

# News JOURNAL

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## Radford City School Board chooses new superintendent

**Heather Bell**  
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RADFORD – Radford City Public Schools has a new superintendent.

The Radford City School Board convened in Radford City Council chambers Thursday evening to make the announcement. Dr. Adam Joyce, who previously served as Galax City Public Schools Director of Instruction, was chosen from 10 candidates, all of whom hailed from Virginia, and will begin his tenure as Radford’s superintendent Jan. 16, 2024.

In making the announcement, School Board Chair Jenny Riffe welcomed Joyce to the Radford family and thanked Interim Superintendent Dr. Roger Collins for stepping in to lead RCPS during the search process.

“Your Radford City School Board has been hard at work for the past six months to seek out our next Superintendent,” said

Riffe. “We began our search process in earnest by appointing the esteemed Dr. Roger Collins as our Interim Superintendent in June, 2023. Dr. Collins has been an amazing interim who dove headfirst into “keeping the main thing the main thing” at RCPS. We have loved working with him and he has become an invaluable member of our Bobcat family.”

“It is with a great deal of excitement that the Radford City School Board has selected Dr. Adam Joyce to lead our school division as our next Superintendent of Schools,” she continued. “Dr. Joyce is not a stranger to the Radford community. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Communications, his Master’s degree in Educational Leadership, and his Doctor of Education degree in Education Leadership from Radford University. He is currently the Director of Instruction with Galax City Schools. He was the former

Principal of Pulaski Middle and Dublin Middle Schools. He was also the former Assistant Principal of Carroll County High School. Dr. Joyce began his education career as a special education and civics teacher in Carroll County Schools.

“Please help me in welcoming Dr. Adam Joyce and his wife, Cindy, who will be moving to Radford within the year.”

Joyce addressed the crowd and thanked the school board for the opportunity.

“I’m excited to join this team, and I’m excited to work hard for the students, the staff, the families and the community,” he said. “I’ve always believed, and now I know, that Radford is a strong division and I can’t wait to see all the things we can do for our students. I look forward to maintaining an open line of communication, making myself available, and serving as the latest cheerleader [for Radford City Public Schools].”



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**Dr. Adam Joyce has been chosen as the new superintendent of Radford City Public Schools. He will begin the job on Jan. 16, 2024.**

## VFW Commander honored for service with Quilt of Valor

**Heather Bell**  
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RADFORD – VFW Post 776 Commander Gary Harris was recently presented with a quilt from the Quilt of Valor Foundation at the VFW’s holiday dinner, held Dec. 16 at the Fraternal Order of Police headquarters in Radford.

The Quilt of Valor Foundation presents quilts to service members and veterans. As of July 31, 2023, Quilts of Valor has presented 354,712 handmade quilts.

“A Quilt of Valor is more than just a handmade quilt; it embodies gratitude, respect, and appreciation for those who have served our nation,” according to the Foundation. “These meticulously crafted quilts, whether machine



**Quilt of Valor Coordinator Jenny Fields speaks during quilt the presentation to Gary Harris.**

or hand quilted, hold within their stitches a profound recognition of the struggles and triumphs of our service members. The Quilts of Valor Foundation aims

to wrap these individuals in a tangible reminder of our nation’s deep respect for their service and sacrifice.”

Harris said he is honored to be recognized

by the Quilt of Valor Foundation.

“It was an honor by just being selected- why me? There are others more deserving than me,” he said. “To find out



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HARRIS FAMILY  
**Radford VFW Post 776 Commander Gary Harris, right, is presented with a quilt from Quilt of Valor representatives Glory Smith and Melissa Chase.**

how long this has been going on was even more wonderful and to see the quilt with the eagle on it, made it so much more special because I collect eagles, almost like it was

meant to be.”

The Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 when founder Catherine Roberts’ son Nat was deployed in Iraq.



PHOTO BY WILSIE PHOTOGRAPHY  
**At the annual Community Foundation of the NRV grantee luncheon, nonprofit leaders gather for a group photo.**

## Community Foundation of the NRV awards \$230,225 to nonprofits

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) has awarded a total of \$230,225 through its Responsive Grants program to 69 nonprofits serving the New River Valley.

This total represents the most the CFNRV has ever given out during its competitive grants process. Since 2002, the foundation has awarded more than \$7 million in grants.

CFNRV’s Responsive Grants provide operating support, allowing recipient organizations to use the grant dollars where they are needed most. The applications came from organizations that support localities across the New River Valley focused in a variety of areas: animals, arts and culture, community and civic affairs, education, environment, health and wellness, poverty, and support, parenting, and care.

we understand how difficult it can be to raise operating dollars, and how critical those dollars are to fulfilling the nonprofit’s mission,” said Jessica Wirgau, chief executive officer of the CFNRV. “We hear regularly from grantees that they are seeing increased needs from clients, whether for food assistance, housing, educational support, or healthcare. To know that our funds can help meet that increased need, even in a small way, is extremely gratifying.”

