



NEWS JOURNAL

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Radford police chief resigns post

RADFORD – Radford City Police Chief Jeffrey Dodson Jr. is resigning, effective July 14, 2023.

According to the City of Radford, Dodson “has accepted a job opportunity which will allow more time with his family.”

Dodson, who has served as police chief for three-and-a-half years, said it “has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside the brave men and women of the Radford City Police Department.”

“The men and women of this agency are doing amazing work each day,” he said. “I will continue to pray for these officers as they continue to serve and protect the Radford community.”

According to the City of Radford’s statement, “Dodson’s three and half years with Radford have been marked by departmental modernization, creation of a Community Engagement Unit, peer support program, improved 911

communications, advanced training for officers, upgraded equipment, and helping the department to seek national accreditation process with CALEA. Over the last three years, the department has received state and national recognitions for various programs being implemented at Radford City Police Department.”

Radford City Manager, David Ridpath lauded Dodson for his leadership.

“Chief Dodson’s professionalism, drive, and expert knowledge have been reassuring and a constant for a city manager,” said Ridpath. “Chief Dodson has steadily handled the wheel and advanced the Radford City Police Department over his tenure. He will be missed.”

Radford Mayor David Horton said Dodson’s expansion of community policing has been good for the city.

“We are incredibly thankful for and proud of Chief Dodson’s service

and leadership,” said Horton. “His efforts to expand and enhance community policing in Radford have improved relationships for citizens and those who help keep them safe. Serving during the Covid pandemic as well as the national civil issues of the past few years has been challenging and Chief Dodson has done an excellent job managing the uncharted waters we have faced.”

“Chief Dodson is an outstanding public servant and will be sorely missed,” Horton added. “We wish the very best to him and his family as they move for are to the next chapter of their lives.”

Dodson served the Culpeper Police Department for 16 years, moving from Patrol Officer to Police Lieutenant before becoming Radford’s Police Chief in January 2020. He served in various capacities at the Culpeper Police



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

Radford Police Chief Jeffrey Dodson, Jr.

See **Dodson**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

RHS students awarded New River Community College ACCE scholarships

Several Radford High School students were awarded New River Community College ACCE scholarships at the recent RHS Academic Awards ceremony, held in May at the school. Student who received the scholarship include Zoey

Body, Ethan Brown, Trenton Bryant, Nicholas Cope, Emily Crawford, Cadence Grenier, Hunter Hancock, Jamison Hayes, Ashleigh Jessie, Eliana Kennedy, Chloe Lewis, Angie Lin, Andrew Lineberry, Riley Mandzak, Everett Martin,

Sarah Martin, Dominick Mays, Aiden Minnick, Andrew Moore, Ethan Moore, Colton Pyne, John Robertson, Joseph Weddle, Thomas Weltens and Nora Young.

-Radford News Journal staff report

Fatal Montgomery County crash results in four fatalities

MONTGOMERY CO. – Four people died Tuesday, May 30 after their SUV collided with a tractor trailer on Interstate 81.

Virginia State Police is investigating the two-vehicle crash, which occurred at 3:30 a.m. on the northbound side of Interstate 81, at the 120.3-mile marker in Montgomery County.

According to the VSP, “a 2018 Chevrolet Equinox was pulling a U-Haul trailer traveling north on Interstate 81, when the vehicle lost control and spun around, coming to rest facing southbound in the northbound travel lanes. The Chevrolet was then struck by a northbound Freightliner tractor trailer.”

The Chevrolet was driven by Douangpee Amnatkeo, 54, of Shippensburg, Pa. Amnatkeo was not wearing her seatbelt and died at the scene. There were three passengers in the Chevrolet. Monthly Matnopaseuth, 39, of Reading, Pa., and Ericssan Kathpratoum, 13, Shippensburg, Pa., died at the scene. The third passenger, Samiane Kothpratoum, 37 of Shippensburg, Pa., was transported to Roanoke Memorial Hospital by helicopter, where he later died.

None of the passengers were wearing their seatbelts. The driver of the tractor trailer was not injured.

The Virginia State Police Crash

Reconstruction Team and Motor Carrier Team assisted with the crash, which remains under investigation.

The day before the fatal crash, on Monday, May 29, the same area of Interstate 81, mile marker 120, was the site of four crashes that blocked Interstate 81 northbound for hours, according to Virginia State Police Public Information Officer Sgt. Richard Garletts, who said there were “multiple tractor trailers and cars involved.” The crash involved 20 vehicles, and VDOT set up a detour at the 118 to route traffic around the crashes.

Radford News Journal staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF LVNRV

Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley tutor Nikki Pynn instructs student Freda Ferguson.

Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley selected for Buzz4Good tv episode

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Buzz4Good is a monthly show on PBS that highlights non-profit organizations making a difference in their communities.

By providing an episode about Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley (LVNRV), Buzz4Good makes a ‘buzz’ that helps increase awareness about the work they are doing and sharing the resources to those who might need them.

Ginny Ayers, LVNRV Executive Director, said they were all very excited

to be chosen by Buzz4Good to create an episode about their non-profit organization. They requested permission from those in the episode, both students and staff, and everyone had a lot of fun and were equally moved by the results.

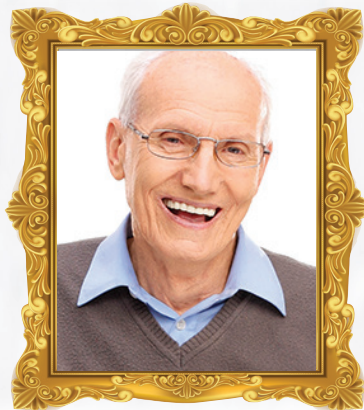
“What aired was just a fraction of the film time,” Ayers said.

The Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley is a non-profit organization that strives to meet the New River Valley’s need for supporting citizens

See **Volunteers**, page 4

Grandpa’s Coming Off the Shelf....

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 3:

CPR and AED course

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Compass and Shock Foundation to have a CPR and AED refresher course. It will be on June 3, 10- 11 a.m. at the Hampton Inn located on Arbor Dr. in Christiansburg. The class is free. Please visit <https://www.compressandshock.org/classlocator> to register. Look for the Chamber logo to register for the Christiansburg location.

Puzzle Swap at Christiansburg Library

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. Puzzles have long been celebrated for their captivating nature, offering beauty, mental stimulation, and an opportunity to unwind. However, once the final piece is placed, the question of what to do next often arises. Christiansburg Library has found the perfect solution - a Puzzle Swap event! Attendees encouraged to bring puzzles and exchange them for fresh, new-to-them puzzles, creating an endless cycle of puzzle joy. To participate in the Free Puzzle Swap, individuals can drop off their puzzles at Christiansburg Library during the week leading up to the event, starting on May 30. Alternatively, participants can bring their puzzles directly to the swap on June 3. It is crucial that all puzzle pieces are included to ensure a fair and enjoyable exchange for all attendees. Christiansburg Library encourages individuals to bring puzzles that they would be proud to share with fellow enthusiasts, ensuring an exchange that brings joy to all.

Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 6:

Virginia Tech Board of Visitors meeting

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting on Tuesday, June 6, at 1:30 p.m. in 2100 Torgersen Hall, 620 Drillfield Drive, on the Blacksburg campus. All other committee meetings or other sessions held during these two days will be held at the Inn at Virginia Tech (901 Prices Fork Road) and the Classroom Building (1455 Perry Street), both in Blacksburg, unless otherwise noted. On Monday, June 5 at 2 p.m., all board members will meet in open session for an information session in 260 Classroom Building. Also that day, board members will tour the new Data and Decision Sciences Building (727 Prices Fork Road) at 11:15 a.m. and the Quillen Spirit Plaza and Dietrick Hall (285 Ag Quad Lane) at 12:30 p.m. both on the Blacksburg campus.

On Tuesday, the Executive Committee will meet in closed session at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Guard Salon at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Also that day, the chairs of

the five standing board committees will meet in open session at 8:30 a.m., also in the Old Guard Salon, and the board's nominating committee will meet in closed session at 8:30 a.m. in 206 Classroom Building.

Saturday, June 10:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, under 3-free, carry-outs-\$12. This month, the Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Monday, June 12:

Radford City Council meeting

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

Tuesday, June 13:

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 the 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.

Thursday, June 15:

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 attend this meeting. Mr. Chris McCloud, Third Brigade Commander, will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

On-going:

Blacksburg Hydrant Flushing Work

The Town of Blacksburg will be flushing fire hydrants in the northwest section of town during May and June. Hydrant flushing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the flushing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

Radford Farmers Market

2023 season of the Radford Farmers Market kicked off Saturday, April 22 on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

New Mount Olive holds fish fry today

RADFORD - The United Methodist Men of New Mount Olive are sponsoring a fish fry today, Saturday, June 3 from 11 a.m. – 4 pm. The fish fry will be held at New Mount Olive United Methodist Church, 309 Russell Ave., in Radford. Dinners are \$12 and include two pieces of fried fish, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls and dessert. Fish sandwiches are \$6 and an extra piece of fish is \$3. For call-in orders, call the church at 540-639-6425. Delivery is available only in Radford.

Submitted by JW Webb



PHOTO COURTESY OF JW WEBB
The United Methodist Men of New Mount Olive member Gilbert Meadows gets the famous fried fish ready for hungry customers at the September 2022 fish fry.

Albert Brogan joins the CHCNRV as new CFO

Albert Brogan, CPA, has joined The Community Health Center of the New River Valley (CHCNRV) as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

“With an impressive background in finance and extensive experience in executive leadership roles, Brogan brings wide-ranging and diverse expertise to the growing organization.

As controller at Cogar Manufacturing, Brogan demonstrated exceptional leadership by overseeing accounting, financial planning and analysis, information technology, and human resources functions for multiple physical and remote sites. He played a vital role in establishing and maintaining internal controls and implemented lean accounting principles. Brogan received his Bachelor of Arts from Roanoke College and earned a Master's in Business Administration from William & Mary.

“The Board of Directors and I are thrilled to have Albert join our team as the new CFO,” said Michelle Brauns, MS, APR, CEO of The Community



Albert Brogan PHOTO COURTESY OF CHCNRV

Health Center of the New River Valley. “His diverse skillset and comprehensive knowledge of financial management make him an ideal fit for the CHC.”

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley provides affordable and high-quality family medical, dental, behavioral, and preventive health care services to people of all ages, regardless of ability to pay. For more information about the Community Health Center's services and programs in Dublin, Christiansburg, and Pearisburg, visit our website at www.chcnrv.org or call 540-381-0820.

Submitted by CHCNRV

Bicycle-involved crashes on the rise in Virginia

National Bicycle Safety Month is a reminder to look out for each other on Virginia's roads

RICHMOND - In recognition of National Bicycle Safety Month, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reminding Virginians, both bicyclists and motorists, to look out for each other on the road.

So far this year, there have been 160 bicycle-involved crashes on Virginia's roadways, resulting in the deaths of nine bicyclists and

injuries to 156 others. This is an 125% increase in bicyclist-related fatalities compared to four last year at this time.

“Cyclists are some of our most vulnerable road users. We all share the responsibility of keeping them safe,” said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. “Looking out for each other is key. Be visible and predictable as a cyclist, and respect bike

lanes and pass with care as a motorist.”

Tips for bicyclists:

Always wear a properly-fitted helmet.

Check your bike equipment before heading out.

Ride in the same direction as traffic.

Obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.

Wear equipment to protect you and make you

more visible to others.

Tips for motorists:

Pass bicyclists on the road with care; allow at least three feet clearance.

Look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space.

Yield to bicyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals.

Look for bicyclists before making turns, either left or right.

Respect designated bicycle lanes; don't use them for parking, passing or turning.

Both cyclists and drivers should practice defensive driving by staying focused and alert to the road and all surrounding traffic. Anticipating what others may do, before they do it, allows you to better avoid a potential crash.

Submitted by the DMV

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces Visions of Blacksburg exhibit

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation (BMCF) presents Visions of Blacksburg from June 9 – July 28, 2023, in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg.

Admission is free, hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Visions of Blacksburg is a visual journey of Blacksburg's history through photographs and maps.

"I am excited to share some iconic and some not so well-known images of the town," said the Museum's curator Janean Williams, "with the earliest photograph dating

from the 1880s to images of shopping areas of the 1960s. These photographs are a window into a century of change."

In addition to photos, the exhibition includes historical maps of Blacksburg, as well as Montgomery County beginning in 1789. Two of the maps featured are hand drawn and whimsical renderings of Lucy Lee Lancaster and Luis Miller.

Some activities scheduled during the exhibition include a performance by local musician Jim Lloyd on June 16, 7 – 8 p.m. Lloyd is a musician, music teacher, banjo historian



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BMCF

Historic photographs, including this one of the Lyric Theater, will be featured at the BMCF's Visions of Blacksburg exhibit.

and radio host who specializes in old-time and bluegrass genres. His latest release, "Play Guitar in Seven Days," captures the Doc Watson-

like variety of music that he interprets through his mountain lens. The Jim Lloyd performance is free and open to the public. On Thursday evening,

June 29 at 6:30 p.m., Dr. W. Cully Hession, Professor of Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech, will give a talk on streams and water

sources in the Town of Blacksburg. This event is free and open to the public.

Submitted by the BMCF

Radford University professor lends Appalachian expertise to ETSU

As East Tennessee State University (ETSU) develops an online, open-access version of its expansive Appalachian encyclopedia, it will have a local expert on that topic to offer insight – Radford University Associate Professor Theresa Burriss.

Burriss, director of Appalachian Studies and Radford's Appalachian Regional & Rural Studies Center, was recently named to an eight-member editorial advisory board for the project by ETSU's Center for Excellence for Appalachian Studies and

Services, according to a recent release by the Tennessee university.

