

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

## School board considers altered bell schedule for elementary schools

**Heather Bell**  
hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

RADFORD - The Radford City School Board is considering a late start time twice a week for elementary school students next school year in order to provide teachers with additional planning time.

The Board heard from teachers and parents regarding the potential change at its recent school board meeting, held March 7. The issue is listed under the Superintendent's Report portion of the upcoming school board meeting, set for Tuesday, March 21 at 6 p.m., which means it is not currently listed as an action item that will be voted on.

If the change is approved, students

at McHarg and Belle Heth elementary schools would not start the school day until 10:15 a.m. (tardy bell time) two days per week. Ending times would remain the same each day.

Kindergarten teacher Lindsay Lesko appeared before the board in support of the change, saying her mental health has been negatively affected trying to keep up with all the requirements of today's teaching world without adequate planning time during the school day, leading to her having to work outside her contract hours, including many nights and weekends.

"The two delayed starts for uninterrupted planning time and collaboration would be utilized in so many ways to give our best to the kids

we love," she said.

Melissa Jarrells, president of the McHarg PSA, emailed the school board to say while she thinks the extra planning time would be useful to teachers, she has concerns about the change because younger children thrive with a consistent schedule. She also expressed concern for working families who would have to deal with the differentiated start times.

"There are hundreds of families that would be affected by this change," she wrote.

Parent Megan Martin echoed Jarrells concerns via email, and kindergarten teacher Nicole Watson expressed her support for the time change via email.

Board Member Chris Calfee said he supports the teachers and their needs,

but is concerned that, especially for the youngest students, they will be missing out on the early part of the school day when they are sharpest and ready to learn. He also expressed concern that working families would be negatively affected.

"How many families would be affected?" he asked. "We don't know, because we didn't ask."

Calfee asked that a survey be put out to families. The administration released a survey on March 9 and gave the public until March 16 to respond, so the survey window has already closed.

Superintendent Robert Graham said if the change is made, the school division will provide a morning program for students who need to be dropped off earlier.

## Mountain Trotter Arts announces the debut of West End Weekend



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNTAINTROTTER ARTS

*The three-day celebration of music, art, food, and community on May 12 - 14*

RADFORD - Mountain Trotter Arts had announced a big change in their summer programming.

West End Wednesdays is now West End Weekend, what organizers are calling a "jam-packed, art-filled celebration" taking place at Glencoe Mansion and Long Way Brewing during the weekend of May 12 - 14, 2023.

The festivities will kick off with an opening reception for the Radford Photo Club at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery from 5:30 - 7 p.m. on Friday, May 12. Visitors will be able to meet the local photographers while browsing works that will be on exhibit through the end of June.

On Saturday, May 13, MTA will launch its West End Weekend Festival from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The event is modeled after MTA's popular Craft & Draft festival, scheduled for October 21, 2023. The West End Weekend Festival will feature more than 30 artisan vendors, live music from The Breakfast Club and FloydFest On-the-Rise band Appalachian Space Train, four food trucks, and an array of craft beers. The event will take place on the upper lawn at Glencoe Mansion. As always, admission is free, but donations are welcomed.

"Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and well-mannered dogs, too!"

On Sunday, May 14, Long Way Brewing will wrap up the weekend with Market Day at Long Way from 1 - 5 p.m. A dozen artisan vendors will be on site to browse and shop as visitors sip on Long Way

Brewing's signature craft brews.

Throughout the weekend, MTA will be selling flowers as a fundraiser in conjunction with Gates Flowers & Gifts. Proceeds from these sales will be donated to the Women's Resource Center. These single stems will make a great gift for Mother's Day and will help support victims of domestic and sexual violence in the New River Valley.

For more information, visit [www.mountaintrotterarts.com](http://www.mountaintrotterarts.com), find "West End Weekend" on Facebook, email MTA at [mountaintrotterarts@gmail.com](mailto:mountaintrotterarts@gmail.com), or call Michelle Beale at 540-239-4350.

- Mountain Trotter Arts



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHLEEN ALEXANDER

Professor Kathleen Alexander (at center) in northern Botswana in 2019.

## President of Botswana to speak at Virginia Tech

BLACKSBURG — The president of the Republic of Botswana will speak on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus on Tuesday, March 21.

His Excellency Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi accepted an invitation from Virginia Tech President Tim Sands to visit campus. Masisi's visit to Virginia Tech is believed to be the first by an international head of state.

Virginia Tech faculty, staff, students, and members of the public are invited to attend Masisi's presentation, "Merging Conservation, Democracy, and Sustainable Development in Botswana," at 11 a.m. in the Commonwealth Ballroom on the second floor of Squires Student Center, 290 College Ave.

Masisi, who took office in 2018, became connected to Virginia Tech through the work of Professor Kathleen Alexander's research program at the Centre for Conservation of African Resources: Animals, Communities,

and Land Use (CARACAL), a nongovernmental organization in northern Botswana she co-founded in 2001.

"Professor Kathy Alexander's long history in conducting high quality research and educational initiatives in Botswana is an inspiring example of a strong global partnership and shared commitment to make the world a better place," Sands said. "The people of Botswana are at the forefront of efforts to address the needs and challenges facing Africa and the rest of the world. We are proud to have Hokies working shoulder to shoulder with them and honored to welcome His Excellency, Dr. Masisi, to our Blacksburg campus."

Botswana remains a global economic and conservation success story.

With more than 40 percent of its land area dedicated to conservation

See President, page 4

## Federal funds to assist Appalachian Community Capital in small business lending

CHRISTIANSBURG - Appalachian Community Capital (ACC), of Christiansburg, has received a \$510,000 grant from the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund's (CDFI) Program to increase lending for small businesses in historically underserved areas in the 13-state Appalachian region.

Appalachian Community Capital is a non-profit community development financial institution (or CDFI) that is focused on attracting new sources of capital for small businesses, including minority and women-owned business owners, in underserved places in Appalachia.

"I'm grateful for the CDFI Fund's recognition of ACC's important work," said Donna Gambrell, President and CEO of ACC. "With this grant, we will continue to collaborate with our members to ensure even greater impact on small business owners in Appalachia who continue to seek access

to affordable credit and services that will enable their businesses to grow and thrive."

In a joint statement, Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine lauded the work of CDFI's.

"CDFIs are critically important financial institutions that help underserved communities across the Commonwealth and the country access capital," the Senators said. "Early on in the pandemic, we fought for increased CDFI funding because we saw that initial relief efforts weren't reaching

See Funds, page 4

## Radford man charged in Sheetz incident

The Pulaski County Sheriff's Department has charged a 28-year-old Radford man for brandishing a firearm in a threatening manner at the Fairlawn Sheetz on Saturday, March 11.