These grants are made possible by many generous donors to the CFNRV. Individuals, families, and businesses establish endowments with the foundation that match their charitable interests to fund scholarships for students or grants for nonprofits. Endowed funds are invested with the goal of awarding scholarships and

See **Community**, page 3

## Warm Hearth Foundation Silver Santa Program continues to serve village seniors

BLACKSBURG – Warm Hearth Foundation’s Silver Santa program is in its fifth year with community members and local businesses adopting seniors living at Warm Hearth Village (WHV).

The Silver Santa program benefits those living at WHV who rely on low, fixed monthly incomes, or who receive housing or health care subsidies. Silver Santa started as a way to bring joy during the holidays with a friendly visit and basket full of items tailored to each resident’s needs and wishes.

Working in partnership with 64 generous donors in our community, the Foundation provided wish list items to 128 residents across the campus this year. Donors assisted by purchasing wish list items with LewisGale Hospital Montgomery helping 30 residents.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE  
**A Warm Hearth Village resident heads out with gifts to deliver.**

Other local business, including BAE Systems, Inorganic Ventures, Valley Overstock, VT Counselor Education, St. Mary’s Church, Blacksburg

Junior Women’s Club, and Prices Fork Grange also adopted multiple residents to help deliver

See **Seniors**, page 3

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Dec. 27:

### CommUNITY Yoga for Self-Care for Adults

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45- 6:45 p.m. Join Kelly McCoy of The Whole You for an all-level yoga class for adults. Learn poses to help strengthen and lengthen your muscles as well as some breathing and meditation techniques to help calm the nervous system. This class is free to the public and is funded by grant money via the Virginia Department of Health.

## Thursday, Dec. 28 - Tuesday, Jan. 2:

### City of Radford trash pick-up schedule

Trash from Monday, Dec. 25 collected on Thursday, Dec. 28. Tuesday, Dec. 26 collected on Friday, Dec. 29. Monday, Jan. 1 collected on Tuesday, Jan. 2. Please have garbage ready for collection by 7:30 a.m. Drop Center Hours: Closed Jan. 1.

## Thursday, Dec. 28:

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

At the Christiansburg Library. Save a life! American Red Cross Blood Drive. Walk-ins welcome, or sign up; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Friday, Dec. 29:

### New Years Splash 2024

Join us at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center 5:30 to 8 p.m. as we ring in the new year aqua-style! All will have a magical time swimming around and hanging out with our pirate and mermaids. Additional games and festive activities include: karaoke, paddleboards and our dive-tacular version of a New Year Countdown. This is a pre-registration event. Tickets are on sale until Thursday, Dec. 28 and cost \$10 each for ages three and up. Admission for children two years of age and under is free.

## Friday, Dec. 29 - Sunday, Dec. 31:

### Bag Book Sale

At the Christiansburg Library; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Start the new year off with some new (to you) books! \$5 for all the books that you can fit in a plastic bag. Proceeds to benefit the Montgomery Friends of the Library.

## Saturday, Dec. 30:

### Doughnuts & Destiny: Vision Board Workshop

At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. - 1p.m. Ring in 2024 with intention! We'll set out the boards and supplies, you provide the vision for your year ahead. This self-guided workshop is open to all ages. Breakfast pastries and coffee/tea will be available in the community room.

## Sunday, Dec. 31:

### Town of Blacksburg holiday hours

Blacksburg Transit will operate on reduced service. The Blacksburg Community Center will be closed. The Blacksburg Aquatic Center will be open regular hours.

## Monday, Jan. 1, 2024:

### Town of Blacksburg holiday hours

All town administrative offices will be closed. The Blacksburg Community Center and Aquatic Center will be closed. There will be no Blacksburg Transit service. There will be no trash pickup in the SE quadrant. Make-up service will be Wednesday, Jan. 3. Please have all materials to the curb by 7 a.m.

### Radford Public Library closed

RPL will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 for the New Year holiday.

## Tuesday, Jan. 9:

### Fall Prevention and Balance in the Home

Join Blacksburg Parks and Recreation at 2 p.m. for a presentation on Fall Prevention & Balance in the Home, by Cindy Henderson with CORA Physical Therapy. In addition to the presentation, this program offers participants free

injury screenings, live demos, giveaways, and a Q&A session. This program will be held at the Blacksburg Community Center and is free to attend. Registration is required. To register, call 540.443.1142 or email jherbert@blacksburg.gov

## On-going:

### Now through Jan. 15:

Blacksburg Transit reduced service Blacksburg Transit will operate on reduced service for the holiday season beginning Dec. 14. Reduced service will remain in effect until Jan. 15. There will be no bus service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For more information, please contact 540-443-1500.