ETSU's center, in partnership with the University of Tennessee Press, recently received a nearly \$50,000 grant to produce an updated, digital version of its Encyclopedia of Appalachia. An earlier print edition, published in 2006, ran more than 1,800 pages and included approximately 2,000 articles by about 1,000 contributors, according to the school.

The grant, awarded by the National

Endowment for the Humanities, is part of a nationwide initiative by the independent federal agency to subsidize 258 projects with \$35 million in funding.

The project will be led and edited by the director of ETSU's Appalachian center, Ron Roach.

"This is the only encyclopedia focused on Appalachia, and the online version will allow people across the world to access reliable content about this remarkable region for years to come," Roach said.

Neil Harvey for Radford University



Theresa Burriss, PhD.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS VS SALEM RED SOX

JUNE 13TH 11:05AM
CAMP DAY - GATES OPEN AT 10:00AM

JUNE 14TH 5:35PM & ~7:30PM
DOUBLEHEADER - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JUNE 15TH 7:05PM
GAME 3 - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 16TH 7:05PM
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

JUNE 17TH 6:05PM
COUNTRY NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

JUNE 18TH 3:05PM
GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

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Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. **CA23000012-00**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **CHRISTINE ELIZABETH GIBSON, DANIEL WARD GIBSON v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**
The object of this suit is to: **IN RE: DESTINEE EVONLYNN HOBACK**. It is **ORDERED** that **BETTY JOY THOMPSON** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **JULY 5, 2023**. **MAY 5, 2023, ROBERT M.D. TURK, JUDGE TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK**

Legals - Montgomery County

TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The Town of Christiansburg Virginia as a recipient of block grant funding is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prepare and adopt a multiyear Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans to solicit citizen views on proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program activities contained in these documents. The proposed plan is for the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan to provide information on the program and the goals for the upcoming year. The estimated amount the Town is scheduled to receive is \$130,404. Activities proposed include the East Main Street sidewalk project located in the Town's qualifying low to moderate income census tract block group and a town-wide income-qualified emergency home repair program.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
Draft copies of the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan are available for review. Copies can be obtained from the Christiansburg Town Manager's Office, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, the Christiansburg branch library at 125 Shelton Street or on the Town's website at www.christiansburg.org. The 30-day comment period will run through Monday, June 19, 2023.

PUBLIC MEETING
A Public Meeting with Town staff to discuss the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 5:30 PM in the Admin Conference Room, Christiansburg Town

Legals - Montgomery County

Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia. **PUBLIC HEARING**
A Public Hearing for the adoption of the FY2023 Annual Action Plan at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia. Provide any questions, comments, or suggestions by mailing the Town Manager's Office, Town of Christiansburg, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029, by e-mailing awarren@christiansburg.org or by phone at (540) 382-6120 x 1130.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, June 12, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Entitled Administration of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia by adding Section 2-17 Cost Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Transport, authorizing the County to charge reasonable fees for the use of emergency medical service vehicles, including charging insurers for ambulance services. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-4314 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on June 26, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comment regarding the following written request to withdraw 46.990 acres owned by DW, LLC, from AFD District 7: Request by DW, LLC to withdraw approximately 46.990 acres from Agricultural & Forestal District #7 in order to apply for a Special Use Permit to convert the property to an RV Park for short-term transient vehicles. The property is identified as a portion of Tax Map No. 080-5-1, Parcel ID 033688, located on Brammer Lane, off of Houchins Road, in the Shawsville Magisterial District. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
A. Conditional Use Permit request by Burch Perities LLC, Property Owner, and Kevin Lagos, Lessee, to allow a Public Billiard Parlor and Poolroom on the property located at 1635 North Franklin Street, Tax Parcel 466-(A)-20C, Parcel ID 013214; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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 Tuesday, June 20, 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 Summit Community Bank, Inc., Property Owner, to rezone the property located at 100 Akers Farm Road, Tax Parcel 466-(22)-1; Parcel ID 100283, from Limited Business District B-1 to General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

Public Notice

is hereby given that TotalEnergies Renewables is planning a Community Solar Project Event for a proposed solar development project. The proposed project consists of an approximate 25 acre – 4.89 MWac ground-mounted solar electric generating facility located at 1 Pattonburg Lane in Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia. The Project is intended to benefit Botetourt County by providing renewable energy to the local community. Please join us at the Botetourt Branch Library on Monday, June 12, 2023, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM for more information.

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Improving lives with data starts with improving machine learning

BLACKSBURG - You'd be hard pressed to find an industry today that doesn't use data in some capacity. Whether it's health care workers using data to report the rate of flu infections in a certain state, manufacturers using data to better understand average production times, or even a small coffee shop owner flipping through sales data to learn about the previous month's bestselling latte, data can reveal patterns and offer insights into our everyday behavior.

All of this data plays a critical role in artificial intelligence (AI) decision-making. Further, it creates a serious need for people to understand the value of data in the first place. By understanding how individual data sources contribute to technology-based decision-making processes, we can create a more effective and improved experience for all AI users.

For instance, studies have shown that prevalent facial recognition software performs less reliably in identifying women and people of color compared with white men, reflecting imbalances in facial data representing diverse populations. Measuring the value of data enables us to eliminate inputs that might contribute to biased models. Furthermore, understanding the value of data allows us to assign appropriate pricing to data sources, thereby facilitating data sharing. This is particularly important to industries where certain data is difficult to obtain or for small businesses grappling with limited data access.

Assistant Professor Ruoxi Jia in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award to investigate fundamental theories and computational tools needed to measure the value of data.

The five-year \$500,000 grant will allow Jia and her team to develop scalable and reliable data valuation techniques that support strategic data acquisition and improve machine learning based data analytics.

"Right now, there is a lot of excitement about machine learning and AI, especially after the emergence of ChatGPT," said Jia. "But what's under the hood is a lot of data. That's what enables this kind of machine, and that's what we're aiming to improve."

ChatGPT, an AI chatbot launched this fall, allows users to ask for help with things such as writing essays, drafting business plans, generating code, and even composing music. As of Dec. 4, ChatGPT already had over 1 million users.

Open AI built its auto-generative system on a model called GPT 3, which is trained on billions of tokens. These tokens, used for natural language processing, are similar to words in a paragraph. For comparison's sake, the novel "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" has about 250,000 words and 185,000 tokens. Essentially, ChatGPT has been trained on billions of data points, making this kind of intelligent machine possible.

Jia noted the importance of data quality and how it can impact machine learning results.

"If you have bad data feeding into machine learning, you will get bad results," said Jia. "We call that 'garbage in, garbage out.' We want to get an understanding, especially a quantitative understanding, of which data is

more valuable and which is less valuable for the purpose of data selection."

The importance of more quality-based data has been noticed by ChatGPT developers as they just announced the release of GPT-4. The latest technology is "multimodal," meaning images as well as text prompts can spur it to generate content.

A large amount of data is required to develop this type of machine intelligence, but not all data is open sourced or public. Some data sets are owned by private entities and there is privacy involved. Jia hopes that in the future, monetary incentives can be introduced to help acquire

See **Chatbots**, page 6



PHOTO BY CHELSEA SEEBER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Assistant Professor Ruoxi Jia in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award.