According to police reports, Corey Dark Jr. pointed a gun, which turned out to be a BB toy pistol, at store personnel and demanded cigarettes. He was arrested a short time later when police arrived. Store staffers did not give him cigarettes or any other items.

Dark was also charged with public intoxication and robbery. He is now being held at the New River Valley Regional Jail in Dublin.

Radford News Journal staff report

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, March 18:

**Leaf compost giveaway**  
At Glade Road Growing, 2351 Glade Rd., Blacksburg; 8 a.m. to noon. Loose and bagged leaves collected by the Town of Blacksburg are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive for composting. To arrange the pickup, residents must register at <http://www.tobweb.org/mulch/> and follow these guidelines: Register for a 30-minute time slot. Limit two cubic yards per truck or trailer. Town personnel will load the truck or trailer. Notice: The process of loading leaves may cause scratches or dents to the truck or trailer as well as possible suspension damage due to the weight. Persons who participate in this program, assume the risk inherent with loading leaves in your truck or trailer.

**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.

## Tuesday, March 21:

**Virtual Author Talk with Chef Jernard A. Wells**  
Hosted by the Radford Public Library; 4-5 p.m. A talk that will leave you starving for more! Join us as we chat with celebrity chef Jernard Wells about his newest cookbook Southern Inspired: More Than 100 Delicious Dishes from My American Table to Yours. Register now! <https://library.org/radfordlibrary/24832>

## Wednesday, March 22:

**Lunch and Learn**  
At the Blacksburg Library; noon - 1 p.m. Lunch and Learn: Circular Materials Flow in a Living Laboratory. Daniel Heaton, with Envision Charlotte, will speak about zero-waste initiatives and entrepreneurial businesses in the Innovation Barn in Charlotte, NC. Presenter will be virtual. Audience may be in-person or via Zoom. Register to participate via Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/CircularFlows>

## Thursday, March 23:

**Get Buggy at the Library**  
At the Radford Public Library; noon - 1 p.m. We're celebrating award-winning author Sue Fliess' upcoming visit with a program all about bugs. We will be handing out copies of "The Bug Book" by Sue Fliess to attendees, while supplies last. Entomology is the study of insects - and students from the Virginia Tech Entomology department will be here to talk about all things BUGS and maybe bring a creepy crawly or two!

## 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.

**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](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.

## 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:

**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:

**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.



## WE'RE BACK!!!

With over 25 years of combined experience assisting people with their retirement planning, Dean Chiapetto and Melodie Pogue are pleased to announce the formation of their New Agency **We Insure Retirement, Llc**

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# Learn home canning at two upcoming classes

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Virginia Cooperative Extension is holding two classes to teach home canning in two ways.

The first Home Food Preservation Class is centered on the Boiling Water Bath method of canning, teaching the why and how, of boiling water bath canning. It is

scheduled for Thursday, March 23, from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

The second class teaches the Pressure Canning method. It is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

The classes will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center in Multi-purpose

Room 1, located at 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. The cost for each class is \$20. Space is limited. Call 540-745-9307 to reserve your space in either or both classes.

- Virginia Cooperative Extension

[radfordnewsjournal.com](http://radfordnewsjournal.com)

# RADFORD WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

**Radford City Police Department Report**  
March 6 - 12, 2023

**Monday, March 6:**  
9:03 a.m. Override, overload, etc., 600 block of New River Dr.  
11:20 a.m. Scam, 1000 block of East Main St.  
1:30 p.m. Assault: (misdemeanor), 1500 block of Staples St.  
1:39 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, 300 block of Oakland Ave.

**Tuesday, March 7:**  
11:32 a.m. Drugs: sell/provide for resale Schedule I or II, 2400 block of Second St.  
12:48 p.m. Driving motor vehicle,

engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 1200 block of Tyler Ave.  
3:23 p.m. Computer fraud: convert property of another, greater than or equal to \$200, 600 block of Davis St.  
4:30 p.m. Petit larceny, 100 block of Copper Beech Dr.  
11:38 p.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 1200 block of East Main St.

**Wednesday, March 8:**  
9:49 a.m. Damage public/private property, 100 block of Wildwood Park Dr.

**Thursday, March 9:**  
12:09 a.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc.

(DUI/DUID), no location given  
1:06 a.m. Profane swearing or intoxication in public, 500 block of East Main St.  
8:47 p.m. Profane swearing or intoxication in public, 600 block of Clement St.  
11:54 p.m. Rape, Forcible, Grove Ave.

**Friday, March 10:**  
10:02 a.m. Forgery, 900 block of West Main St.  
4 p.m. Petit larceny: less than \$200 not from a person, 1300 block of Grove Ave.

**Saturday, March 11:**  
7:02 a.m. Warrant service, 1700 block of Tyler Ave.

4:01 p.m. Medical emergency, 900 block of Walker Dr.  
9:04 p.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 500 block of East Main St.

**Sunday, March 12:**  
12:26 a.m. Grand Larceny, 1000 block of Carson St.  
1:04 a.m. Assault and battery of a family member, Phone: damage line; prevent summoning law enforcement, 1300 block of East Main St.

**Alcohol round-up**  
DUI- 5  
Drunk in Public- 2  
Underage Possession of Alcohol- 0

## New River Trail bridges to undergo series of repairs

RICHMOND — The 31 bridges of New River Trail State Park, Virginia's 57-mile rails-to-trails linear park, will experience closures as a series of repairs are made over the next 18 months.

While portions of the trail will be closed intermittently as work takes place, the park remains open thanks to its many access points.

The first bridges affected are the Dalton and Sammy Brown near the southern end of the trail at Galax (mile marker 51), as well as the Big Reed Island Bridge near Allsonia at mile marker 13. Beginning in April, visitors traveling north on the trail may easily park at Cliffview just above Galax while the Dalton and Sammy Brown bridges are closed. To avoid Big Reed Island Bridge, visitors can park at and travel north from Allsonia or park at Foster Falls to travel south on the trail, or north the several miles below the closed bridge.

Specific dates for any bridge closures are dependent upon contractors and their receipt of construction materials. The Department of Conservation and Recreation will share updates via the park's website at [www.virginiastateparks.gov/new-river-trail](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov/new-river-trail) and on social media. A trail guide map is also available on the website.