### Now through Jan. 1:

Free downtown Blacksburg parking Free holiday parking will be in effect downtown. Normal parking rates will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

### Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan Amendment application process

In 2021, Town Council adopted the updated Comprehensive Plan. As part of the mid-way evaluation between five-year updates, the town accepts privately initiated applications for amendments to the plan. Amendments include changes to Future Land Use Map designations or the text of the Plan. Applications due on Jan. 15, 2024. A pre-application meeting is required prior to submittal. Contact Maevé Gould, Comprehensive Planner, at (540) 443-1300 or CompPlan@blacksburg.gov, with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

# OBITUARIES

## Bishop, James Vander

On Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, after a fun-filled day with his family in Dollywood, my Superman James Vander (Jimmy) Bishop, age 63, passed away suddenly.



To his son Jason, he was "pops", Deven and Tyler's "grandpa", Maddy's "pop-pop" and special brother Matt Sirk. He had four brothers, Larry (Linda) Childress, Oden (Pat) and Mike (Donna) Bishop. Jimmy had numerous nieces and nephews who loved him, two of which were able to share his love of amusement parks through to the end, Teresa (Candy) and Roger Jenkins, Jr. For 23 years, we shared Jimmy

with his second family, The Town of Blacksburg. He was the number one knuckle boom operator for the town.

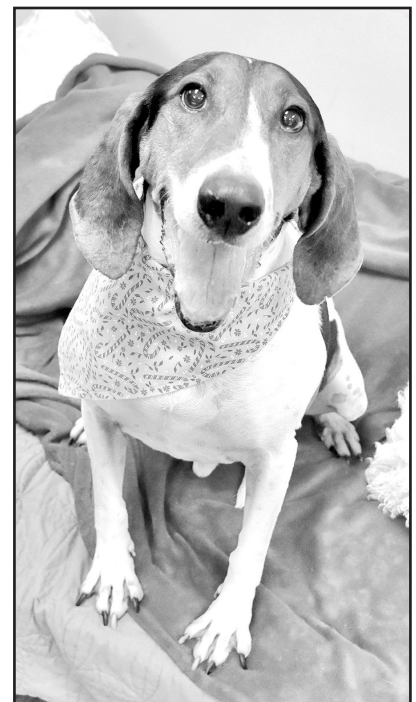
A visitation is scheduled for 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at McCoy Funeral Home at 150 Country Club Dr. SW in Blacksburg. To honor Jimmy, please wear a T-shirt of your favorite superhero, Star Wars, Harry Potter, Beatles, or racing team. Please bring your favorite story or memory of Jimmy to share with others who will forever hold this wonderful man in their heart. And in the words of Sirius Black, "But know this; the ones that love us never really leave us."

# PETS OF THE WEEK

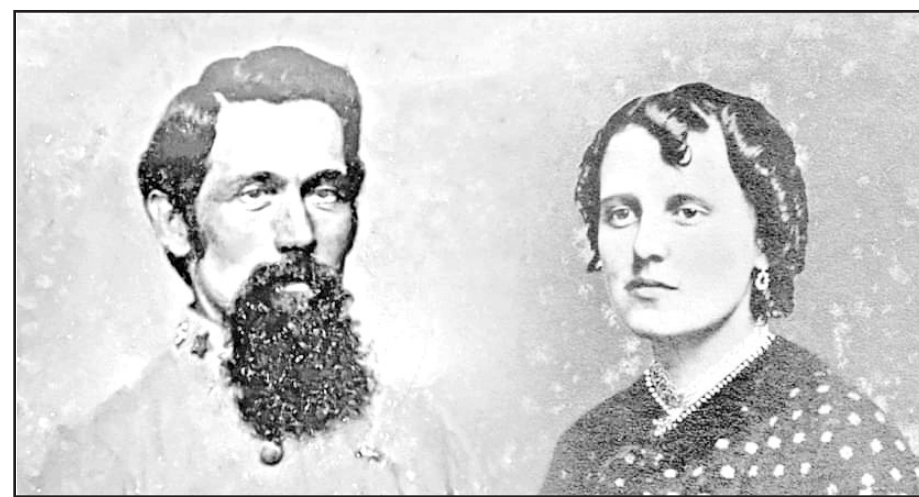
Meet Holt, an energetic, happy hound who would love to sniff out his forever home! He loves to go for walks and also play in the yard. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to see how pawsome Holt is.