Volunteers

from page 1

in all facets of literacy. math, GED preparation, Reading and writing, English Speaking or

Other Languages (ESOL), computer skills, and health-related reading and comprehension, and financial skills are all components that the literacy volunteers may provide to students at the center.

"The people that make it to us as students are just incredible...brave," Ayers said. "Just walking in the doors is a huge hurdle."

Students seeking to complete their GED requirements can choose to attend New River Community College if they wish to take the comprehensive course, and they offer a very thorough program. However, individual needs can vary and that is where the literacy volunteers can help.

"We fill in the time that is flexible and in a closer location as well as meeting the needs of specific gaps of instruction" Ayers said.

GED to Go is a new program that can also allow the student to access the GED program on the internet, depending on their level of digital literacy.

Through the outreach the organization does in the community, adults can find work opportunities that were unavailable previously, adapt better to their current work environment through increasing their digital literacy, read to their children and grandchildren, have a better understanding medical terminology and insurance forms, and even feel less anxious calling the doctor to make an appointment.

"If you can teach someone how to navigate a computer or browse the internet, that is life-changing for them. It literally opens up the world for them," Ayers said about their digital literacy instruction programs.

Interested in becoming a literacy volunteer and not sure if you have the experience necessary to be a tutor? According to Ayers, all you need is a desire to help someone in your community and a willingness to invest your time and energy to the organization.

"We teach the

volunteers everything they need to know, based on what they will teach. You also do not need to know a second language to tutor someone," Ayers said.

The organization is a non-profit and therefore relies on donations through community and local government financial support to continue their work. LVNRV has two in-person fundraisers each year as well. Sinkland Farms was the location for the Scrabble tournament fundraiser that occurred on April 27th this year. Additionally, the organization will be hosting a Tri-Wizard Tri-Mile Race and Costume Contest on August 26, 2023, at Bisset Park in Radford, Virginia. Event details can be found at <http://www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark>.

Their biggest fundraiser of the year begins on June 1, 2023, with the beginning of their early giving of donations. The actual giving day is June 28, 12 p.m., to June 29th, 12 pm. Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley

currently receives some level of financial support from the local town and county municipalities, but currently does not receive state or federal funding. The organization partners with United Way, and also appreciates any donations from the community's citizens.

One of the additional programs that LVNRV is excited to be involved in is the Financial Literacy program in partnership with the drug court. Run by the county, this program offers an alternative to incarceration for some drug convictions. A judge may have the option of placing an individual in this structured eight-week program called Moneywise, where literacy volunteers can work with their students to learn how to manage money, build and use their credit, and other facets of financial management.

The full episode featuring Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley can be found at www.buzz4good.com/episodes/.

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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Dodson

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Department. He also had experience as a Communications Officer for Orange County, as well as an Assessor for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA). Dodson has a Masters in Criminal Justice Management, a Bachelor of Science in Management

and Leadership, as well as an Associate's Degree in Police Science. He is graduate of the PERF's Senior Management Institute for Policing (SMIP), Professional Executive Leadership School (PELS), and the FBI National Command Course. Dodson serves as an Executive

Board Member for the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and was appointed by Governor Youngkin to the E-911 Services Board in 2022.

Radford News Journal staff report

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OBITUARIES

Lyons, Brenda Pence

Brenda Pence Lyons, 76, passed away at her home in Christiansburg on Monday, May 29, 2023.

She was a retired math teacher with Wilkes Central, Shawsville and Christiansburg high schools, and New River Community College. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bernie Pence and Frances Williams.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Doyle Lyons; daughter, Nicole Lyons; son, David Lyons (Laima); grandchildren, Sofia



and Erik; brother-in-law, Carlton Lyons; sisters-in-law, Peggy Lyons, Lu Lyons, and Rachel Lyons; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, June 2, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Rev. Don Shelor officiating.

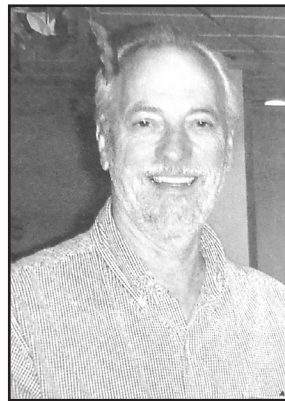
The Lyons family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Webb, William Glenn

William Glenn Webb, 80, of Radford, passed away Sunday, May 28, 2023.

He retired from the Radford Army Ammunitions Plant. Glenn was preceded in death by his parents, William and Mary Webb.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Jackie Webb; sons and daughters-in-law, Torri and Kerissa Webb and William Shawn and Wendy Webb; grandchildren, Noah, Carson, Dylan, Chandler, Kayla, Megan and Madison; a



great granddaughter, Raelynn; sister, Mary Ann Estes; brother and sister-in-law, Larry D. and Joyce Webb; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Friday, June 2, 2023, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with William Ratcliffe officiating.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

BAPTIST

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

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

Trinity Community Church, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Snowville Christian Church, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

EPISCOPAL

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

LUTHERAN

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

Radford WORSHIP DIRECTORY

FINDING STRENGTH IN GOD

Read 1 Samuel 27:1 through 31:13

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God (1 Samuel 30:6).

David and his men, just arriving home from battle, discovered that the enemy had kidnapped their families. His men were distraught, and they wanted someone to blame. David, their leader, was the obvious scapegoat, and they discussed taking revenge on him.

David, grieved at his own family's disappearance, now faced betrayals and accusations from his friends. Here, at an extremely low point, David did what always works. He turned to God and found strength in Him.

Exactly how David found strength in God is displayed throughout his psalms. David remembered God's promises, and more so, he reminded himself of who God is: his Rock of refuge; his compassionate, gentle Father; his faithful Provider; his all-wise Teacher, and so much more. As David turned to God, he gained the strength to rally his men on a rescue mission.

Prayer for Today: Father, please help me turn to You for strength in all things.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 30: 3-8, 18-19

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

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

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

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry

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

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

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

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

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

Newly renovated Hand-in-Hand Playground draws large crowd of past and present visitors



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Mayor Julie Hager-Smith, accompanied by Blacksburg Town Council and Montgomery Board of Supervisor members, cut the red ribbon opening the new Hand-in-Hand Playground to visitors.

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Approximately 200 children, along with parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors crowded around the entrance of the newly renovated Hand-in-Hand Playground in Blacksburg on Tuesday, May 30 for the official ribbon cutting ceremony and reopening of the popular park.

Town Mayor, Julie Hager-Smith had the honor of wielding the extra-large scissors that cut the red ribbon stretched across the playground entrance, as excited children anxiously awaited the reopening of the park. Town Council members, along with Montgomery County Board of Supervisor members also joined the mayor at the park's entrance during the ceremony.

Hager-Smith shared her own experiences visiting the park over the previous years, just before placing the last picket on the fence as part of the ceremonious grand opening.