Other bridges that are scheduled to be repaired in the first phase of the project include Brush Creek, Cat Hole, Double Shoals 1, Fenders Curve and Fries School House bridges on the southern end of the trail between Fries and Byllesby Dam. A second phase addresses six additional



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

### New River Trail State Park

bridges along the central section of trail, and the project wraps up with a final three northern bridges in the third phase.

Virginia State Parks are managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. For more information about Virginia State Parks' activities and amenities or to reserve one of the more than 1,800 campsites or 300 climate-controlled cabins, call the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center at 800-933-PARK or visit [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov).

- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

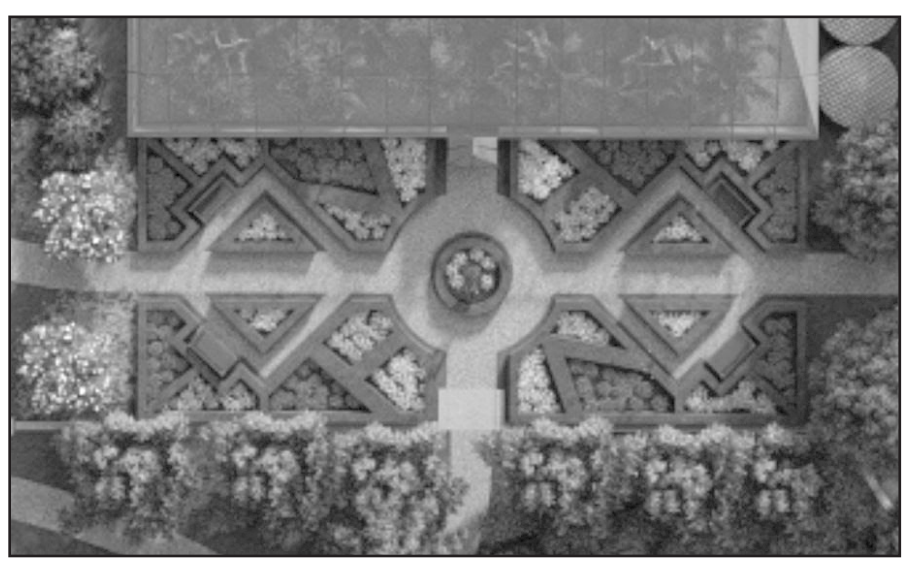


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAHN HORTICULTURE GARDEN

### Hahn Horticulture Garden Director Scott Douglas will be reviewing the long-range plan for the Garden at a presentation on March 22.

## Hahn Horticulture Garden announces garden talks

BLACKSBURG—Hahn Horticulture Garden, located on the Virginia Tech campus, will be hosting a trio of garden talks this spring, with subjects ranging from new structures at the garden to a campus tree walk.

On Wednesday, March 22 at noon, Hahn Horticulture Garden Director Scott Douglas will be reviewing the long-range plan for the Garden, which includes several new structures and garden spaces. He will also discuss naming opportunities and other ways supporters can support the growth of the Garden.

On Wednesday, April 19 at noon, there will be a Plant Sale preview of HHG's annual plant sale. Patrons can come learn about some of the plants that will be on sale at the plant sale, which starts the following morning

(Thursday, April 20). No plants will be sold or put on hold on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, May 3 at noon, there will be a Campus Tree Walk with the Virginia Tech Campus Arborist Jamie King.

"This walking tour will depart from the Garden and will travel through the Virginia Tech Campus," the HHG announcement reads. "Wear comfortable and your sunscreen!"

The Garden will provide parking passes to guests who attend the educational events.

Also, the HHG Monday Night volunteer sessions will be kicking off soon. The volunteer group meets in the parking lot area and begins a walk-around with the horticulturist at 5:30

See Garden, page 3

Marketplace ourvalley.org

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

**Help Wanted - Clerical**

**Professional Office Assistant**  
Bookkeeping skills & MS Office required. 30+ hrs wk. \$16-\$17 hourly depending on experience. Send resume to [noonyrealestate@hotmail.com](mailto:noonyrealestate@hotmail.com)

**Positions Wanted**

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

**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.

**Legals - City of Radford**

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to VA State Code 15.2-1719 Radford City Police Department is advertising a list of found and unclaimed property which is currently being stored in our evidence room. If you have lost property and it matches the descriptions below, please call (540)731-3624 to identify and claim your property. Bicycles, Wallets, Backpacks, U.S. Currency, Cell Phones, Computers, Firearms, Flashlights, Chainsaws, Medical Equipment, Baby Strollers and Carriers, Tobacco

**Legals - City of Radford**

Products, Hygienic products, Documents and Paperwork, Machetes, Knives, Personal Defense Devices, Keys, Purses, Jewelry, Coins, Cameras, Clothes, Radios, Electronics, Fishing Equipment, Construction Materials/ Equipment. You must show proof of ownership or provide a detailed description of your property. All unclaimed property will be disposed of after April 1, 2023.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL**  
The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, March 28, 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 Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Carnival from April 29, 2023 through May 17, 2023 on the property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning

**Legals - Montgomery County**

Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128 Ext. 1120 or by email at [btripp@christiansburg.org](mailto:btripp@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

**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 March 27, 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 Fotheringay LLC (Agent: CF VA Solar 105 LLC) for a Special Use Permit to construct a 5-megawatt ground mounted solar array on approximately 35 acres, consisting of a 2 acre portion of Tax Parcel 072-1 56, a 24 acre portion of Tax Parcel 072-A 2, and a 9 acre portion of Tax Parcel 072-A 4. The use is defined as "solar energy system, major" in the Zoning Ordinance, which is permitted in the A-1 Agricultural Zoning District

**Legals - Montgomery County**

only by Special Use Permit. The properties are located along Roanoke Road (US Route 11), approximately 0.07 miles southwest of the intersection of Roanoke Road and Eastern Montgomery Lane (State Route 9257). The properties are further identified as Tax Map 072-1 56 (Parcel ID: 013681), 37.824 acres, Tax Map 072-A 2 (Parcel ID: 023523), 53.343 acres, and Tax Map 072-A 4 (Parcel ID: 013680), 188.1 acres, all zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property is located 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>.

**MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!**  
To place your ad, call 389-9355

**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](mailto:btripp@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Classified Advertising Delivers

# National Agriculture Month/Week observed in Virginia with coloring contest



PHOTO COURTESY VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

To commemorate National Agriculture Week in Virginia March 21-27, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Leadership Committee will host a statewide youth coloring contest throughout March. National Agriculture Week is part of the commonwealth's observance of National Agriculture Month to celebrate agriculture, spread awareness of its vital role in stabilizing the economy, and to promote how food and fiber products are produced.

