuse through a display of works created with found, reclaimed, or natural objects and supplies. The deadline to submit works for the exhibit has been extended until March 12.

“We are asking area crafters, artists, and other makers to get creative with this theme,” said Becky Lattuca, executive director of the Fine Arts Center. “Did you buy a painting at a thrift shop to paint a new picture on the canvas? Or maybe create a functioning lamp out of a bunch of old pipes? Or glue flower petals to an old textbook page to create a new painting? We want to see it,” she said. “Even if you answered no to these questions, but then thought, “maybe I could...?” we encourage you to take that challenge then show us what you did with it.”

“Recycled, Repurposed, Reimagined” is open to all artists of the New River Valley who are 18 years old or older. Entered works must be original, hand-crafted, and ready for display. Apply by submitting a digital

See **Fine Arts**, page 4

## A farmer's death sparks Radford University alumna's advocacy for wellness efforts in agriculture

In the summer of 2002, Amy Johnson was working as an EMT in between graduating from Virginia Tech and enrolling at Jefferson College of Health Sciences.

She responded to a call on a farm outside Pilot where a farmer had been in an accident out in his fields.

It had taken six hours for his cries for help to be heard, and another hour passed before she and her team finally found the man, pinned between a fallen tractor and a hay cart.

She recognized him, a Hokie who had graduated

with her just weeks before. Despite their best efforts, his injuries proved too severe, and he passed away that night.

The experience never left her, and years later, as she pursued a Doctorate of Nursing Practice at Radford University, she knew where to go for her doctoral capstone.

“I decided to meld the two worlds of agriculture and health care,” she said, “focused on farm injuries and farm safety. And that's how the rest of my life began.”

Johnson grew up on her family farm in Highland County, giving her early hands-on experience with

the agricultural world. Her interest in the field grew as she got older, and by high school, she was involved in livestock judging competitions through her local 4-H Club.

The experience solidified her passion for animal science, and Matthew Miller, then a graduate student in the animal science program at Virginia Tech and the coach of the Virginia Tech Livestock Judging Team, mentored her path to the program.

“It requires a tremendous amount of

See **Agriculture**, page 4

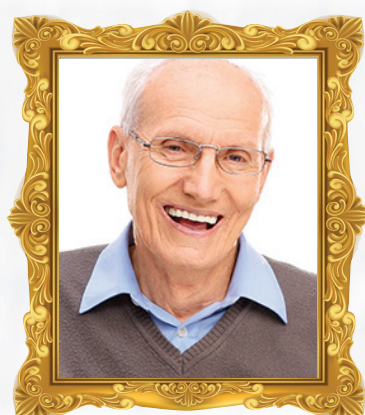


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY JOHNSON

Amy Johnson harvests potatoes with a youth in Peru while studying international agricultural practices.

## Grandpa's Coming Out of the Closet....

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MEMORIAL GARDENS of the NEW RIVER VALLEY

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Thursday, March 9:

**River City Quilt Guild**  
The River City Quilt Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. The guild welcomes 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. Register at <https://montgomerychamber.com/eventregistration/register/9932>. at <https://montgomerychamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/9932>.

**Community quilting bee**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. to noon. Participants can bring their supplies and join in some quilting, sewing, and conversation.

**Talking about Books: "Raising Lazarus"**  
At Meadowbrook Library; 11 a.m. to noon. To be discussed is "Raising Lazarus" by Beth Macy. Call (540) 268-1964 for more information or to reserve a copy.

**Pokemon palooza**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Pokémon trainers can come hang out with their cards and games to trade, battle, or just show off their collection. All ages are welcome.

## Friday, March 10:

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church hosts Mr. Jefferson's Bones Trombone Quintet**  
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, will host a special concert by Mr. Jefferson's Bones, a professional trombone quintet at 4 p.m. The New River Valley community is invited to attend.

## Saturday, March 11:

**"Seth and the Secret of the Butterfly"**  
At the Radford Public Library; noon to 2 p.m. Author Sally Chinn and Illustrators Harriet Anderson, Carolyn Turner, and Cindy Moore will sign books and speak informally about their new book "Seth and the Secret of the Butterfly." Sally is a former middle-school English teacher. Harriet is a biology professor at New River Community College. Together and with the help of illustrators Turner and Moore, they have published a book about children with disabilities and the many gifts they have despite challenges that face them. This is a free event, and participants can learn how this book was brought together. The encouraging message from this gathering is to love the gifts that make you YOU. Books will be available to purchase for \$12 (Cash or Check only).

**Grownup board game club**  
At the Radford Public Library; 2 to 4 p.m. Participants can bring a friend and a board game, or themselves to get some board-gaming time in at the library, which has its own collection of games on hand, but participants are welcome to bring their own games from home.

**Kitchen supply swap**  
At Meadowbrook Library; 1 to 3 p.m. At the library's kitchen supply swap, participants will meet up, give away items they no longer need, and find items that need a new home. This event is free and is open to anyone in

the community interested in contributing to sustainable living. Participants can bring any kitchen items, utensils, gadgets, and thingamabobs that are in good condition, clean, and usable to swap for other items. They may also bring some recipes to share.

Any leftover items will be donated to the Eastmont Thrift Store, a part of the Eastmont Community Foundation.

## Monday, March 13:

**Radford Community Garden sign-up**  
Radford Community Garden will begin sign-up for the 2023 season on March 13, 2023, in the City Administration Building. Previous gardeners will have priority for a plot. A 20' x 20' plot costs \$20; a 10' by 20' plot costs \$10.

**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](http://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.

**Virtual Author Talk with David Epstein**  
On-line event; 1 – 2 p.m. What's the most effective path to success in any domain? It's not what you think. You're invited to find out during a conversation with New York Times bestselling author David Epstein as he chats about his most recent book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*. Register now! <https://libraryc.org/radfordlibrary/24580>.

**Starlight Storytime**  
At the Radford Public Library; 6:30 – 7 p.m. Stop by the library for an evening children's storytime! Wind down for the day with stories and friends at the library. Pajamas and stuffies encouraged!

## Tuesday, March 14:

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to this meeting. If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

**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).

## Buddy King: My favorite songs

I think I have mentioned before that one of my daughters gave me a Christmas present a few years ago called "Storyworth."

I don't know what you would call it (a software program?), but it sends me a new topic every week by email to write about and then submit somewhere in the cloud, where the piece is stored until I click on a magic button and the Storyworth folks will send me as many bound volumes as I want to pay for. A wonderful and thoughtful gift and one that gives me a way to preserve my feelings and experiences for my kids and grandkids.

My great friend Gary is now doing the same thing, but he says, "You know they'll never read these stories."