"I did not imagine 30 years ago that I would be mayor here with the honor of welcoming you. I was a parent, like hundreds of others, and wanted to do good for my community," Hager-Smith said. "The tradition of community and belonging and creativity goes on."

According to the town of Blacksburg's website at www.blacksburg.gov, this park has been in use to the community and surrounding residents for thirty-one years and was previously constructed by community volunteers. Over the years the playground had fallen into disrepair and needed a lot of work. The town requested Leathers & Associates, a playground design company that created the original playground over

three decades ago, to design the new park.

"Bob Leathers started that company. His son, Mark, took over that company now, and his grandson was actually on this build," Dean Crane, Director of Parks and Recreation, said during the opening remarks. "We also wanted to honor the past by refurbishing the old pickets. We added also new ones."

Anyone wishing to purchase a personalized picket to add to the fence line can still do so for the cost of \$75, with checks payable to the Town of Blacksburg. A form was available at the event, but pickets will remain on sale through the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation department. Individuals can personalize each picket they purchase with names of family members, organizations, or other special persons they wish to memorialize on the playground fence line.

Crane went on to explain the number of volunteers involved in the preparation of the park for the reopening.

"After the construction was completed, we asked for volunteers to come out and spread six tractor-trailer loads of mulch. I want to thank them," Crane said. "Public Works; they did all the labor of taking down the playground, which was no small task. Doing the prep site; the hauling, the paving, and the clean-up."

Crane also stated that the Blacksburg Community Relations department has provided updates to their YouTube videos, with filming continuing to take place at the ceremony. The updated videos should be made available to the public in about two weeks.

Re-deck Virginia, a deck maintenance and construction company based in



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENDRA MCALLISTER

Rohn (at left), Juniper (at right), and Vesper McCallister enjoy meeting with friends on the new Hand-in-Hand Playground.

Elliston, Virginia provided additional subcontracted work for the playground rebuild. Re-deck owner and New River Valley native, David Austin, was deeply appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of this project.

"I was a kid playing on this playground. This is a great honor for me to join in, to rebuild it," Austin said. "From a builder perspective, there is no wood, it is all composite. The old one started rotting after about 25-30 years, this won't rot. You won't get splinters, it's safe for the kids, it is completely composite, very well built."

Austin explained that many improvements to the style and structure of the playground equipment were also part of the rebuild. The structures are taller, several more slides were added, there are quite a few ropes, there is a boat-like structure that rocks back and forth, a rock-climbing wall, and what instantly seemed to become a popular spot for the kids was the zip line.

An added bonus at the ribbon cutting

event were the donuts provided by Carol Lee Donuts and the food truck, Sam's Hot Dogs. The most exciting part for the children and the adults as well was seeing the smiling faces of the children as they burst through the park's entrance and began climbing, swinging, and sliding on the new equipment.

Siblings visiting the new park, ten-year-old Rohn McAllister and seven-year-old Juniper McAllister, were also anxious to see the new look of the playground.

"It is a big difference. It's hard to recognize the playground because it's so different," Rohn McAllister said. Rohn's sister Juniper was also very excited about the new playground and especially seeing her friends, a highlight of coming to the community park.

"Some of the new things remind me of some of the rollercoasters I like," Juniper McAllister said. "It's really easy because I feel it's a bit taller. I can basically spot my friends" Juniper McAllister said.

Chatbots

from page 3

these types of data sets and improve the machine learning algorithms that are needed in all industries.

The University of California-Berkeley grad has had conversations with Google Research and Sony AI Research, among others, who are interested in the research benefits. Jia hopes these companies will adopt the technology developed and serve as advocates for data sharing. Sharing data and adopting improved machine learning algorithms will greatly benefit not only industries but individual consumers

as well. For instance, if you've ever had a bad experience with a customer service chatbot, you've experienced low-quality data and poor machine learning algorithm design.

Jia hopes to use her background and area expertise to improve these web-based interactions for all. As a school-aged child, Jia always enjoyed math and science, but her decision to enter the electrical and computer engineering field stemmed from her desire to help people.

"Both of my parents are

doctors. It was amazing to grow up seeing them help patients with some kind of medical formula," said Jia. "That's why I chose to study math and science. You can have a concrete impact. I'm using a different kind of formula to help, but I like that pursuing this career has made me feel like I can make a difference in someone's life."

The CAREER award is the National Science Foundation's most prestigious award for early-career faculty with the potential to serve as

academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in their organization's mission. Throughout this project, Jia has demonstrated her desire to serve as an academic role model for graduate, undergraduate, and even K-12 students.

She is a core faculty in the Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics, formerly known as the Discovery Analytics Center. The center has more than 20 faculty members and 120 graduate students, two

of whom are working directly with Jia to conduct the planned research.

Jia plans to implement an education plan that equips students with the skills to harness data to improve decision-making impacting society. This educational plan will start with new machine learning courses for undergraduate students in the first two years of the project and focus on K-12 engagement in years three through five.

"There was a famous statistician named John

Tukey," Jia said. "He had a saying that the best thing about being a statistician is that you get to play in everyone's backyard. Machine learning is very much the same. It touches many areas of my colleagues' work, so it is easy for me to build connections and collaborate with other people. I really feel that my research is a privilege. It's a privilege to work in this area that many people care about."

Suzanne Miller for Virginia Tech

Obituaries

from page 5

Woolwine, Malcum Harvey

Malcum Harvey Woolwine, 86, his memory his wife of 63 years, of Blacksburg, died Monday, May 29, 2023, at his home.

He was born in Merrimac on August 22, 1936, to the late Charlie and Hazel Linkous Woolwine.

During his life, he worked first in the Merrimac coal mines, then moved to the VPI Sanitation Authority. After 33 years of service, Malcum retired to pursue his love of farming. Malcum loved to cut wood, put up hay and gather chicken eggs from his beloved flock. Malcum also had a great passion for making apple butter at his church, Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness, where he and Lois were crowned the apple butter king and queen. Malcum served his church as a faithful deacon and remained on the church council until his passing.

Malcum leaves behind to cherish



Lois; daughter Myra Cox (Phillip); sons, Kevin Woolwine (Donna) and Phillip Woolwine (Kim); grandchildren, Brandon Woolwine, Kyndra Merrix, Jared Cox, and Zachary Cox; great-grandchildren, Levi Davis, Aubrey Davis, Shalana Woolwine, Bradon Woolwine, Mattie Cox, Kolby Cox, Gavin Cox, Layni Cox; and his faithful four-legged friend Brownie.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, June 1, 2023 in the Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church with the Rev. Todd Porter, Rev. Phillip Cox, and Rev. Richard Hall officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The family received friends Wednesday evening at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

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www.radfordnewsjournal.com

RADFORD SPORTS

Virginia Tech announces new HOF inductees

The Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame has added to its prestige this week, as it announced its seven newest members as part of the 2023 class on Tuesday.

The 2023 class of inductees includes:

Bob Bowman, a three-sport athlete that earned 12 varsity letters at Virginia Tech and claimed two Southern Conference wrestling titles.

Malcolm Delaney, a two-time AP All-American (honorable mention) that currently ranks third in program history in career assists and points.