Agriculture enriches the lives of Virginians in countless ways, including enhancing wildlife habitats, biodiversity, water quality and soil health. It also is essential for economic growth and sustaining other industries.

Virginia's agriculture and forestry industries had a combined economic impact of over \$105 billion and provided more than 490,000 jobs in 2021, according to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Additionally, every job in agriculture and forestry supports 1.6 jobs elsewhere in Virginia's

See Contest, page 6

# Innovative honeybee vaccine receives conditional license from USDA

The rollout of a new vaccine is a pretty sweet deal for honeybees, plus the flora and crops they pollinate.

Honeybees can now be protected against a common bacterial disease called American foulbrood, thanks to a vaccine recently introduced from Georgia-based Dalan Animal Health Inc. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Veterinary Biologics granted a conditional license for vaccination of honeybees against Paenibacillus larvae, a disease that weakens and kills colonies.

The vaccine is mixed in a "queen candy" paste, which is digested by worker bees. That substance is transferred to their glands that produce royal jelly, which is fed to the queen and transferred to her ovaries, making her larvae more immune to infection. Tests show no negative impact on queen fitness or

honey quality. The vaccine will be available for purchase in the U.S. later this year.

One-third of the global food supply relies on pollination, and healthy commercial hives are essential for high crop yields.

"Global population growth and changing climates will increase the importance of honeybee pollination to secure our food supply," said Dr. Annette Kleiser, CEO of Dalan Animal Health Inc. "Our vaccine is a breakthrough in protecting honeybees. We are ready to change how we care for insects, impacting food production on a global scale."

American foulbrood is one of the most widespread and destructive of the honeybee brood diseases, according to the USDA.

But Virginia's beekeepers have done their part to stop the spread of American foulbrood, said Keith Tignor, state apiarist with the

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"We rarely see this disease in Virginia," he said. "Last year no incidence of AFB was reported. Preventive measures by beekeepers to reduce AFB spore exposure are working well in the state."

Virginia Tech researchers say the condition is caused by bacterial spores that infect honeybee larvae up to three days old. AFB's millions of spores can remain viable in honey and beekeeping equipment for over 40 years. Bees inadvertently spread the spores throughout the hive, and humans can transmit the disease by exposing a healthy colony to contaminated bees or equipment.

Before now, there was no safe and sustainable solution for AFB prevention.

- Virginia Farm Bureau

## Garden

from page 3

p.m. "Work usually wraps up by 7:30 p.m. and involves a lot of weeding, pruning, planting, and more weeding," according to HHG.

"This group helps with the small details that make the garden look so nice! Everyone is welcome, even if you don't have a lot of experience."

Anyone who would like to be

added to the volunteer email list, please email at vtgarden@vt.edu.

News Messenger staff report

## Funds

from page 1

underserved communities. We're glad to see that funding flowing to communities across Virginia to help bridge that gap."

ACC is not a direct lender. Instead, it raises capital for its members who are also CDFIs or other mission-aligned lenders so that they can provide affordable loans, business advisory services, and other types of support to small businesses in the region. ACC is an intermediary CDFI and a membership organization that attracts new sources of capital to the region for other CDFIs and mission-

aligned lenders. Members then use ACC's capital to provide loans and advisory and other services to small businesses in under-invested areas of Appalachia.

The Appalachian Regional Commission and partner financial institutions provided \$15.5 million in seed capital helped ACC to start lending in 2015. Since then, ACC has raised an additional \$18 million for its members who have used the funds to finance 100 small businesses. In addition, over 2,000 jobs have been created or retained; about half of these jobs are occupied

by low-income persons. Since it began lending in 2015, ACC has been instrumental in strengthening low- and moderate-income communities and small businesses throughout Appalachia. To date, ACC has deployed \$32 million in leveraged debt; raised \$17 million in grants; financed 110 companies, including minority- and women-owned small businesses; and helped to generate or sustain over 2,000 jobs.

Radford News Journal staff report

## President

from page 1

and the largest elephant population in the world, Botswana remains a haven for wildlife. Under Masisi's leadership, increased focus has been directed at economic empowerment of communities and strengthening of conservation and biodiversity stewardship across the nation.

Masisi has shown support for the on-the-

ground integrated research and outreach conducted by Alexander, a professor of wildlife in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment, and a commitment to assisting communities and ensuring that wildlife and ecosystems are managed sustainably.

In 2019, the president and first lady Neo Masisi

toured CARACAL's 42-acre site and met with Alexander and her research team to discuss the program's focus on improving health outcomes and livelihoods of communities and sustainably managing the natural ecosystems on which they depend.

Submitted by Virginia Tech



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH  
**Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi took office as president of Botswana in 2018.**

# RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Serving Radford since 1884

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

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radfordnewsjournal.com

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-60.

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Duck cartoon character; 6. Town in Guinea; 11. Upright posture; 12. Rest on your knees; 13. Move upward; 15. Disposed to take risks; 18. Makes a sweater; 19. Grooved surface of a tire; 20. Identical in kind; 21. Radiotelegraphic signal; 24. "Picnic" author William; 25. Bashkir Republic capital; 26. Male highlanders; 30. Doing several things at once; 32. Title of respect; 33. Old world, new...

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## OBITUARIES

## Albert, Judith A.

Judith A. Albert, 84, of Blacksburg, longtime cafeteria manager for Montgomery County Public Schools, and then also retired from Kroger after many years.



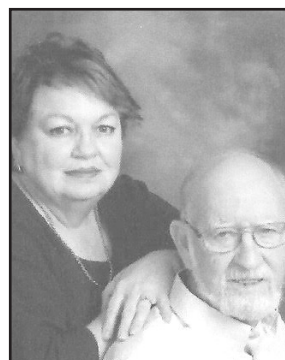
She was born in Montgomery Co., Va., on October 9, 1938, to the late Milton Lorraine "Popeye" and Leona "Dee" Criner Albert. She was also preceded in death by her stepmother, Ora Poff Albert. Judy was a longtime member of Blacksburg Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She was a

passed to her heavenly home, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, after being in Heritage Hall for over 12 years.

She is survived by her husband of over 62 years, Joe Albert; daughters, Susan Albert and Sarah (Gary) Kendall; son, Joey (Sherri) Albert; grandchildren, John David Albert and Laura Reid Albert; and a sister-in-law, Daphna Albert Marsh. Services will be held at a later date.