Cannoli can't wait to find her purrfect match! She is a shy gal who is a little more reserved around humans. Settling in at a new, loving home could help boost Cannoli's confidence.

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.



## This week in Wharton history



The Whartons

PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

RADFORD - Each week, Glencoe Mansion gives a history of the Wharton family as told through the book "The Wharton Letters" on its social media accounts.

General Gabriel Wharton and his wife Nannie Radford Wharton built and lived in Glencoe.

"Join us each week as we highlight the Wharton letters by learning what Gabe and Nannie were doing and thinking on this day in the 1860s.

In Gen. Wharton's letter on Dec. 19, 1863, he describes the fear he feels after rumors spread in his camp that Union troops had made their way into the New

River Valley.

"All manner of painful rumors have been circulating around camp for the last few days. I am the victim of the most torturing suspense. It is rumored that the Yankees were at Salem on the 16th, have come up the Railroad, have reached & taken possession of Dublin, have committed all sorts of improprieties on their march. I cannot believe these rumors but my anxiety for my precious gives me apprehensions most agonizing. You may be sick, you may have to leave your home, may be suffering now, & I hear, powerless to serve you."

This speaks to the fear troops felt as they were far from home fighting the War, only for it to reach their homes while they were away and unable to help. Luckily, Nannie wrote to Gabe on Dec. 22 that the Union troops never made it down to the area.

To read this letter exchange, and more, get a copy of "The Whartons' War" in our Gift Shop. They make a great gift for the Civil War buff in your life. Find copies at Glencoe Mansion, open Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Glencoe Mansion

## Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread is collecting shoeboxes

Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread

SHOEBOXES

WANTED

We're collecting shoe boxes for our Meals on Wheels Emergency Winter Meal Kits. Optimal tennis shoe or boot box size is a women's 8.5 or larger or a men's 6.5 or larger

50 - 60 NEEDED

Contact Karen if you have boxes to share to arrange a pick up or drop off.

(540) 838-0310

info@radfordfairlawndailybread.



Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread is collecting shoeboxes to prepare Emergency Winter Meal Kits for our Meals on Wheels Neighbors. If you have a few to spare, please contact RFDB.

# Student Achievements

## Emma Bosman achieves Dean's List at Belmont University

NASHVILLE, TN - Emma Bosman, of Blacksburg, qualified for Belmont University's Fall 2023 Dean's List. Approximately 52 percent of Belmont's 7,338 undergraduate students qualified. Belmont Provost Dr. David Gregory said, "The Dean's List achievement reflects the hard work, perseverance and dedication to academic excellence of Belmont's outstanding students. It is my privilege to congratulate these individuals on their semester-long academic efforts. To our most recent

graduates receiving this distinction, you are hope-inspiring examples to your peers and future colleagues. To the students returning next semester, may this achievement be a steppingstone towards even greater pursuits in your academic journey."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

## Local students named to Bridgewater College's Dean's List

BRIDGEWATER, VA - The dean's list for the 2023 fall semester at Bridgewater

College has been announced by Dr. Leona A. Sevick, provost and executive vice president. More than 550 students were named to the list. Students on the dean's list have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Students from this area named to the dean's list are:

**Emelyn Koene**, an English and communication, technology and culture major, and Ashley Rutherford, a biology major, both from Blacksburg.

## Gabrielle Boling earns Dean's List Honor at Lee University

CLEVELAND, TN - Lee University

congratulates Gabrielle Boling, of Christiansburg, on earning Dean's List honors during the Fall 2023 semester. Dean's List recognition is earned by full-time, undergraduate students with a semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.0.

## Corbin Mathews receives degree from Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, GA - Corbin Mathews, of Christiansburg, has earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology

See Achievements, page 4

## Seniors from page 1



Warm Hearth Village representatives pick up 30 "Silver Santa" baskets from LewisGale Hospital Montgomery.

baskets with a total value of \$10,465.

Participants create their needs/wish lists in late summer. Registered donors can adopt one or more seniors to shop for. Residents requests items such as food, personal care and pet supplies and maybe a special wish item. This year's wish lists ranged from a toaster, to blankets, to special food to meet their pet's restricted dietary needs. The sleigh-load of gifts arrived to the Warm Hearth Foundation Dec.

8 and 9. The WHV Team of Elves, including residents, employees, and board members delivered the gifts door-to-door Dec. 14.

Kim Wasil, Philanthropy Assistant, is new to the program this year.

"A resident called me post-delivery to say the basket was the best thing that happened all year. It made me so happy to be a part of something that made someone's holiday season brighter," she said. "The way this community shows



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

The Warm Hearth Village elves prepare for deliveries.

up to show love for the seniors in our Village is so powerful and we cannot wait to see how this program grows next year."