Oh, ye of little faith, Gary. I write every piece with the thought that they'll be read by someone in the family, maybe everyone. If not, it's still fun and a good place to collect the columns I write for this newspaper, as well as those pieces by A Cat of a Certain Age. She and I are still negotiating royalties.

Some of the Storyworth submissions are a little too personal for general publication, but often they provide a dual purpose that allows me to kill two birds with one stone, another chapter for the family book and a column for my tens of fans in Montgomery County. This week's topic is "my favorite songs."

As usual, I want to expound beyond a mere list and write about feelings and emotions the songs evoke. So, here goes.

1. "Mr. Touchdown USA." Unusual, eye-catching? When I was a young child growing up on Cherry Lane, my Dad bought a record album of college football fight songs done by Percy Faith & His Orchestra. He would play it on Saturday mornings in the fall before he climbed onto the roof and redirected our antenna so that we could get the college football game of the week on Channel 6 out of Bluefield.

As if this wasn't memory enough to include this song, I used to sing it to my daughters in their crib on fall Saturdays (no longer having a turntable to play the record album). I would change the lyrics to "They call her Mrs. Touchdown, they call her Mrs. T."

My girls probably don't remember, but the memory makes my eyes misty.

2. "Jimmy Mack." Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, classic Motown song of the 60's, but my memories are from the 1980's, when I used to dance with my daughter Beth in the front hall of our old house on Johnson Avenue. Loved the rhythm and the words were easy. Just yell "Jimmy Mack when are you coming back?" every 30 seconds and spin Beth around.

3. "I Loved her First." Heartland (?). Danced to this song with daughter Laura at her wedding. When she asked me to pick a song for the Daddy-Daughter dance, I remembered this tune from the radio. I really didn't know that it had probably become trite by the time we danced to it, but the words are so perfect for the occasion, how can you not go with it? My great friend Hank videoed the dance.

4. "Small Town Southern Man." Alan Jackson. The lyrics are so perfect for kids who grew up in Christiansburg in the 60's and 70's (and probably beyond). It so much fit the lives of my Dad and so many of the other fathers of that era. "He bowed his head to Jesus and he stood for Uncle Sam and he only loved one woman and was always proud of what he had. He said his greatest contribution was the ones he left behind."

5. "Maggie May." Rod Stewart. I think the first time I heard this song was the day I moved into the dorms my freshman year of college. It was blaring from an open window of Tuttle House, and I remember it as the introduction to this new stage of my life. I also remember it as the first time I had ever seen a girl in a halter top. Rod and the Faces played a concert at the U. a few weeks later.

6. "Take Me Home, Country Roads." John Denver. Having lived most of my adult life in West By God Virginia, you might guess that is why it's listed. It is in part, as West Virginia has been great to me, but my first memories of Country Roads also go back to my first year at UVA. My late, great friend of that time,

George Cooley, of the Hillsville Cooleys, was also in his first year and had a car (I did not), and he would drive us home on weekends, up 64 and down 81, and we would sing "I belong in Southwest Virginia." I like to remind my West Virginia friends that John thought he was in Virginia and was actually in western Maryland when he got his inspiration, and he only used "West Virginia" because it fit the tune better. But what the heck, it became the anthem of my adopted state. (The Blue Ridge Mountains aren't in West Virginia either.)

7. "Wang Dang Doodle." The Grateful Dead with Chuck Berry. What more do I need to say?

8. "Wabash Cannonball.

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.

**New Tuesday Night Zumba Class**  
Blacksburg Parks and Recreation is now offering a new Tuesday night Zumba class with Jui-Ling. Classes will begin March 14 and continue through April 25 and will be from 6-7pm. Passes can be purchased at the Blacksburg Community Center and cost \$35 for residents and \$45 for non-residents. Passes are good for 13 visits and are interchangeable with morning and evening classes (excluding Yoga Flow). For more information, call 540-443-1142.

## Saturday, March 25:

**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.

## On-going:

**Lifeguard training**  
The Christiansburg Aquatic Center is hiring high school students aged 16 and above for the summer season. A lifeguard training course is mandatory and will be held March 17- 19. If hired, the training class is free. Enroll at [www.cacpool.com](http://www.cacpool.com).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Roy Acuff. I think Roy made it famous, but my memories are of the great pitcher Dizzy Dean after he became an announcer on baseball's "Game of the Week" in the early 60's. Late in the game, particularly if things were boring, Dizzy would launch into an off-key version of this song and then laugh his great laugh. I read many years later that his performances were usually fueled by the Falstaff Beer he hawked between innings.

9. "Crystal Blue Persuasion." Tommy James and The Shondells. This comes from September of my junior year of high school. It was the second week of the football season and we were playing the Dublin Dukes, the preseason favorite to win the district. I had not played much in the first game but had a great week of practice and was sent in the last four minutes of the game when Dublin was driving towards a winning score. Coach Rusek told me to blitz every play. I discovered that Dublin's first-team offensive line was far superior to our second-team offensive line I had looked so good against in practice. But we held on and won. The night before the game I drove over to my great friend John's house (He did the filming of our games.), and he asked if we had a chance against the Dukes. I remember feeling extremely confident and "guaranteed" John we would win (It was the same year Joe Namath guaranteed a Super Bowl win - my motivation?). I remember we listened to "Crystal Blue Persuasion," a new song that John had just heard. The next night I fell in love and heard the song again.

10. "Sweet Caroline." Neil Diamond. Fenway Park bleachers on Friday night. Nothing better. Written about President Kennedy's daughter. Not sure I would love the song as much as I do except for its being the Red Sox's 8th-inning anthem.

11. Honorable mention to "Dirty Water by the Standells," played after every Sox win.

12. "Smalltown America." Brian Evans. Sent to me a couple of years ago by my friend Dennis (part of the Dublin win by the way). The perfect anthem for the Christiansburg we grew up in. Listen to it.

13. "Beginnings." Chicago. Reminds me of the unrequited loves of my high school years.

14. "Down at P. J. Kelly's Bar." Jule Carenbauer (of the Wheeling Carenbauers. I think Jule was 1 of 10). He wrote and recorded this song about my old favorite watering hole. You can find it on Spotify, and Jule still does a Facebook concert every Wednesday night. The song is about open- mic night at Kelly's in the 90's.

15. All songs by Jimmy Buffett. Particularly, "A Pirate Looks at Forty," "Coast of Carolina," and "Come Monday."

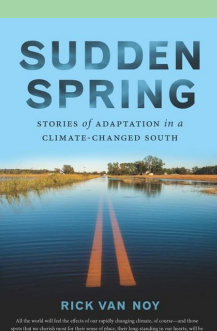
16. "Those Were the Days." Mary Hopkin. The perfect theme for the old gang of friends from my youth: the Gregs, John, Bo, Jay, George, Bobby, and Bob. "We'd sing and dance forever and a day. We'd fight and never lose. Those were the days; we thought they'd never end."