## Albert, Sandra Jean

Sandra Jean Albert, 71, of law, Eleanor King, Edna "Kitty" McCoy, went to her heavenly home, Monday, March 13, 2023.



She was born in Roanoke on April 27, 1951, to the late Norman Eddie and Juanita Poff. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Mark H. "Mac" Albert, Jr.; a sister, Bonnie; and a brother, Jimmy.

She was a member of Blacksburg Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Sandra retired from Roanoke County/ Salem City Health Department after over 30 years. Her favorite thing was to look through cookbooks and cooking, especially at Thanksgiving.

She is survived by her stepdaughter and son-in-law, Angie and Regan Underwood; stepson, Mike Albert; sisters, Linda (Sam) Quarles, and Nancy Campbell; sisters-in-

law, Eleanor King, Edna "Kitty" Collins, and Emily Oliver; brother-in-law, Mickey (Diana) Albert; grandchildren, Caitlyn, Logan, Erin, Ryan, Sara, and Jake; three great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services will be conducted, Saturday, March 18,

2023, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, with the Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. Interment will follow in the Centennial Christians Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, before the service, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W., Blacksburg, VA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Blacksburg Christian Church, 240 Watson Ave., Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

See Obituaries, page 6

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

**St. Thomas Anglican Church** - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit [www.sttofc.org](http://www.sttofc.org) for 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: [fbcradford.org](http://fbcradford.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](http://www.trinitycburg.org).

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## CHURCH OF GOD

**Childress Church of God**, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C'Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School - 10:00A.M. Morning Worship - 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828

## CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

**Radford Church of God in Christ**, 206 Russell Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639-5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

## (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

## LUTHERAN

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

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Read Joshua 14:1 through 17:18

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

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

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

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

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

Quicklook: Joshua 17:14-17

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

email and on website: [clcradford.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:hope@stmcl.us) or visit our Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

## PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry

Christopher (540) 552-7194. [lchristopher695@comcast.net](mailto:lchristopher695@comcast.net). Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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

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

## PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph, 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](http://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](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com). **St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - [www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc).

# Obituaries from page 5

## Christopher, Patricia Randlette

Patricia Randlette Christopher, 91, of Blacksburg, went home to be with her Lord on March 11, 2023, at the Kroontje Health Care Center.

She was born in Richmond on October 8, 1931, to the late Edwin "Ed" Archer Randlette and Katie "Mae" Sheally Randlette. She was the middle child in a family of five daughters and raised with strong Christian beliefs and high moral and ethical standards. These values shaped Patricia's character and throughout her life she demonstrated them by never saying an unkind word and always carrying herself with grace and class.

She graduated from John Marshall High School in 1949 and worked as a secretary until she was married to the late Robert Edward Christopher, Jr on February 12, 1956, whom she met on a blind date. They moved to Narrows in the mid-1950s and then to Blacksburg in 1961, where husband Robert was the owner and operator of the Corner Drug Store for 38 years, and where Patricia worked part-time as a manager. She loved to sing and was an accomplished vocalist, singing in the high school and church choirs as a youth, and at one point singing live on the radio. She was a devoted wife and mother of four sons and a longstanding active member of the Blacksburg United Methodist Church, where she also sang in the choir.

She is survived by three sons

and three daughters-in-law: Robert E. Christopher III of Blacksburg, William H. Christopher and Susan Christopher of Vienna, Heidi Christopher of Blacksburg, and James E. Christopher and Jill Christopher of Haymarket; six grandsons and two granddaughters: William J. (Ashley) Christopher of Ashburn, Matthew C. Christopher of Daleville, Robert J. Christopher, Daniel P. Christopher, Joseph E. Christopher, and Stephen T. Christopher, all of Haymarket, Mary H. Christopher and Emma G. Christopher, of Vienna; two great-grandchildren: Charlotte Christopher and William Christopher, of Ashburn; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Jaquelyn and Walter Tucker of Richmond, and Archer and Terry Parkerson, also of Richmond; and a host of beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

Patricia is predeceased by her husband, Robert E. Christopher Jr, her mother and father, Ed and Mae Randlette, her sisters Sarah Smith and Evelyn Hurlbut, and her son, John M. Christopher.

The family will receive friends on March 21 from 5-7 p.m. at the McCoy Funeral Home (150 Country Club Drive SW, Blacksburg VA 24060) and a private graveside service will be held for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the ALS Association in remembrance of John M. Christopher.

## Love, David Lynwood

David Lynwood Love, 78, of Pembroke, left his wheelchair, to walk with Jesus, Sunday, March 12, 2023.

He was born in Montgomery County on July 26, 1944. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ocie Allen Love, and two brothers, Bill Love and Raymond Love. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved his family.

He is survived by his; son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Loya Love; daughter and son-in-law, Laura



and Charles Hughes; grandchildren, Michelle, Danielle, Megan, Miranda, Kyra and Mathew; eight great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Johnny and Connie Love; numerous nieces and nephews; and special friends, Mike Johnston and Jeff Acord.

A memorial service was conducted Thursday, March 16, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, with the Pastor Jeff Acord officiating.

## Lawrence, Monica Goad

Monica Goad Lawrence of Radford, passed unexpectedly at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. She was born on February 12, 1964. Monica was preceded in death by her mother, Nomia A. Goad, and father, Wiley E. Goad; and two sisters, Rita Simpkins and Verona Yates.



She was a humble and caring lady who lived a simple life fishing, hunting with her husband and spending time with family. She didn't need much to be happy, a long Sunday stroll down a winding road was something she loved to do.

Monica is survived by her husband of 28 years, Earl Lawrence; sisters, Selena East of Lillydale, and Cynthia Fender (Larry) of Fairlawn; brother-in-law, Joe Simpkins of Indian Valley; and several nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

She worked at Radford University in housekeeping for 31 years. She

receive friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Monday, March 20, 2023, at the New Hope Church of God in Christiansburg. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Rev. T. Michael Bond officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

## Nester, Randall Scott

Randall Scott Nester, 48, passed away Friday, March 10, 2023, at his home in Roanoke surrounded by his dear friends and family.



Melissa Sheppard Payne and Jennifer Nester Riggs (Calvin); best friend, Curt Lane; canine companion, Willow; special friends, Hallie Niemi, Breana Brennan, and Carolyn Carson; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Barbara Ellen Sullivan; brother, Charles Nester, Jr.; maternal grandparents, Earl and Mildred Duncan; and paternal grandparents, Sherwood and Rosa Mae Nester.