Kyle Fuller, an All-American in 2013 with All-ACC recognition in three seasons and the No. 14 overall pick in the 2014 NFL Draft.

Carrie Mason, a four-year starter for the Hokies that finished her career as the school's all-time leader in 3-pointers made and games started at the time.

Jazmine Reeves, an integral piece of the Hokies' 2013 College Cup side that was the first Hermann Trophy semifinalist and first-team NSCAA All-American in program history.

David Wilson, the 2011 ACC Player of the Year and second-team All-American that still holds the program's single-season rushing yards record.

Alexander Ziegler, a three-time NCAA champion and seven-time All-American that claimed four ACC titles in his career at Tech.

The seven-member class will be honored during the Tech vs. Purdue football game weekend. The hall of fame dinner and ceremony is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 8 at The Inn at Virginia Tech. As in years past, the hall of fame class of 2023 will be recognized at halftime of the football game on Saturday, Sept. 9.

With the addition of this year's class, the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame will reach a total of 225 members. The hall of fame, which was established in 1982, is located at the south end of the Cassell Coliseum ambulatory.

Bob Bowman

Sport: Wrestling, track and field, cross country

Years at Virginia Tech: 1956-60

Notable: Three-sport athlete, 1959 and 1960 Southern Conference wrestling champion (123 pounds), 1960 Monteith Award winner

Bowman, one of the hall of fame's most well-rounded members, excelled in several phases of the student-athlete experience while at Virginia Tech. As a Corps of Cadets member, he competed at a high level for the track, cross country and wrestling programs.

On the mat, the Roanoke, Va., native was a member of two Southern Conference Tournament champion teams in 1958 and 1960. In 1959 and 1960, Bowman won the 123-pound weight class conference titles, as well. His 1959 campaign culminated in an appearance in the NCAA Championship that season.

Malcolm Delaney

Sport: Men's basketball

Years at Virginia Tech: 2007-11

Notable: Two-time AP All-American (honorable mention), two-time first-team All-ACC, third all-time at Virginia Tech in career assists (543) and third all-time in career points (2,255)

Delaney, a 6-foot-3 guard from Baltimore, Md., cemented his name across the Virginia Tech record book. As a four-year starter for the Hokies, he claimed two Associated Press All-America honorable mention recognitions and three All-ACC honors.

As a senior, Delaney became the first Tech player to

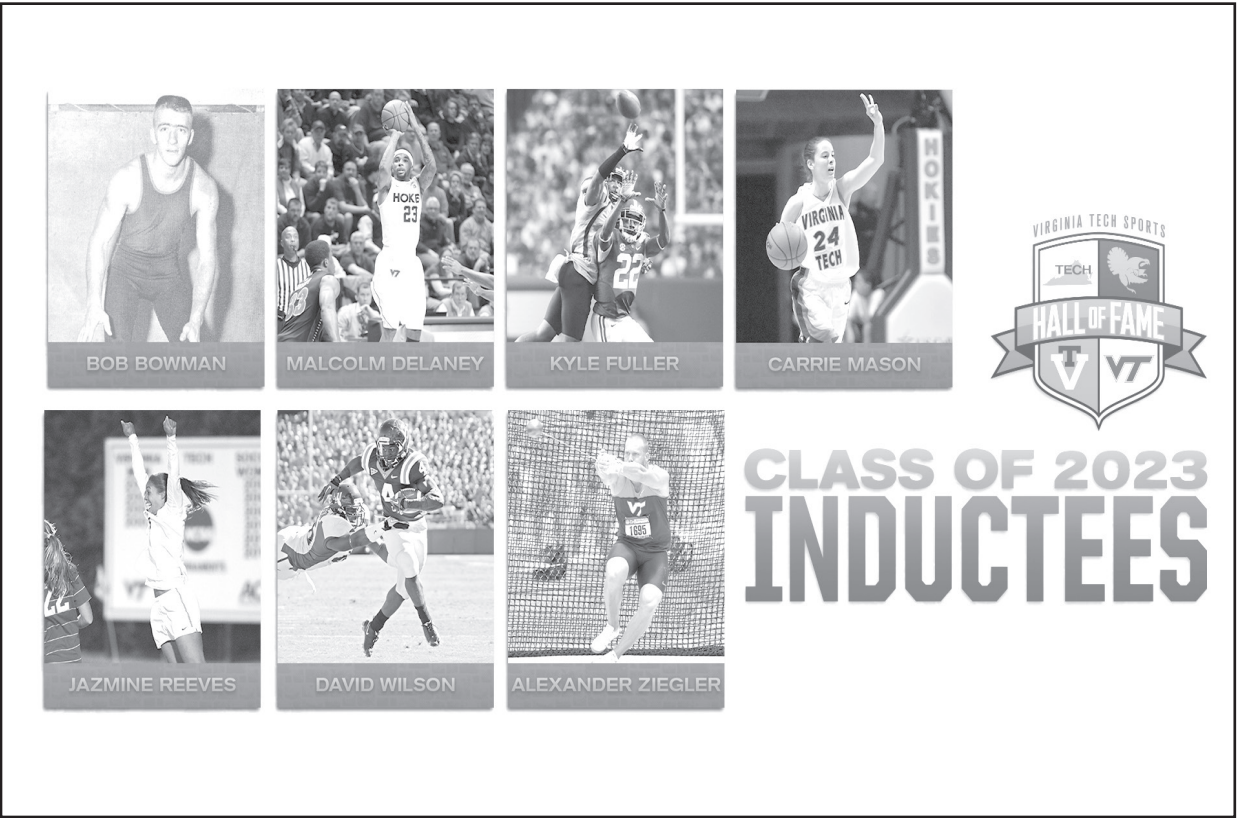


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

receive All-American honors in two separate seasons, as he earned an AP All-American honorable mention nod again. Averaging 18.7 points and leading the team in assists, he also was named first-team All-ACC, becoming the first player in Virginia Tech history to be named All-ACC first team twice in his career. Delaney currently ranks third at Tech in career assists (543) and career points (2,255). He sits atop the list in career free-throw percentage (.845) and career minutes played (4,688).

Kyle Fuller

Sport: Football

Years at Virginia Tech: 2010-13

Notable: All-American in 2013, three All-ACC honors, competed in the 2011 Orange Bowl and the 2012 Sugar Bowl, No. 14 overall pick in the 2014 NFL Draft

Fuller, a four-year staple in Virginia Tech's defense, appeared in 50 games throughout his career in Blacksburg. As a versatile piece that started at both linebacker and cornerback during his tenure at Tech, he made 41 career starts and recorded six interceptions.

In his freshman season, Fuller worked his way into the Hokies' starting lineup in its nickel defense. The Baltimore, Md., native posted 32 tackles, including four for loss in 14 games, ending his rookie year with starts in the ACC title game and the Orange Bowl.

Fuller became Virginia Tech's ninth first-round NFL Draft pick in 2014 when he was selected by the Chicago Bears with the 14th overall pick. With the Bears, Fuller was named first-team All-Pro in 2018, while being the NFL's interceptions co-leader.