Resident Laura Shawhan has lived in the village 18 months and participated in Silver Santa for the first time this year.

"I requested items for my dog and received a certificate to Walmart for food, an outfit, toys. I was thrilled," Shawhan said. "I am blown away by

everything Warm Hearth offers."

WHV thanks everyone who has contributed to the success and longevity of the Silver Santa program. The Village is grateful to be part of such a generous community.

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on our campus and in the home.

Warm Hearth Village

## Community from page 1

grants for generations to come.

For this year's Responsive Grants, 59 different endowments contributed to the \$230,225 total, with several making grants to multiple organizations. Through each step of the grants process, the CFNRV team works with volunteers on the grants distribution committee to read and score each application and match applicants to the funding available.

At a lunch reception at Hyatt Place Blacksburg on Wednesday, November 15, the CFNRV recognized each of the grantees. The event was sponsored by National Bank of Blacksburg, Atlantic Union Bank, First Bank and Trust Company, and Green Valley Builders.

A full list of this year's grantees can be found below. The Responsive Grant application will open again in late May 2024 and applications from nonprofits serving the NRV are welcome to apply, as are units of government (such as libraries.) More information on the application process can be found at cfnrv.org/grants or by contacting the CFNRV team at cfnrv@cfnrv.org or 540-381-8999.

**Adaire Theatre:** \$4,000 total from the Piscara Family Endowed Fund, the Arts Alliance Endowment Fund, the Litschert Family Fund, & the Homer T. & Beverly A. Hurst Family Endowed Fund

**Agape Center NRV:** \$2,000 total from the Sarah Lee Alderson Memorial Fund & the Joe & Margot Thompson Unrestricted Fund

**Beans & Rice:** \$4,000 from the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund

**Bland Ministry Center:** \$2,940 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Blue Mountain School:** \$1,600 from the Endowment for Floyd County

**Boys & Girls Club of SWVA:** \$2,000 total from the Stoop Fund, the Beatrice S. Kalka Endowment Fund, & the 4-17 Fund

**Brain Injury Solutions:** \$1,825 total from the Jacobs Family Fund, the Community Service Fund, & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Brock Hughes Free Clinic:** \$4,000 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Cafee Community & Cultural Center:** \$4,000 total from the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund & the Fund for Equity & Compassion

**CHIP (Children's Health Improvement Program) of the NRV a program of New River Community Action):** \$4,000 from the Children's Shelter Home Endowment Fund

**Children's Trust:** \$4,000 total from the David & Lillian Francis Charitable Fund & the Children's Shelter Home Endowment Fund

**Christiansburg Institute, Inc.:** \$4,000 total from the Jacobs Family Fund, the Blue Roads Education Fund, & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**DePaul Community Resources:**

\$2,000 total from the Endowment for Giles County & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Downtown Wytheville, Inc.:** \$2,500 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum:** \$2,000 from the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Emergency Assistance Program (a program of New River Community Action):** \$2,000 from the Endowment for Giles County

**Emergency Needs Task Force of Pulaski County:** \$4,000 from the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund

**Family Resource Center, Inc.:** \$4,000 total from the Luba Fabrycky Memorial Fund & the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Floyd Center for the Arts:** \$4,000 total from the JJ Fund, the Rosina & Dean Carter Fund for the Visual Arts, & the Beatrice S. Kalka Endowment Fund

**Floyd County Historical Society:** \$2,000 total from the Jane Brugh Layman Charitable Fund & the Homer T. & Beverly A. Hurst Family Endowed Fund

**Floyd County Humane Society:** \$4,000 from the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Free Clinic of Pulaski County, Inc.:** \$4,000 from the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund

**Giles Community Garden:** \$3,900 total from the Endowment for Giles County & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Giles County Christian Service Mission:** \$4,000 from the Endowment for Giles County

**Giles County Shelter, Inc.:** \$4,000 from the Endowment for Giles County

**Giles High School Band Boosters, Inc.:** \$4,000 from the Endowment for Giles County

**Good Samaritan Hospice, Inc.:** \$4,000 total from the Daniel C. & Joanne L. Bell Endowment Fund, the Endowment for Giles County, the Piscara Family Endowed Fund, & the Nelle Oakey Ryan Gardner Fund

**Habitat for Humanity of the NRV:** \$4,000 total from the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund & the Endowment for Giles County

**Handmade Music School:** \$4,000 total from the Piscara Family Endowed Fund, the Arts Alliance Endowment Fund, & the Endowment for Floyd County

**Head Start (a program of New River Community Action):** \$2,000 total from the Endowment for Giles County & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Literacy NRV:** \$4,000 total from the Shuler Family Reading Fund, the Dan & Beverly Fleming Family Fund, the Mary E. Sanders Family Fund, & the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund

**Lytic Council, Inc.:** \$4,000 total from the Virgil Speaks Fund & the Ghia Borg

Memorial Fund

**Montgomery County Christmas Store:** \$4,000 total from the Talbot Family Fund, the Janice Woodard Endowment, the Loving Care Fund, the Miller Family Fund, the Community Service Fund, & the Homer T. & Beverly A. Hurst Family Endowed Fund

**Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program:** \$2,000 from the Joe & Margot Thompson Unrestricted Fund

**Montgomery Museum of Art & History:** \$2,000 from the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Mountain Community Action Program Inc.:** \$4,000 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**New River Conservancy:** \$3,000 total from the Jacobs Family Fund, the Piscara Family Endowed Fund, & the Susan Garrison Memorial Fund

**New River Family Shelter:** \$2,000 from the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**New River Valley Agency on Aging:** \$4,000 total from the Silver Care Fund & the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund

**NRV CARES (Child Advocacy, Resources, Education, & Services):** \$4,000 total from the Parenting Skills Fund & the Loving Care Fund

**NRV Glean Team:** \$4,000 total from the McAlister Family Fund, the Todd Family Fund, & the Endowment for Giles County

**Nursery Natives:** \$3,000 total from the Piscara Family Endowed Fund & the Susan Garrison Memorial Fund

**Old Church Gallery:** \$2,000 total from the Endowment for Floyd County & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**One-on-One Literacy Program of Wythe & Grayson Counties:** \$4,000 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Open Door Community:** \$4,000 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Plenty!** \$4,000 total from the Mary Jean & John Brown Fund, the Endowment for Floyd County, & the Wellness Fund

**Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc.:** \$4,000 total from the Children's Shelter Home Endowment Fund & the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread:** \$4,000 total from the Mary Jean & John Brown Fund & the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund

**Roanoke Wildlife Rescue:** \$4,000 total from the Paws & Claws Fund, the Piscara Family Endowed Fund, the Litschert Family Fund, & the Wellness Fund

**Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia:** \$4,000 total from the Worthington-Dolloff Cancer Treatment Assistance Fund & the Ghia Borg Memorial Health Care Fund

**Rural Retreat Depot Foundation:** \$4,000 from the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Rx Drug Access Partnership:** \$4,000

total from the Ghia Borg Memorial Health Fund & the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund

**Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary:** \$2,000 total from the Piscara Family Endowed Fund & the Susan Garrison Memorial Fund

**Springhouse Community School:** \$2,000 from the Sarah Lee Alderson Memorial Fund

**SustainFloyd:** \$4,000 total from the Mary Jean & John Brown Fund, the Endowment for Floyd County, & the Litschert Family Fund

**The June Bug Center:** \$4,000 total from the Young Women's Life Experiences Fund, the Katherine M. & William H. Sanders Family Fund, & the Luba Fabrycky Memorial Fund

**To Our House (a program of New River Community Action):** \$960 from the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

**Town of Wytheville Department of Museums:** \$4,000 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Virginia CARES (Virginia Community Action Re-Entry System) (a program of New River Community Action):** \$2,500 total from the Ann & H.W. Huff Family Fund & the Endowment for Giles County

**Virginia Hunters Who Care, Inc.:** \$4,000 total from the Janice Woodard Endowment, the Homer T. & Beverly A. Hurst Family Endowed Fund, & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Warm Hearth Foundation:** \$2,000 from the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Wilderness Road Regional Museum:** \$4,000 total from the Lydia Roeske Wright Memorial Fund, the Loving Care Fund, the Robert L. Nicholson Family Fund of Radford, & the Jane Brugh Layman Charitable Fund

**Women's Resource Center of the NRV, Inc.:** \$4,000 total from the Hawk's Ridge Fund, the Matthew Allen Special Fund, & the Loving Care Fund

**Wonder Universe: A Children's Museum:** \$2,000 total from the Endowment for Giles County & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**Wythe County Breast Cancer Coalition:** \$2,000 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Wythe County Public Schools Foundation for Excellence:** \$4,000 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department:** \$4,000 from the Wythe County United Legacy Fund

**YMCA at Virginia Tech:** \$4,000 total from the Cottingham-Stuart Community Fund & the Ghia Borg Memorial Fund

**YMCA of Pulaski County:** \$4,000 from the Ann & H.W. Huff, Jr. Family Fund

# OPINION

## Marking the anniversary of “Right Help, Right Now” initiative

I hope you had a very merry Christmas and that you’ve been able to enjoy time with family, friends, and loved ones who help make the holidays special. As we get ready to ring in the new year, members of the Virginia General Assembly prepare ourselves for a return to Richmond to confront the challenges facing the Commonwealth. One of these challenges is the issue of mental health, especially as it relates to our youth, and it’s a great example of an area where Republicans and Democrats can work together to solve a serious problem.