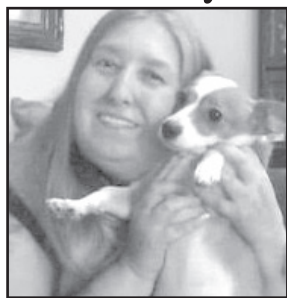
Survivors include his sisters,

Per his request, there will be no services.

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

## Price, Kathy Lou

Kathy Lou Price, 52, of Blacksburg, died Wednesday, March 15, 2023.



in-law Phyllis "PJ" and Kenneth "Duck" Collins; brothers and sisters-in-law Doug Price, Jimmy and Mary Price, and Jerry Price; and numerous nieces and nephews. Per her requests, there will be no services.

She was born in Christiansburg on March 7, 1971, to the late Ira Early and Louise Dowdy Price. She is survived by her sister and brother-

# VDOT ROAD WATCH

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the local area of the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties.

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

**ROUTE 8 PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS** – Work has begun to construct pedestrian improvements on Route 8 in Riner. The work zone will begin at the intersection with Route 669 (Union Valley Road) and will end at the current site of the Atlantic Union Bank. Drivers should expect shoulder and lane closures to be in place with flagging operations between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. through the start of the project until May 24, the end of the school year. Once the school year is complete, lane closures will expand in hours to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Expected completion is summer

2023.

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141** – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier walls can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier walls will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

Northbound lane closures from I-81 mile marker 136 to 141.

Southbound Lane closures from I-81 mile marker 141 to 136.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in

See VDOT, page 8

## Contest

from page 4

economy.

Virginia agriculture-themed coloring sheets must be submitted to women@vafb.com by March 31 for a chance to win a Walmart gift card. Winners will be announced April 6, and their artwork will be displayed on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Leadership Program Facebook page. To access the coloring sheet, visit bit.ly/WLColoringcontest.

With one of the most diverse agricultural industries in the nation, many Virginia commodities and products rank in the top 10 nationally.

Virginia ranked fourth in the production of tobacco, seventh for apples and turkeys, eighth for peanuts, ninth for pumpkins and 10th for broilers, poultry and eggs, and trout aquaculture in 2021, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service.

According to the same study, Virginia's top farm commodity in 2021 was broilers with over \$625 million in cash receipts, followed by cattle and calves with \$372 million, field crops with \$319 million, turkeys with over \$316 million and dairy products with \$298 million.

The impact of Virginia agriculture and forestry reaches into global markets with many countries purchasing a variety of commodities, wood products, seafood, and specialty food and beverage items.

Agricultural and forestry exports were valued at \$2.97 billion in 2018, up from \$2.63 billion in 2017. Today, Virginia's top agricultural export markets are China, Canada, and Egypt, according to Global Trade Information Services Inc.

- Virginia Farm Bureau

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Stand-out Bobcat football players honored by the Radford City School Board

Heather Bell  
hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

RADFORD – Four members of the 2022 Bobcat football team were recently honored by the Radford City School Board for their inclusion on the Virginia All-State football roster.

“We’ve had one of the most successful football seasons we’ve had in a very long time,” said Superintendent Robert Graham.

“We are fortunate that we had four players named to the all-state team, the highest honor in high school football,” said Radford Head Coach Michael Crist.

Andrew Moore, a senior, played center for the Bobcats. He went from a second team-All-District player his junior year to All-State first team as a senior. Crist said Moore is “the epitome of hard work,” adding he excelled on the football field while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and while he had opportunities to play college football, he has chosen to focus on earning his engineering degree.

Landon Clark, a junior, is RHS’s standout quarterback and was named first team All-State. He has set school records for the most passing yards – 2,972 – the most touchdown passes in a season with 44, the most completions with 166, and 52 total touchdowns.



PHOTO BY TARA GRANT  
Radford City Schools Superintendent Robert Graham (left) honors football players Landon Clark and Andrew Moore, along with Head Coach Michael Crist at the most recent school board meeting.

“And he only threw one interception the whole season,” said Crist.

Senior Marcelle Baylor, who now plays football for Virginia Tech, was an All-State wide receiver and broke a long-held record by Donald Wayne Snell for receiving yards with 972 yards. He was unable to attend the school board meeting, but Crist said Baylor is settling in well at Virginia Tech.

Senior Parker Prioleau

was named an All-State defensive back and will be playing football for Emory and Henry this fall. Prioleau had tremendous success both defensively and offensively. He ended up breaking Baylor’s receiving yards record, with 1,011 yards and a record 62 receptions. Prioleau was unable to attend the school board recognition due to preparing for the state title basketball game.

## Blue Ridge Golf kicks off its 25th season

The Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour will celebrate its 25-year birthday with a slate of activities beginning in June.

Since 1999, the tour has followed its motto of “building character and sportsmanship through the game of golf.” Through the years, many junior golfers in southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia have taken advantage of the offerings of the tour and have gained skill development, etiquette competence, rules knowledge, and competitive opportunity.

Director of Tour Operations Dewayne Belcher explains, “We’ve conducted the tour with the same motto since the beginning in 1999. With that foundation, players have not only become better players, they have honored the fundamental principles of the game by playing with fairness and integrity. This has yielded many social skills helpful in producing good community citizens. To that end, we are most proud.”

Beginning in June, the tour will offer a golf academy at Fincastle in Bluefield, Va. Aspiring players will learn the fundamentals of the golf swing under the direction of professionals Vic Sorrell and Steve Lilly.

A rules clinic will also occur in June, again at Fincastle. There, participants will learn proper etiquette and basic rules by which to play the game. Seven tournaments follow the academy and rules clinic. Sites include the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech, Draper

Valley Golf Club, Fincastle, Wytheville Golf Club, Glade Springs Resort, Great Oaks Country Club, and Pipestem Resort State Park. Plans are also being made for a reunion tournament to gather players and memories of former BRJGT participants from the past 25 years. The tournament will be held at Fincastle in July.

Interested junior golfers up to age 18 can find all dates, events, and sites at brjgt.com. Registration also can be completed on the website. Cost to join the tour is \$30 and each tournament is \$20 except for the season-ending Tour Championship, which is a two-day event and costs \$40.

Through the experience, the junior golfer will receive a number of BRJGT gifts including the official 2023 cap. Also, the player will become a better golfer, make many good friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Age groups are divided into the following categories: 17-18, 15-16, 13-14, (play 18 holes), 10-12 and 9 and Under (play 9 holes). Also, there is an additional developmental group for those who are brand new to golf. It is for ages 13-18 and will include a coach to accompany them for 9 holes during selected tournaments.