I could go on and on, but I have hit my writing wall. I hope this stirs up some fond memories for you.

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

## Book talk + Q&A with Dr. Rick Van Noy


**"Sudden Spring:  
Stories of Adaptation  
in a  
Climate-Changed  
South"**



**Tuesday, March 14**

**6 p.m.**

**NRCC Library**



**NEW RIVER  
Community College**

## OBITUARIES

## Flythe, Mildred Fugate

Mildred Fugate Flythe, 91, of Blacksburg, passed away Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023, at her home.

She was born in Williston, Fla., on April 12, 1931, to the late Frances (Fannie) Clark and Joshua Hawkins Fugate. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Mary Elizabeth Jones; and brothers, J. B. Fugate, George Fugate,

and Julian Lamar Fugate.

She loved working in flowers, gardening, quilting, sewing, art, and reading books. She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Debra and Rick Hurley, and Dolores and Dan Stegall, a son and daughter-in-law, Buddy and Gail Flythe.; grandchildren Kimberly Hurley and Sarah Beth Radar;

great-grandchildren Alexia C. Radar, Madison Radar, Devin Rader, Conner Matthew Cobb, Kierra Cobb, and Cara Cobb; her brother, Keith Fugate; and special neighbors and friends who were always there when needed, John and Karen Myers, Judy and Larry Fielder, Beth and Bob Francis, and Willis Alls. Services will be held privately.

## Sutphin, Allen Dale

Allen Dale Sutphin, 75, passed away Saturday, March 4, 2023, at his home in Radford.

He was a member of First Baptist Church and retired after 36 years from Lynchburg Foundry.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roba D. and Opal Pauline Sutphin; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Gene and Violet Kingrea; two brothers-in-law

and three sisters-in-law.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Mary Lou Kingrea Sutphin; sons Mark Sutphin, Matthew Dale, and Stacey Sutphin; a granddaughter, Taylor Nichole Sutphin; granddogs Winston and George; a brother and sister-in-law, Donnie Ray and Sherry Sutphin; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to give special thanks to Seth,

Misty, and Kelli with Lincare and to Carilion Hospice for the wonderful, loving care they gave Allen.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, in West View Cemetery in Radford with the Rev. Kent Taylor officiating.

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

## Stevens, Ginger Aust

Ginger Aust Stevens, 59, of Pulaski, passed away Friday, March 3, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Ann Aust.

Survivors include her

husband, John C. Stevens; her son and daughter-in-law, John Robert and Stacy Stevens; a brother and sister-in-law, Bryan and Amy Aust; nieces Madelyn and Elaina; and many other relatives and

friends.

In keeping with Ginger's wishes, no services will be held at this time.

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

## Housel, Elizabeth "Beth" Sluiter

Elizabeth "Beth" Sluiter Housel, 43, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her father, Andrew Sluiter.

Beth is survived by her husband, Elijah Housel; son, Sawyer Housel; mother and stepfather, Valerie and Bryant Brooks; brothers and sister-in-law, Travis Sluiter, and Todd and Kristen Sluiter, along with their daughters, Claire and Millie; sister Ashley Brooks; brother-in-law Joseph



Housel; father and mother-

in-law Charles and Mary Jane Housel; and many other relatives and friends.

A memorial service was held on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the Old Brick Presbyterian Church in Radford with pastor Robert Morris officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. Burial was private.

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

## Hughett, Danny Elliot

Danny Elliot Hughett, 63, of Radford, passed away on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kaviller Charles and Nola Collins Hughett; and his brother, Gary Hughett.

Survivors include his brothers and sisters-in-law, Roger and Patricia Hughett and Larry and Dawn Hughett.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. today, Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home

in Radford with Pastor Timothy Worles officiating. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

## Houseman, Mary Louise

Mary Louise Houseman, 77, of Lynchburg, formerly of Christiansburg, passed away Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

She was the wife of Thomas Andrew Houseman for 49 years. Born January 14, 1946,

she was a daughter of the late Mary Lillian Washington Dyson and John Dyson.

In addition to her husband, Mary is survived by her daughter, Rachel Wheaton and her husband, Joseph and

their children, Jasmine, Ivy, and Aeris.

Tharp Funeral Home & Crematory, Lynchburg, is assisting the family. To send condolences, please visit tharfuneralhome.com.

## Montgomery Museum receives grant for concerts

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History is one of nine recipients awarded a grant through the International Bluegrass Music Association's Foundation (IBMA) via the Arnold Shultz Fund.

The museum was granted \$2,500 to develop a concert at the Moss Arts Center called, "Cultural Crossroads in Traditional Music." This concert program will explore interactions and intersections between bluegrass music and African American, Indigenous First People, Hispanic/Latino, and European cultures.

The concert will also include Junior Appalachian Musicians who will help celebrate the multi-cultural dimensions of traditional bluegrass through music, dance, and story-telling. The grant will fund additional staff time, travel stipends for committee members representing various

cultures, and a marketing plan to reach and engage an inclusive audience with emphasis on children and young people.

The concert date and time have not been scheduled yet, but the concert is expected to be presented in the fall of 2023.

"We are delighted and honored to be included as an awardee of the Arnold Shultz Fund," said Casey Jenkins, the Executive Director of the Montgomery Museum. "This grant will allow us to program and curate a very unique collaboration and blend of artists, cultures, and stories, that all intersect with traditional bluegrass music."