This past week was the one-year anniversary of Governor Glenn Youngkin’s “Right Help, Right Now” initiative that seeks to tackle the mental health crisis head-on. To mark the occasion, the Governor announced an additional \$500 million will be earmarked in his upcoming budget to address multiple shortcomings in our

current approach to treating mental health ailments. This includes \$307 million to eliminate the Priority 1 waitlist for mental health treatment. \$58 million will help build a best-in-class behavioral health workforce through salary increases in state hospitals. An additional \$28 million will be put toward opioid abatement and response initiatives, and \$23 million will expand access to school-based mental health services for children.

While supplementary funding is certainly one of the most important pieces of the Governor’s policy, equally as important are steps the Governor will take through legislative and regulatory means to specifically protect children. These actions are intended to assist before external pressures cause a breakdown in our youth’s mental health. One such action is protecting the privacy of all children under 18 from social media companies by banning

targeted advertising and creating a marketing profile of kids without their parents’ consent. Another is to ban social media companies from using addictive practices – such as auto-playing videos or virtual gifts – on children. And, as mentioned earlier, mental health services will be extended in our schools using both in-person and tele-behavioral health methods to vastly increase the level of support our children have access to.

Taken together, Virginia is laying the groundwork to ensure our future generations grow with support systems in place to address the things that degrade mental wellbeing. There are more pressures on all of us now than ever before, and much of that seems to be driven by social media. While social media certainly has its valid uses and is a source of enjoyment for many, we must not forget the impact it can have on impressionable youth. I applaud the

Governor for his sincere focus on the mental health crisis and I look forward to working with House colleagues soon to enact policies that begin to solve it.

It is my honor to represent you in Richmond, and I want you to be fully informed what your government is doing for you. As the Delegate representing the 12th District (soon to be the 42nd District due to redistricting), your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf. Best wishes for a happy new year!

*Del. Jason Ballard  
Virginia General Assembly*

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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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Be sure to ‘Like’ the News Journal on Facebook.

## Montgomery-Floyd-Radford NAACP honors veterans

On Sunday, Dec. 3, the Montgomery-Floyd-Radford branch of the NAACP held its veterans’ celebration at Asbury United Methodist Church in Christiansburg.

Approximately 20 veterans and 85 guests were warmly greeted.

The celebration of our nation’s heroes began with the posting of colors by the Christiansburg High School Corps of Cadets—Nathan Kellogg, Kraven Stevers, Addison Linkous and Kaylee Harris. Following this, Samuel H. Bishop welcomed everyone, and “The Star-Spangled Banner” was then sung by all. Chapter president Deborah H. Travis explained one of the goals of the NAACP’s Armed Forces and Veterans

Affairs Committee is to advocate for equitable programs for veterans’ benefits.

Youth Council members Melvin Palmer and Nataliah Bishop read poems of honor, and Connie Teele shared her original poem, “The Military.” A musical performance was provided by Glen Holmes on piano and vocalist Alan Johnson who sang “A Change Gonna Come.” Branch Vice President Dr. Michael Herndon introduced the speaker, Commander Dr. David Points of the United States Naval Reserves, who eloquently spoke, sharing both historical and statistical information about the United States military. At the conclusion of the event, the color guard



COURTESY OF THE MONTGOMERY-FLOYD-RADFORD BRANCH OF THE NAACP  
**Deborah H. Travis, Chapter President of the Montgomery-Floyd-Radford branch of the NAACP, speaks during the recent NAACP veterans celebration at Asbury United Methodist Church in Christiansburg.**

retired the colors, and everyone enjoyed a celebratory meal in the church community room.  
*Melissa N. Matusevich,  
NAACP Communications  
Committee Chair*

## Achievements

from page 3

in Atlanta. Mathews was among approximately 1,725 undergraduate and graduate students who earned degrees during the Summer 2023 semester.

Read about other accomplished scholars on Gold Letters: A Spotlight on Student Achievement: [bit.ly/Gold-Letters-News](http://bit.ly/Gold-Letters-News). The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is one of the top public research universities in the U.S., developing leaders who

advance technology and improve the human condition.