Go to brjgt.com to sign-up.

- Blue Ridge Golf

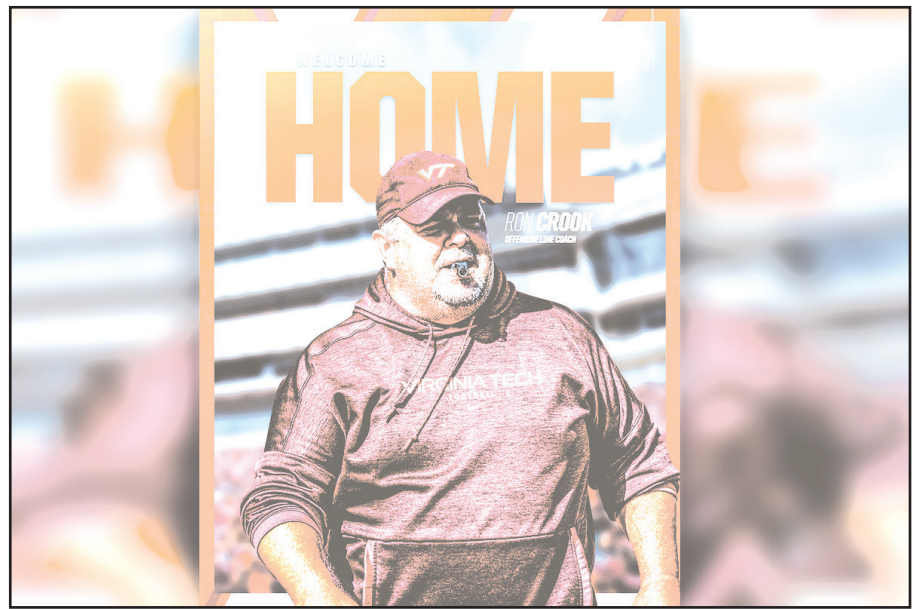


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Ron Crook was recently announced Virginia Tech’s new offensive line coach.

## Crook to lead Tech offensive line

BLACKSBURG - Virginia Tech football coach Brent Pry announced Monday 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.

“I am thrilled to add a coach of Ron Crook’s caliber to our staff,” said Virginia Tech Head Coach Brent Pry. “He brings a wealth of experience coaching offensive line across the Power Five level and in major bowl games. Coach Crook is a great teacher and has a reputation for building tough, physical offensive lines. Ron’s time and ties to small college football in West Virginia and Pennsylvania means a lot to me. I know what he is about and what he will bring to our program.”

Crook spent five seasons at Cincinnati (2017-21), helping the Bearcats win back-to-back AAC titles and becoming the first Group of Five team to compete in the College Football Playoff.

In 2021, he coached a group of offensive linemen that had three All-AAC First Team members in Dylan O’Quinn, Jake Renfro and Lorenz Metz. The Bearcats had one of the best offensive line rooms in the nation and helped lead a Cincinnati offense that broke single-season school records in touchdowns scored (70) and points scored (510) through 13 games.

As a group, the offensive line paved the way for an offense that averaged 6.93 yards per play in 2021, which ranked sixth nationally. The Bearcats also led the AAC in yards per rush (5.4). They allowed only 1.54 sacks per game, which ranked second in the conference.

Cincinnati’s offenses averaged 2.26 rushing touchdowns per game during Crook’s tenure (2017-21), ranking 15th best in the country. The Bearcats ranked 10th in 2021 in offensive line efficiency. Crook oversaw four top 25 finishes in rushing offense (2020, 2019, 2018, 2017) and three top 25 finishes in yards per carry (2021, 2020, 2018).

Crook has been an offensive line coach throughout his career, with a wealth of experience in the Pac-12, Big 12, Ivy League and Big 10 conferences. Crook was a part of the West Virginia staff from 2013-16 helping the Mountaineers to three straight bowl games and a ten-win campaign in 2016. He served at Stanford from 2011-12 when the Cardinal won a Pac-12 championship and made two BCS bowl games. Prior to his arrival at Stanford, Crook spent eight seasons (2003-10) as offensive line coach at Harvard. Eight of Crook’s players earned first team All-Ivy honors a combined 11 times, including tackle James Williams, who was a three-time All-America and first team All-Ivy selection. In 2002 at Illinois, Crook worked closely with All-Big Ten players Dave Diehl and 2001 All-America Tony Pashos, who were both selected in the 2003 NFL Draft.

Crook also served as the offensive line coach and offensive coordinator at West Liberty State, helping the Hilltoppers to the 2000 WVIAC title. A decade earlier, Crook broke into the collegiate coaching ranks at West Liberty, where he served as a student assistant, working primarily with the tight ends. He also served as the offensive line coach for three seasons (1990-92).

Crook was part of coaching staffs at West Virginia Tech (1999), Glenville State (1997-98) and Clarion College (1994-96). He was part of NCAA Division II playoff teams at Glenville State and Clarion.

Crook has coached in the following bowl games: Cotton (2021 - CFP), Peach (2020), Birmingham (2019), Military (2018), Russell Athletic (2016), Cactus (2015), Liberty (2014), Rose (2012) and Fiesta (2011).

An offensive lineman at West Liberty State from 1986 to 1988, Crook is a native of Parkersburg, West Virginia. He and his wife, Stacy, have three children, Andrew, Cian and Kenley.

VT Athletics

## Brooks to lead Tech running backs

Virginia Tech football coach Brent Pry announced Monday the addition of Maryland’s Elijah Brooks as running backs coach, following a successful run with the Terps and powerhouse DeMatha Catholic High School.

“I’m excited to have Elijah and his family join our program,” said Virginia Tech Head Coach Brent Pry. “From my days recruiting DeMatha to competing against his position groups at Maryland, I have always been impressed by his professionalism, ability to recruit at a high level

and develop good football players at both DeMatha and Maryland. His knowledge of the DMV footprint will be vital as we continue to re-establish ourselves in this region.”

In four years at Maryland, Brooks demonstrated the ability to coach and develop running backs at the highest level in the Big Ten Conference. Each year a running back under his tutelage earned an opportunity in the

NFL, including Anthony McFarland (Pittsburgh Steelers), Javon Leake (NY Giants), Jake Funk (LA Rams) and Tayon Fleet-Davis (Kansas City Chiefs).