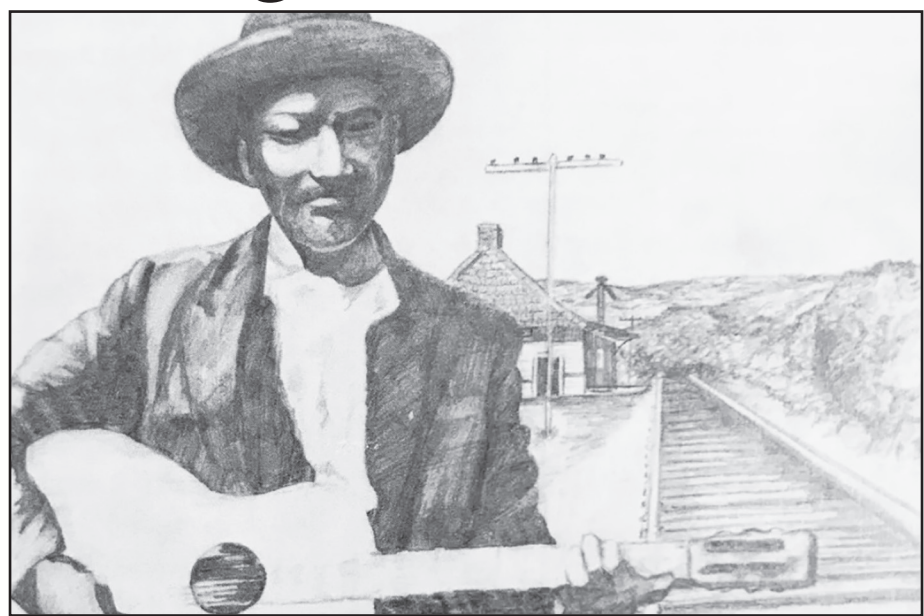
"We will also partner with other community agencies such as the Junior Appalachian Musicians of Montgomery County as well as the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation," Jenkins

said. "These community partnerships will greatly enhance the concert program."

The Montgomery Museum was the only grant recipient in Virginia. Other individual and organization grantees were from Alaska, Texas, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, California, and even two awardees from India and Kenya.

Arnold Shultz (1886 – 1931) was an African American musician from western Kentucky. Best known as an extraordinary guitarist and fiddle player, Shultz often played with Bill Monroe's fiddle-playing uncle, Pendleton ("Pen") Vandiver. At these gigs, Monroe met Shultz and began to emulate his backup guitar style.

Shultz was impressed enough with Monroe's progress that he hired Monroe to play guitar with him at dances, thereby



SUBMITTED BY CASEY JENKINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

An exceptional guitar and fiddle player from western Kentucky, Arnold Shultz played with Bill Monroe's fiddle-playing uncle, "Pen" Vandiver. Shultz hired Monroe to play guitar with him at dances, thus, in effect, giving Monroe his first job as a professional musician. Monroe credited Shultz with influencing his approach to playing music.

giving Monroe his first jobs as a professional musician. Monroe often credited Shultz with influencing his approach to playing music.

## Virginia public bathrooms rank among America's worst

A recent poll of 3,000 public bathrooms by Lavatory Lab delivered a nasty truth when Virginians gave their public restrooms an average score of 4.7 out of 10, the 13th worst in the country. Overall, Americans rated their public bathrooms with "an abysmal" score of 5.2 out of 10.

But why are they so bad, you may ask?

From dingy gas station restrooms to overcrowded airport lavatories, public bathrooms in the United States have a reputation for being, well, pretty terrible.

First and foremost, the issue of cleanliness is a major problem in public restrooms. From dirty toilets to overflowing trash cans, it's not uncommon to encounter a bathroom that looks like it hasn't been cleaned since the Wild West. And let's not forget about the infamous "bathroom odor."

Another issue with public bathrooms is the lack of privacy. When it comes to stalls, there's

often a fine line between "just enough privacy" and "none at all." Case in point: the ubiquitous gap at the bottom of the stall door that allows everyone in the bathroom to see your shoes.

Of course, the lack of privacy isn't limited to stalls. Sinks and mirrors are often situated in full view of everyone in the bathroom, meaning that you're forced to engage in a game of "who can avoid eye contact the longest" while you're washing your hands. And don't even think about trying to change a baby's diaper in a public bathroom. You'll be lucky if you can find a changing table, and even luckier if it's not covered in a suspicious sticky substance.

Another issue is the lack of supplies. Have you ever entered a public bathroom only to find that there's no toilet paper? Or, even worse, what about a bathroom where the toilet paper dispenser is empty and there's no spare roll in sight? These are the kinds of situations that can make

a person feel like they're stranded in the middle of nowhere.

And let's not forget about the toilets themselves. From faulty flushing mechanisms to unsanitary seat covers, public toilets can be a source of constant frustration. Some restrooms even feature toilets with dual-flush systems, which can be confusing for those who are used to a traditional flush. (Do you press the button for number one or number two? The answer, of course, is that it depends on the restroom.)

When broken down nationally, public bathrooms in Wyoming were ranked as the worst in the country. Respondents there rated their bathrooms at 3.5/10, followed closely by those in Virginia who gave a score of 4.7 out of 10. In fact, according to the survey, public bathrooms in Virginia came in as 13th worst overall. However, reviews from residents of Vermont were very positive: They ranked their public bathrooms at 8/10.

## From March 27-31, Blacksburg's Clothesline Project raises awareness of gender-based and sexual violence

The Clothesline Project, an effort to raise awareness of gender-based and sexual violence, will present a workshop March 27, 28, 29, and 31 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 30 at the Women's Center, 206 Washington St. in Blacksburg.

Survivors of violence – and friends and families of victims – create shirts emblazoned with direct messages and strong illustrations. The shirts demonstrate the pain and suffering of the survivors, aid in their healing process, and celebrate their strength and courage to overcome the past.

The shirts will be hung side-by-side on a clothesline as though the survivors were standing there themselves, shoulder to shoulder, bearing witness to the violence committed on a daily basis. The shirts are color-coded: white for those who have died from violence; yellow or beige for survivors who have been

battered or assaulted; red, pink, or orange for those raped or sexually assaulted; blue or green for survivors of incest or child sexual abuse; purple or lavender for those attacked because of their sexual orientation; and black for survivors disabled by violence.

The Clothesline Project's goal is to educate the public about the scope of gender-based violence and the impact it has on individuals, their families and friends, and the community. The project encourages survivors to come forward to break the silence by creating shirts to share their stories.

Survivors can create their own shirts in a quiet, comfortable environment by dropping by the Women's Center at Virginia Tech (206 Washington St. Blacksburg) anytime during the four-day workshop's hours (9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

on March 27, 28, 29, and 31 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 30. All materials will be supplied free of charge.

This local Clothesline Project was initiated in 1994 by the Montgomery County chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). More than 630 shirts made by New River Valley residents are currently on the line. Local sponsors include Montgomery County NOW, the United Feminist Movement, the Women's Center at Virginia Tech, and the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley.

Sponsors encourage community members to view the display on the Drillfield at Virginia Tech from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 28. (The rain location is Squires Student Center.)

## PETS OF THE WEEK



Peter (left) and Reed (right)

Dynamic Duo Peter (left) and Reed (right) love hanging out together. They are a bonded pair and will need to live in the same home. These boys are sweet and pretty darn cute. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to see if you're their purrfect match.