Carrie Mason

Sport: Women's basketball

Years at Virginia Tech: 2002-06

Notable: Led Virginia Tech's program in career 3-pointers made, games started and minutes played at end of her career; still ranks top-10 in points, 3-pointers made, free-throws made, free-throw percentage, assists and steals

Mason, the centerpiece of Virginia Tech's longest NCAA Tournament streak (2003-06), wrapped up her career as the Hokies' all-time leading 3-point shooter, knocking down 200. Although many of her top scoring marks have been surpassed, the four-year starter led Tech to four NCAA postseason berths while competing in the BIG EAST and ACC. Mason started in 121 of the 123 games in which she played.

The Seneca, Pa., native saved her best offensive

season for her senior year, as she averaged a career-high 11.9 points and shot 44.3% from beyond the arc, including a program-best 50.3% in ACC play.

Jazmine Reeves

Sport: Women's soccer

Years at Virginia Tech: 2010-13

Notable: Virginia Tech's first NSCAA All-American first team selection, Hermann Trophy semifinalist and All-ACC first team member, led the Hokies to the 2013 College Cup

Reeves, a forward from Dover, Del., was a mainstay on the pitch for Virginia Tech from 2010 to 2013. With 91 career appearances, she's among one of the Hokies' most capped players of all-time. As a senior, Reeves' career-high 27 points paced the Hokies to the 2013 College Cup, a program-first achievement. Reeves appeared in 91 career matches, tied with Katie Yensen for the program record.

David Wilson

Sport: Football, men's track and field

Years at Virginia Tech: 2009-11

Notable: 2011 ACC Player of the Year, 2011 ACC Offensive Player of the Year, 2011 All-ACC first team, 2011 second-team All-American (AP, CBSSports.com, Yahoo! Sports), 2011 All-American (triple jump)

As a two-sport All-American, Wilson fascinated Virginia Tech fans with one of the most impressive calendar years that a student-athlete can have in 2011. Through the spring and fall of his sophomore and junior years, the speedy Danville, Va., native impressed with a pair of All-America showings in both football and track and field.

Alexander Ziegler

Sport: Men's track and field

Years at Virginia Tech: 2009-13

Notable: Three-time NCAA champion, seven-time All-American, four-time ACC champion, 2013 ACC Men's Indoor Track and Field Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Ziegler, one of three Virginia Tech student-athletes ever to have three or more national championships, was dominant across his four-year career in Blacksburg. In seven NCAA championship appearances, he never finished below third.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Pulaski River Turtles announce promotional nights

In conjunction with the launch of individual game night ticket sales, Calfee Park Baseball, Inc. and the Pulaski River Turtles have released their 2023 promotional nights calendar.

The expansive list of promotional nights includes traditional favorites such as Agriculture Night, the return of the popular Saddle-Up Sunday cowboy-themed night and new promotions such as Star Wars Night.

A preview of the exciting slate of promotional events are highlighted below:

Friday, June 9: Star Wars Night

New! Mingle with characters from the legendary movie. Several characters will be on-site throughout the game to interact with fans and take photos. Character lineup TBA.

Sunday, June 11: Saddle-Up Sunday presented by 94.9 Star Country

Yee-haw! Saddle-Up Sunday returns June 11 presented by 94.9 Star Country. Come early for free cowboy hat giveaways (while supplies last) and take a ride on our buckin' mechanical bull. Rides are free of charge.

Friday, July 7: Christmas in July presented by Shively Electric

Help us give back to our community and we'll pay it forward. Bring a packaged toy and receive two dollars off a General Admission ticket purchased at the gate on the day of the game. Santa will be present to gather wish lists from the youngest among us!

Saturday, July 15: Agriculture Night presented by Farm Credit

A Calfee Park tradition. Agriculture Night presented by Farm Credit is returning this season featuring the popular Ag Night jersey raffle! Don't miss the fashionable

threads the River Turtles will sport on July 15. A petting zoo will also be on-site for fans of all ages courtesy of 4-H and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Pulaski Office. The annual Hagan Cattle Company beef raffle drawing will be held during the game. Raffle tickets are just \$5 and will be sold all season long at the Information Tent. Two winners receive a \$250 beef certificate to the Hagan Cattle Company.

July 31: Circus Night presented by Pennzoil & K92

Last season's top promotional night is back. The 2023 season concludes with Circus Night presented by Pennzoil and K92. Calfee Park welcomes award-winning entertainment act Tyler's Amazing Balancing Act (<http://www.amazingtyler.com/>) for a night of dazzling stunts during the game. Chuckles the Clown will also be present to create balloon masterpieces for fans of all ages.

In addition to special

promotional nights, Calfee Park will host the following weekly promotions in 2023:

Sunday Games: "Sunday Savings" concession specials presented by Pulaski First United Methodist Church.

Wednesday Games: "Waggin' Wednesday" - bring your dog to the park.

Thursday Games: "Thirsty Thursday" drink specials.

Friday Games: "Fireworks Fridays" - a Fireworks display following the game.

Tickets:
GA: \$5
Upper-Level Reserved: \$11
Reserved Seating: \$12
Club: \$15
Party Zone/Deck: \$12
Seniors 65+ get \$1 General Admission tickets at the gate.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PULASKI RIVER TURTLES

For more information call 540-980-1070. on promotional nights, email info@pulaskiriverturtles.com or Pulaski River Turtles

game time AT THE SUPERBOWL

KIDS BOWL FREE!

This Spring & Summer ...

Registered Kids Receive 2 FREE GAMES of Bowling Each Day of the KBF Program All Spring & Summer Long!

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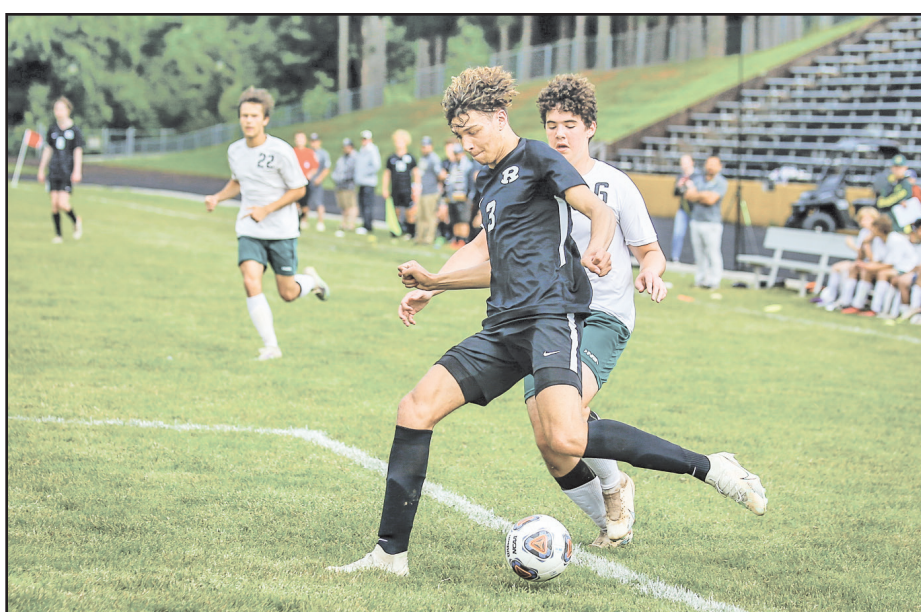


Radford's Eli Goff dribbles past a defender in Tuesday's regional playoff victory.