In the 2022 season under Brooks, freshmen Roman Hemby and Antwain Littleton had breakout seasons, combining for six 100-yard games. Hemby earned Big 10 Player of

See Brooks, page 8

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# OUTDOOR REPORT

## Spring gobbler forecast

As is often the case with all things hunting, Virginia's upcoming spring gobbler season offers a mixture of good and bad news.

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) Upland Game Bird Biologist Mike Dye believes that hunters should expect solid action; however, turkey numbers have declined in pockets over the past half-decade or so.

"Generally, two-year-old gobblers make up the bulk of the harvest," he said. "They gobble the most and are also the age group most likely to come to calls. In 2021, we had a relatively good poult per hen (pph) ratio of 2.7, which was much better than the 2020 and 2022 pph ratios, each of which was 1.9."

"There is a caveat with the 2020 figure, though," he continued. "That year was the beginning of the pandemic, and staff drove fewer miles looking for birds, which definitely affected the number of sightings. But the reality is that there probably won't be as many three-year-olds and jakes around this spring."

Dye believes the turkey population decline is not because our birds are being overhunted or because of coyotes and other predators.

"Mortality from weather is the number one killer of turkeys, specifically poults under two weeks of age," he said. "Poults can't fly up to roost until they are from 10 days to two weeks old. And for the past several springs during that time of vulnerability, we've had unseasonably, cold, wet rains. The change in weather patterns and the ill-timed weather events do appear to be linked to changes in the overall climate. 'This isn't unique to Virginia,' Dye

continued. "States all over the Southeast are experiencing the same population changes, and now it's starting to spread to the Northeast states as well. Some people like to blame the population declines on raccoons and coyotes. But the last 20 years, we haven't seen a population increase in raccoons, and studies show that coyotes actually may have a positive effect on turkey populations because they prey on some of our nest predators. Hunters often report that they've seen coyotes stalking or chasing turkeys. But coyotes are usually about as successful catching healthy, adult turkeys as my dog is catching squirrels in my backyard."

Around the state, the biologist believes the Tidewater region continues to offer the best turkey hunting because of the region's patchwork of woodlots and agricultural areas. The mosaic-type habitat in our flatlands is ideal for this big game bird. Runner-up in the turkey parade is the Southwest Mountain region. This area is basically from Blacksburg to the Tennessee line with the band of counties along the Kentucky border (Scott, Wise, and Dickinson) being the outlier as turkey numbers there are lower.

The South Piedmont (Nottaway, Lunenburg, Brunswick, Campbell, and Pittsylvania area) ranks third. Elsewhere, the Northern Mountain region continues to harbor fewer birds. This is basically the swath of counties from Botetourt to Rockingham County. The counties in the Northern Piedmont (Fauquier, Loudoun, and Culpeper) are making some significant increases as are several of the counties in the northern Shenandoah Valley (Frederick, Clarke, and Shenandoah).

Youth and Apprentice Hunter



PHOTO BY BRUCE INGRAM

Virginia's spring turkey season kicks off on April 1-2, 2023, with Youth & Apprentice Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend, and Spring Turkey Season runs from April 8 to May 13, 2023.

Weekend will be April 1 and 2 this year (with the regular season beginning April 8). Dye said participation in this weekend seems to have stabilized, with harvests the past two years being 651 and 613, respectively. In 2022, hunters could pursue gobblers all day an extra week, and that caused the afternoon kill to increase from 4 to 8 percent.

Overall, the afternoon harvest only made up eight percent of the total harvest, but it made up 17 percent of the week three kill, 23 percent of week four's, and 28 percent of week

five's. The biologist speculates that the relatively high afternoon harvest in week five came from hardcore hunters who were trying to tag a bird before the season ended. This spring all-day hunting begins April 24, and the season runs through May 13.

So, pattern your guns, conduct some scouting, and practice your calling. Virginia's spring gobbler season is right around the proverbial corner.

Bruce Ingram, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources



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## Cadet women win basketball tourney



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER CUTSHALL

On Feb. 12, the corps' women's basketball team won the 37th annual Flying' Irish tournament at Notre Dame, a national basketball competition for cadets and ROTC units. The bracketed tournament for both men's and women's teams started in 1985 and hosts more than 500 students from over 50 schools.

This wasn't the team's first win in the Flyin' Irish tournament – Virginia Tech has won the last three tournaments, going back to 2020. The tournament

was canceled in 2021 because of the pandemic.

The only women's team left in the tournament was Notre Dame's Navy and Air Force ROTC team and Notre Dame met the Virginia Tech women early on Feb 12. Virginia Tech won, 35-13.

The corps' men's team fought into the semifinals but fell to Washington University.

- Virginia Tech

## Brooks from page 7

the Week honors twice, rushing for 989 yards and 10 touchdowns on the season, placing him among the top 10 rushers in the Big Ten.

The new hire allows Stu Holt to take over the role of tight ends coach, while offensive coordinator Tyler Bowen will serve as quarterbacks coach. Holt has six seasons worth of experience coaching tight ends at Western Kentucky, South Florida and Louisville. In the 2021 season with the Cardinals, Holt tutored Marshon Ford who was a three-time all-ACC tight end. Ford led the team and ACC with 49 receptions for 550 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Over the course of his career, Brooks has a proven track record of establishing and cultivating relationships throughout Virginia Tech's recruiting footprint. His recruiting prowess can be traced to strong connections in D.C., Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

As a head coach at DeMatha Catholic

High School (Md.) he compiled a 72-20 record, which is the best eight year run in school history, leading the Stags to four consecutive conference and state championships (2013-16). Competing in arguably the nation's toughest high school football conference, the 2022 DeMatha Catholic High School Hall of Fame inductee garnered Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Coach of the Year awards in both 2014 and 2016. Brooks also led DeMatha to three top 20 national finishes. His high school coaching resumes also includes developing 6 current NFL players.

A Largo, Maryland native, Brooks is a 2007 William & Mary graduate, Brooks starred as an all-conference running back, finishing as the school's sixth all-time leading rusher. He and his wife, Tierra, have three children, Zoey, Zayia and Elijah Jr.

- VT Athletics

## VDOT from page 6

early 2026.

**SLOW ROLLS:** A slow roll operation may be in place daily, Monday through Friday, between mile marker 101 and 105 northbound and between mile marker 109 and 105 southbound, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

**ROUTE 605:** Alternating lane closures and flagging operations will be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for work overhead on the bridge.

**SLOW ROLLS:** Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS –** Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 170 to 95, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

- Va. Dept. of Motor Vehicles