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"In May 2023/June 2023, the Radford City Police Department will undergo our Initial accreditation assessment with CALEA. The assessment will include both a web-based assessment and a site-based assessment. This assessment process with CALEA is a thorough review of the entire agency and CALEA national law enforcement accreditation is something that only around 10% of all law enforcement agencies across the country achieve. A team of assessors will review all aspects of our agency and develop a report for the 21-member CALEA commission. Based on this report and the team's findings, the commission will

then vote on whether our agency is awarded national accreditation or not with CALEA. I can truly attest that the men and women of this department have worked extremely hard to achieve this level of accreditation with CALEA. We are excited and are looking forward to this challenge in the next few months.

"We need your feedback. An important part of the accreditation process is receiving public feedback on our agency. CALEA has created a public access portal for the purpose of receiving comments regarding an agency's compliance with CALEA standards, engagement in its service community, and delivery of public safety services. These comments can be in the form of commendations

or concerns. The overall intent of the accreditation process is to provide the participating agency with information to support continuous improvement, as well as foster the pursuit of professional excellence. We truly value your feedback in this process and encourage you to submit your comments to CALEA regarding our agency's performance in the items listed above. Comments can be submitted on CALEA's public comment portal.

The portal may be accessed at CALEA Public Access Portal, at the following link <https://cimrs2.calea.org/1142>

-Submitted by the City of Radford

# Fine Arts

image of each work. Works in progress are eligible. Artists should apply with information about the current state of the piece and the planned outcome.

Artists may submit up to five pieces for consideration. The entry fee is \$5 per work, paid through the center's online shop, or by check via mail or in person at the center by 5 p.m. Monday, March 12. Fee waivers are available upon request. Fine Arts Center members may

enter for free.

The application form, additional descriptive suggestions about possible entries, and more information about the show are at: <https://www.facnr.org/2023-recycled-show>

For more information or to request help with the online application process and/or digital images, contact Becky Lattuca at 540-980-7363 or [Director@FACNRV.org](mailto:Director@FACNRV.org).

For more information about exhibits; classes; or local, handmade gifts; visit the center's website at [FACNRV.org](http://FACNRV.org), email at [info@FACNRV.org](mailto:info@FACNRV.org), or call 540-980-7363.

-Submitted by the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley

# Agriculture

public speaking and quick decision-making. I watched her gain a lot of confidence over the course of the program," Miller said. "Amy seized every opportunity for success and advancement and appreciated all the opportunities that livestock judging presented her."

Now a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent, Miller kept in touch as Johnson started her studies at Virginia Tech, and he is currently her colleague at the Virginia Farm Bureau.

"He always expected the best from me, wouldn't accept anything less," Johnson said. "His support and his confidence were huge for me."

At Virginia Tech, she saw similar support and guidance from her professors, who encouraged her to approach problems creatively and to attempt things that were out of the ordinary.

The summer before her sophomore year, the organization

she was working for had a shortage of medical staff, and she began EMT courses. Returning to Virginia Tech, she joined the Christiansburg Rescue Squad where she stayed a member through graduation.

She pursued stints as a paramedic and both emergency room and forensic nursing while continuing her education at Jefferson College of Health Sciences and Radford University. "I always told my mom growing up, I was never going to be a nurse," Johnson said. "And so I ate a lot of crow when I graduated, but I loved every minute of being a nurse."

While working on her capstone, she interacted with the Virginia Farm Bureau staff as she conducted her research. The bureau's safety coordinator had recently left his position, and Johnson ended up giving his safety presentations to local farming communities.

After graduating with her doctorate, she quickly found work as a nurse practitioner, but she remained involved with the farm bureau. "I worked at the grassroots level to demonstrate to Virginia Farm Bureau the value of the safety programs, of having a dedicated safety coordinator within

our organization," she said.

Soon after joining the Virginia Farm Bureau, she met Megan Seibel, a faculty member and the inaugural director of the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results Program (VALOR) at Virginia Tech. Also a graduate of a nursing program before pursuing a doctoral degree in agricultural and Extension education, Seibel quickly became a mentor to Johnson.

Johnson's work led to the creation of the Safety Advisory Committee, an organization that brings in members of the industry from around the state to develop an evolving safety program. These members go out into the community — sitting on task forces, presenting at conferences and meetings, and seeking training to improve the support they can offer local farmers. They also created a website that provides their farmers with guidelines, resources, news, and alerts to help them stay on top of their mental and physical wellness.

-Joshua Sweeney

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## Financial Focus: Smart moves for investors after a down 2022

Many investors were glad to see the end of 2022. But what's ahead this year? And what moves can you make in response to last year's results?

To begin with, here's what happened: 2022 was the worst year for the financial markets since 2008, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropping nearly 9%, the S&P 500 losing more than 19% and the technology-heavy Nasdaq falling 33%. Several factors contributed to these results, including the moves by the Federal Reserve to aggressively hike interest rates to combat inflation, the Russia-Ukraine war, recession fears, and increased concern over COVID-19 cases in China.

However, 2023 may be different. Many experts believe that inflation may moderate considerably, especially during the second half of the year. If that happens, the Fed may well pause its interest rate hikes and perhaps even consider cutting rates, a move that is often positive for the financial markets. Also, if a recession emerges, but it's relatively short and mild, as expected, the rebounding economy may be favorable for the investment outlook.

Regardless of what transpires this year, though, you can help move toward your financial goals by following some basic steps that make sense in all investment environments. Here are a few to consider:

Focus on the long term. It can be disconcerting to look at investment statements containing negative results, as was the case for many people throughout 2022. But it's important to view a single year's outcome in the larger context, and historically, the stock market has had many more positive years than negative ones, though, of course, past performance is not a guarantee of what will happen in the future. In any case, it's

generally not a good idea to overreact to short-term downturns and make moves that could work against your long-term strategy.

Keep adequate cash in your portfolio. The value of your investments may have gone down in 2022 — but you didn't really sustain any actual losses unless you sold those investments for less than what you paid for them. To avoid having to sell investments to supplement your income or to pay for unforeseen costs, such as a major home or car repair, try to build the "cash" portion of your portfolio, so it covers a few months' worth of living expenses. When you're retired, and it becomes even more imperative to avoid selling investments when their price is down, you may need an even bigger pool of available cash.

Look for opportunities. Although 2022 was certainly a down year for the financial markets, some developments have presented new opportunities for investors. For one thing, the contribution limits have increased for IRAs, 401(k)s, and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), all of which are pegged to inflation. Also, with interest rates considerably higher than they were a year ago, fixed-income investments may offer more income and provide added stability in portfolios during times of economic weakness.

When you've been investing for a long time, you will experience down years in the market, such as the one in 2022. These years are an inevitable part of the investment process. But since you can't control what happens in the financial markets, you need to concentrate on what you can control — and that may be a lot more than you think.