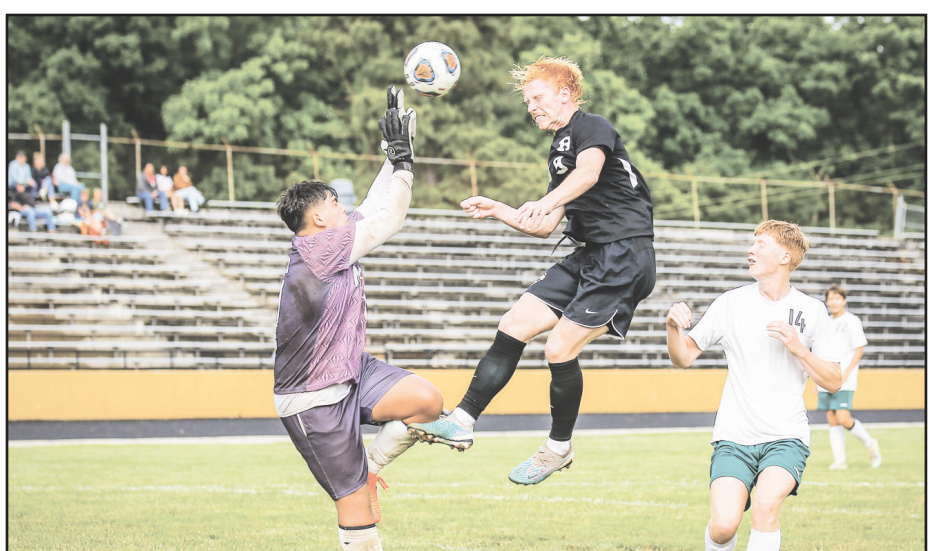


Parker Prioleau goes up high for a header shot. The senior scored the games first goal earlier on a header.

Radford boys advance



Elijah Kelly takes a shot on goal against Nelson County.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Evan Rupe goes up high over the goalkeeper and scores a goal on a header to put the Bobcats up 2-0 just before the half. Rupe scored another goal in the second half as Radford won 4-0 to advance to the regional semis.

Two Hokies named among top collegiate sportscasters in nation

Whether it was playing wiffle ball in the neighborhood or pretend broadcasting Syracuse University basketball games together, Kyle Marchak and Giovanni Heater have long

been acquainted, growing up together in Syracuse, New York. They both dreamed of becoming sports broadcasters. As it became time to

choose a college, the duo decided that Virginia Tech and its sports media and analytics major in the School of Communication would be the best school to attend and work toward their career

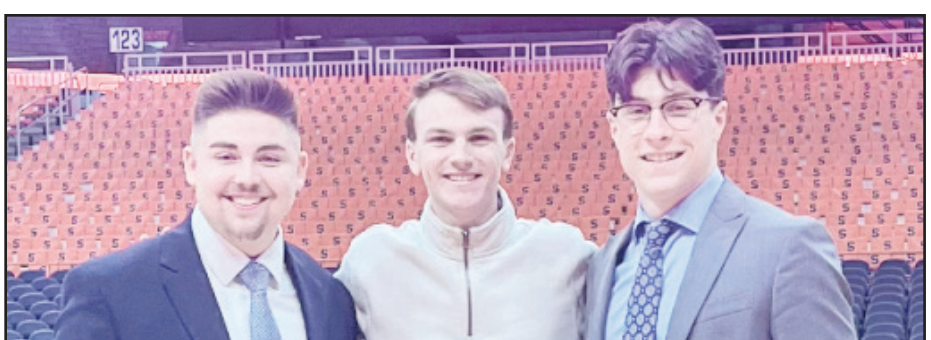


PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI HEATER

Giovanni Heater (at far left) and Kyle Marchak (at far right) find a number of opportunities to broadcast games as a part of the sports media and analytics major.



Floyd
Artisan Trail
Floyd, Virginia

Annual June Tour
June 10 & 11, 2023
10 am - 5 pm

Artisan Studios
Galleries & Shops
Farms & Markets
Restaurants & Lodging

Explore 40 Artisan Trail Sites
FloydArtisanTrail.org
540-745-2784

aspirations. Two years later, it's safe to say Marchak and Heater, who both just finished their sophomore years as Hokies, are on the right track.

On May 26, Marchak was named a first-team All-American broadcaster and Heater was named to the second-team All-American list by the Sportscasters Talent Agency of America (STAA) All-America program. The program recognizes each year the nation's outstanding collegiate radio and TV sports broadcasters with a live show streamed on YouTube.

"It was a special moment," Heater said. "[Kyle] was my first phone call right away. He said, 'Somebody sent me a fake stream. This isn't real.' It was a special moment where he and I were just so happy and so proud of each other."

As the adrenaline and shock of the announcement began to subside, Marchak had another reaction.

"I have to call my mom.' That's what I thought," Marchak said. "My first thought was to call my parents and just how amazing this is for the [sports media and analytics] program. Virginia Tech is

new and it's up and coming, and Gio and I helped put it on the map."

As a first-team All-American, Marchak receives three free months of agency membership, a certificate of achievement, and the prestige and exposure that come with being recognized by the group as one of the nation's top young sports broadcasters.

When the School of Communication launched the sports media and analytics major in 2020, it had the vision of becoming the premier spot for students pursuing a profession in sports media.

That vision is coming into focus with a heap of evidence to back it up. Marchak's recognition marks the fourth consecutive year that a Virginia Tech student has been honored as a first-team All-American, which includes those ranked in the top six, by the agency.

Evan Hughes finished second in 2020 before being named the 2021 Jim Nantz Award winner, named after the iconic American sportscaster. Hughes is now assistant director of broadcast services for women's basketball and baseball for Virginia Tech.

Kevin DiDomenico, now the play-by-play voice of the Reno Aces, was honored as a first-team All-American in 2022.

It's also the second year in a row that two Hokies were on the list with Heater (honorable mention) joining DiDomenico in 2022.

"We are tremendously happy for Kyle and Giovanni," said Bill Roth, a professor of practice in the School of Communication. "Each has worked incredibly hard to improve his craft, and they deserve this national recognition. These honors are a result of the passion of our students and the opportunities each has to learn, improve, and grow in our sports media and analytics program."

As first year students, Marchak and Heater immediately established themselves in the sports media and analytics major. The duo got to work calling Virginia Tech sporting events and hosting studio shows with 3304 Sports, the multimedia platform for student sports journalism at Virginia Tech.

Jenny Kincaid Boone for Virginia Tech

radfordnewsjournal.com