-This article was written by Edward Jones, Member SIPC

CROSSWORD

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**CLUES ACROSS**

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7. Parts per thousand (abbr.)	37. Italian commune	1. Electronic data processing
10. Pigeon pea	38. L. Comfort's illuminator	2. Man or boy (Br.)
12. Sao __, city in Brazil	44. Foot digit	3. W. African nation
14. Longest division of geological time	45. Minute tunicate genus	4. Fault's incline from vertical
15. __ Alto, California city	46. Green regions of desert	5. Method of birth control
16. Small terrestrial viper	48. Direct a weapon	6. City founded by Xenophanes
17. Coming after all others	49. __ de Janeiro	7. Legumes
18. Penetrate with a sharp fork	50. Equestrian animals	8. Beckham's spice girl
20. Still-hunt	53. Acres Tomei	9. Explosive
22. Chinese frying pan	56. Head of the RCC	11. 1936 Nobel winner Otto
23. Cave-dwelling salamander	57. Twines	12. Greenbay teammate
24. Any thick messy substance	59. Scientific workplace	13. Brass that looks like gold
26. About the moon	61. Minerals	14. School graduates
29. AKA Tao	62. Hypothetical original substances	19. Lively, merry play
30. Jet cabin requirement	63. Hit with the open hand	21. Make indistinct
	64. Political action committee	24. Egyptian mythological figure associated with floods
	65. Winged goddess of the dawn	25. Washing sponge
		27. Old name for nitrogen
		28. Impounds for lack of payment
		29. Radiotelegraphic signal
		31. MN 55731
		32. Sun in spanish
		33. Helps little firms
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		39. Flames up
		40. Egyptian sacred bull
		41. To wit
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		43. Bring two objects together
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		50. Israeli dance
		51. Oil cartel
		52. A particular instance of selling
		53. Microelectromechanical system
		54. Var. of 45 across
		55. Goat & camel hair fabrics
		56. Soda
		58. A firm's operational head
		60. Seaport (abbr.)

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### Legals - City of Salem

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on March 23, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

Request of the City of Salem, property owner, and Roanoke County, project administrator, for a variance from Section 106-226.7 of the Code of the City of Salem, to allow construction of the greenway trail, extending from the existing trail on Salem City owned property (Tax Map # 178-4-1) near Kingsmill Drive to the Roanoke County owned property (Parcel ID # 056.01-01-17.00-0000) near Riverside Nursery. Section 106-226.7(A) states that no new construction shall be permitted, except where the effect of such development on flood heights is fully offset.

Request of the City of Salem, property owner, for a variance from Section 106-226.7 of the Code of the City of Salem, to allow the bridge widening of Apperson Drive Bridge along with incidental greenway trail work on and near the 1600 block East Riverside Drive (Tax Map # 259-2-1). Section 106-226.7(A) states that no new construction shall be permitted, except where the effect of such development on flood heights is fully offset.

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 3753032).

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM

BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM  
Zoning Administrator

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### Legals - City of Salem

#### Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem

Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on March 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:  
1. Consider the request of Michael O. Garst and Alan L. Garst, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 907 Florida Street (Tax Map # 185-5-9) from HBD Highway Business District to RSF Residential Single Family.  
2. Consider the request of Daniel N Suggs Excavating & Grading, Inc., property owner, and AM Transportation of Roanoke, LLC, contract purchaser, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a truck parking facility on the property located at 2730 West Main Street, (Tax Map # 174-5-1).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: James E. Taliaferro, II  
Executive Secretary

#### Notice

is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:  
1. Consider the request of Michael O. Garst and Alan L. Garst, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 907 Florida Street (Tax Map # 185-5-9) from HBD Highway Business District to RSF Residential Single Family.  
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Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: H. Robert Light  
Clerk of Council

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### Legals - Montgomery County

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County, in accordance with Section 33.1-70.01 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Secondary Six-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2023/2024 through 2028/29 in Montgomery County and on the Secondary System Construction Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/24. Copies of the proposed Plan and Budget may be reviewed at the Christiansburg Residency Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation, located at 105 Cambria Street, Christiansburg, Virginia or at the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia. All projects in the Secondary Six-Year Plan that are eligible for federal funds will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which documents how Virginia will obligate federal transportation funds. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this hearing should contact the Virginia Department of Transportation at (540) 381-7201. Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Montgomery County Government Center at (540) 382-6954.

### Legals Town of Vinton

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Town of Vinton is accepting SEALED BIDS from interested landscaping contractors to perform mowing, general landscaping and snow removal services for the Vinton War Memorial. The term of the mowing contract shall be for one year, with the option to renew for an additional four (4) one-year term. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Vinton War Memorial, C/O Chasity Barbour, 814 E. Washington Ave, Vinton, VA 24179, on or before Monday, April 3, 2023, at 3 p.m. Bids must contain the Bidder's company name and address, and be signed by the appropriate company representative. No bids will be accepted after said time and date. Bid opening will occur after 3 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial, 814 East Washington Ave, Vinton, VA. Bid information can be acquired by contacting the Town Manager at (540) 343-1508. The Town of Vinton reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Town also reserves the right to award an individual or company who is not the low bidder if in its judgment, it would be in the best interest of the Town to do so.

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# Grant fuels project to highlight untold history across Appalachia

From working with Appalachian communities to examining issues of displacement for refugees, two Virginia Tech faculty have made it their life and scholarly mission to recognize the people that society often overlooks.

Now a prestigious national foundation is giving them significant resources to tell the hidden historical stories of communities throughout Southwest Virginia, an opportunity to put their passion into action.

Emily Satterwhite and Katrina Powell received a \$3 million grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation for a three-year project to work with communities across the state's Appalachia region to commemorate neglected histories.

Their project, Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia, is part of a \$250 million initiative that the New York-based nonprofit foundation launched in 2020 to support public projects across the United States. The focus of the foundation's Monuments Project is to commemorate stories of populations that have been denied historical recognition.

The foundation, with an endowment of approximately \$8.2 billion in 2020, awards grants in four areas: arts and culture, humanities in place, public knowledge, and higher learning.

Examples of other Monuments Projects across the country include the completion of Freedom Park in North Carolina, which honors the history of Black North Carolinians, and the expansion of artist Judith Baca's Great Wall of Los Angeles, a large mural depicting the city's history.

Now, Virginia Tech joins the work to recognize Appalachia.

"There's so much attention right now to monuments, what's out there and what stories they tell and what other stories deserve to be told," said Satterwhite, an



PHOTO BY MARY CRAWFORD FOR VIRGINIA TECH. Emily Satterwhite (at left) points out areas of Appalachia on a map that she expects to highlight as part of a \$3 million project to commemorate the region's neglected history. Satterwhite and Katrina Powell (at right), both faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, are leaders of the project.

associate professor and director of Appalachian Studies in the Department of Religion and Culture. "People are already talking about what's been hidden that needs to be made visible and to be passed on to the next generation, and what stories might otherwise be

lost," Satterwhite said. "We are telling more complex stories about Appalachia and its history to help people reimagine it not as a white, static, simple, rooted place but as dynamic, with migration being central to its story and many groups of people being central to its story."

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Radford defeats Graham 49-28



Elijah Kelly goes up for a dunk against Graham in Radford's 49-28 Class 2 quarterfinals. Kelly finished with 22 points to lead Radford, which was slated to play Floyd Monday night at the Dedmon Center.

Radford's Gavin Cormany faced Floyd for the fourth time this season when the Bobcats played for the right to go to the state title game. Cormany finished with 15 points in Friday's win over Graham.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Bobcat wins state long jump title



PHOTO COURTESY OF RHS Radford High School's David Woodward is the new Class 1/2 indoor state champion in the long jump with a distance of 22'-1". Woodward also placed second in the triple jump.

## Tech guard Georgia Amoore wins ACC tournament MVP

Marty Gordon  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech's women's basketball team won their first championship of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Sunday by defeating Louisville 75-67 Sunday at Greensboro Coliseum and is now headed to the 2023 NCAA basketball tournament, possibly as a number one seed. But that will not be known until the seedings are announced later this week.

This is the Lady Hokies' third straight appearance in the NCAA tournament. VT head coach Kenny Brooks and the Hokies will be part of the live broadcast of the NCAA Selection Show from Cassell Coliseum on Sunday, March 12.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. with the event beginning at 7:30. The Selection Show will air live on ESPN at 8 p.m.

Coach Brooks and his team will host NCAA action in Blacksburg for the first time since 2004. The Hokies are expected to be playing at home during the postseason.

In the finals against Louisville, Georgia Amoore collected 25 points and Elizabeth Kitley added 20 to lead the Hokies to the tournament crown and the clinching of an automatic bid for the NCAA Tournament.

The Hokies (27-4) entered the tournament as the No. 3 seed and defeated Miami (Fla.), Duke and Louisville enroute to the league tournament championship. Tech's defense was fantastic yet again, holding Louisville shooters to only 37.3 percent from the field.

The Hokies never trailed after taking a 21-14 first-quarter lead. Amoore, Kitley, and Taylor Soule combined to account for 77 percent of the Hokies' points.

Virginia Tech had a 35-34 edge on the boards in the win and got a team-high seven rebounds from Cayla King.

Amoore made 14 three-pointers during Tech's three games in Greensboro, setting a new tournament record and clinching tournament MVP honors.

The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced the five finalists for the 2023 Lisa Leslie Award, and for the second straight season, Elizabeth Kitley was a finalist.

Named after three-time All-American, 1994 National Player of the Year, and Class of 2015 Hall of Famer Lisa Leslie, the annual award in its sixth year recognizes the top centers in women's NCAA Division I college



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Virginia Tech guard Georgia Amoore made 14 three-pointers during Tech's three games in Greensboro, setting a new ACC tournament record and clinching tournament MVP honors. She showed off the MVP trophy with several fans from the New River Valley after the game.

basketball.

The other four finalists are Mackenzie Holmes (Indiana), Monika Czinano (Iowa), Jessika Carter (Mississippi State), and Aliyah Boston (South Carolina).

Kitley was named the ACC's Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, the conference office announced Tuesday evening. She became the tenth woman in ACC history to win the award in consecutive seasons.

The Summerfield, North Carolina, native ranks fourth in the conference in scoring per game (18.78), second in field-goal percentage (.569), first in rebounds per game (10.74), first in blocks per game (2.3), first in double-doubles (18) and is the only athlete in the conference to record a 20-rebound game.

She won ACC-Player-of-the-Week honors four times, the most of any athlete, including each of the last two weeks as she has recorded four consecutive 20-point double-doubles while shooting 60.2% from the field.

## RU's Traylor named Big South Freshman of the Year

The Big South Conference Tuesday afternoon released its end-of-season awards list, which included Ashlyn Traylor being named the Big South Freshman of the Year and Vanessa Blake earning all-academic honors.

Traylor's freshman campaign with the Highlanders will be one not easily forgotten. The Franklin, Ind., native was named the Freshman of the Week seven times this season with five of those awards coming during Big South play. Traylor thus became just the fourth-ever Highlander to win the Freshman of the Year award and the first since 2005.

Her Freshman of the Year title won't be the only hardware Traylor takes home this season, as she was also named to the conference's all-freshman team and received second-team all-conference honors. During Big South action this season, Traylor finished the season with top-ten conference totals in points (13.4 ppg), assists (62), steals (39) and free-throw percentage (75%). She also led the team in points (368), assists (95), and steals (60) while ranking second on the team in rebounds (170).

Blake was also named to the conference's all-academic list after a stellar year on and off the court for the Highlanders. In her sophomore season, Blake accumulated a 3.83 GPA as a marketing major and served as one of the women's basketball representatives on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) at Radford. On the court, Blake was a premier threat for the Highlanders averaging 8.6 ppg and 5.4 rebounds per game while leading the team in offensive rebounds with 80.

## Four Highlanders named All-Big South

The Radford University men's basketball team has racked up four Big South All-Conference honors for the 2022-23 season. DaQuan Smith was named Second Team All-Big South, Bryan Antoine was given an Honorable Mention nod, Kenyon Giles made the All-Freshman team, and Shaquan Jules earned a spot on the All-Academic team.

Smith played in all 31 games this season, starting 30 of them. As Radford's most dangerous player most nights, the redshirt junior guard averaged 13.5 points, 3.4 rebounds and 1.7 assists per game while also grabbing 32 steals and coming up with

10 blocks.

He shot 42.1% from the field, 38.5% from three-point range and 82.1% from the free throw line in an extremely efficient effort this year. Smith was honored twice during the season as the Big South Player of the Week.

Antoine stayed healthy for the vast majority of the season and was able to show off his highly touted ability, starting all 26 games he played in. The Tinton Falls, N.J., native was huge on both ends of the floor all year, averaging 11.2 points, three rebounds and 1.3 assists per game while leading the Highlanders and ranking second

in the league with 1.7 steals per game. He shot 46.5% overall from the floor, 40.7% from three and 93.8% at the charity stripe.

A four-time Big South Freshman of the Week honoree, Giles came out of the gates on fire. His impact was felt immediately, even against the biggest of opponents, and he finished the season averaging 9.1 points, 1.2 rebounds, and 1.1 assists per game with 32 steals for the season. He scored 10 or more points in 13 different games and 20 or more points on three occasions.

Jules made the Big South All-Academic Team for the second straight

When he wasn't throwing down monster dunks on the court, he was excelling in the classroom to the tune of a 3.27 cumulative grade-point-average as a communications major. He boosted his GPA with a standout fall semester, earning a stellar 3.53 to begin the school year.

The Highlanders went 18-13 overall this season with a 12-6 record in Big-South play.

--RU Athletics

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# Tech alumnus walks across U.S., through Italy for charity



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEBASTIEN JACQUES

**Sebastien Jacques enjoyed the moment when he finished his nearly 1,200-mile walk through Italy, soaking in this amazing sunset along the Adriatic Sea on the final leg of the trip.**

A chance meeting with a famous Italian blogger ended up leading Sebastien Jacques '11 to attempt a long-range feat with his feet.

In 2017, Jacques, a former Virginia Tech men's tennis player from Magog, Quebec, walked across the United States from Virginia Beach to Santa Monica, Calif., to raise awareness on the power of persistence and taking each day one step at a time, two lessons he learned while recovering from a risky surgery performed by a Santa Monica doctor who removed a pineal cystic tumor from his brain.

On an Arizona highway during his walk, Jacques met Giulia Valentina, an Italian model who shared his story to her social media following of nearly 950,000. As a result, the Italians started urging him to walk across their country.

So, in mid-November, he did.

"In my mind, I was doing the States and that was it," Jacques said. "I said then that it was a one-time thing. It's hard enough physically and mentally. I just wanted to do it once and try to make a difference in people's lives, and that's it."

"But years went by, and I guess you kind of forget the pain and the suffering of those adventures, and I kept receiving messages from the Italians," Jacques said. "So yeah, I just decided to say, 'Why not?'"

Jacques graduated from Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business with a marketing management degree. He decided to use the walk across Italy to spotlight the great work being done by the CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Montreal dedicated to providing the highest level of health care to children and mothers. He simply asked his followers on social media to donate to this foundation.

On Nov. 16, Jacques began his journey, leaving Turbigo, Italy, near the country's border with Switzerland. He walked 47 "marathons" each day, saying he averaged 26 miles per day with his longest walk being 30 miles. He built in three rest days during his journey.

Fifty days and nearly 1,200 miles later, Jacques arrived in Santa Maria di Leuca, a small town on the southern Italian coast. For a better perspective, the town represents the geographical "heel" of Italy.

Jacques arrived tired, sore, and ecstatic. He said the Italians treated him wonderfully, and at last count, he said he had raised

approximately \$40,000 for the CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation.

"I decided to run the last two to three kilometers just to make sure I arrived before the sunset," Jacques said. "I just wanted that moment by myself, and I wanted to really touch the Adriatic Sea at the southernmost tip. I stayed on the rocks for about an hour admiring the sunset."

"Your initial thoughts are the injuries you suffered, the rain, the hard times, the people you met, the lives you tried to touch, and it's just such a mixed bundle of emotions all at once that comes out," Jacques said. "I was grateful to be there. You're sad at the same time because it's over, but you just realize how it was all worth it. You're sitting there, and you're like, 'Wow, we did it.'"

Jacques works as the general manager of a private tennis club in Montreal, and an incredibly busy summer schedule affords him free time to travel during the winter. He trained for the Italy trip by walking every day in different terrains with a backpack. He used his backpack to carry his essentials because the terrain prohibited the use of a stroller.

He decided to stay with friends or in hotels instead of camping and used friends or ride services to get back and forth from the trail. He originally allotted 30 days to complete the walk. But his Italian friends warned him not to walk in Italy's city streets because of their narrowness. Thus, he decided to take the Via Francigena, a former pilgrimage trail route that runs from Canterbury England, to Apulia, Italy, a region on the country's southeast coast.

"You had it going from north to south finishing exactly where I wanted to, so I said, 'Okay, perfect. I'll take that route,'" Jacques said. "Then when I started calculating all the mileage, instead of 30 days, that's where the 47 days came about. I was like, 'Oh boy, it gets a lot longer.' But then I had already announced that I was doing it [the walk], so I couldn't really go back on that one."

He nearly elected to terminate the journey following day No. 6 after suffering tendonitis in one of his ankles. A combination of rain and the hilly terrain left him swollen and in pain. Rather than back out, though, he treated the tendonitis as best he could, dulling the pain with a steady intake of ibuprofen. As he traveled farther south, the trail became easier and the weather nicer, and his body adapted to the repetition of getting up and walking each day.

His daily routine during the journey reflected his philosophy on life: put one foot in front of the other and live each day for itself.

"Whatever I'm going through, if it's hard times, I just want to accomplish something," Jacques said. "I'm like, 'OK, let's do it. Let's just do it today. Just do it today, and we'll think about tomorrow, tomorrow.' And that's how I do those walks."

"A lot of people feel like I have a secret behind these walks, but it's as simple as trying to have a very short memory and not thinking about tomorrow," Jacques said. "It's pretty impressive that we're able to overcome or accomplish when we look at life that way."

Jacques said he drew inspiration from the messages he received on Instagram during his walk across the United States and recently through Italy. He said people left him messages about being depressed or being suicidal or dealing with serious health issues, and his journey motivated them to keep moving forward.

Therein lay the primary purpose of Jacques's walks. Media accounts often focused on the miles walked, the days on the trails, or the money raised for CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation. But Jacques wanted to influence, embolden, and inspire.

"To me, I find it a humbling thing," he said. "I consider myself the most average, normal human being ever, and to be able to receive messages where you don't necessarily feel like you're saving their lives, but you do find that you're able to help another human being, to me, that's the most beautiful thing or gift that we can do as humans."

"To me, the walk is as if we're all holding hands together and moving forward together," Jacques said.

Jacques returned to Canada following the conclusion of his Italy adventure. Despite the pain, he said he wouldn't rule out another challenge and mentioned perhaps walking across Chile's Atacama Desert, one of the driest places in the world. He said he would need to put together a team to accomplish this, given the conditions and the remoteness.

"We'll see," Jacques said. "If not, I'm happy. I could just finish my adventures now. I don't consider myself an adventurer. It's just something that I feel deep in my heart that I want to do to help people."

"But to me, we're able to do that every single day also with the way you treat people or listen to someone. So, whether I keep pursuing these walks or not, I'm still going to try to help people."

—Jimmy Robertson, VT Athletics



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