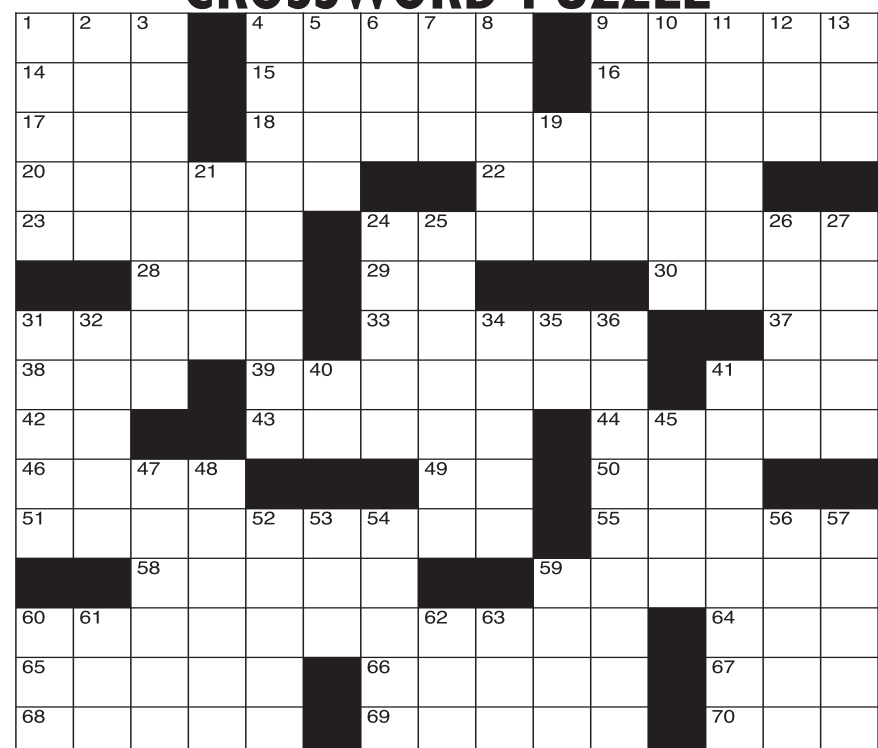
### Danah Jeong graduates from University of Georgia

ATHENS, GA - Danah Jeong is among the more than 2,900 graduates in the University of Georgia’s Class of 2023. Jeong, of Blacksburg, earned a PHD Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics. “We are delighted to celebrate the incredible achievements of our University

of Georgia students in the Class of 2023,” said President Jere W. Morehead. “Commencement offers students, friends and families an opportunity to recognize the tireless dedication UGA students have shown during their time on campus. We look forward to seeing all the great things these students will go on to do as alumni of the University of Georgia.”

See Achievements, page 8

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Product or \_\_\_ (abbr.)
  - Zodiac sign
  - S. China seaport
  - Former OSS
  - Early English printer
  - Aphid genus
  - General’s assistant (abbr.)
  - Aussies
  - Dissuades
  - Make law
  - Drench
  - Soak in a liquid
  - Male child
  - It cools your home
  - Small constellation
  - To call (archaic)
  - Explores beneath the Earth
  - Commercial
  - W. hemisphere organization
  - You can find it in a can
  - “Land of the free”
  - 42 36 inches
  - Footwear
  - Challenges
  - They hold things together
  - Of I
  - Partner to flow
  - Not connected by kinship
  - Worries
  - Garlic mayonnaise
  - A way to take by force
  - Legendary English rockers
  - Your consciousness of your own identity
  - Fencing swords
  - Silly
  - Actor DiCaprio
  - Encircles with a belt
  - Mails a message
  - Longing
  - CLUES DOWN**
  - Horse mackerels
  - It can be viral
  - Prickly plants
  - Consciousness
  - Type of sarcoma
  - Tax collector
  - Sun up in New York
  - One who scorches
  - Influential psychotherapist
  - Situated at an apex
  - Communicative
  - Forearm nerve
  - Former CIA
  - Folk singer DiFranco
  - Employee stock ownership plan
  - Large-scale
  - School environment
  - Remove
  - Male parents
  - Large rodent
  - Weighed down
  - Held tightly
  - \_\_\_ route: going there
  - Explains again
  - Exclamation of surprise
  - Courteously
  - Lying down
  - Judge
  - Forcefully took
  - Loosely compacted sediment
  - High mountain
  - Portable conical tents
  - Cereal grass
  - Dining utensil
  - Thoughtful
  - Helps you walk
  - Indicates near
  - Midway between northeast and east
  - Local area network

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**Help Wanted - General**



**TOTAL ACTION FOR PROGRESS CEO Recruitment Profile**

Total Action for Progress (TAP) is a community action agency that serves eleven localities in the Roanoke Valley and adjacent communities: the counties of Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Rockbridge, and the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, Lexington, Roanoke, and Salem. TAP helps individuals and families achieve economic and personal independence through education, employment, affordable housing, and safe and healthy environments. Every TAP employee shares in TAP's responsibility to "Mobilize Community Resources" in support of TAP's anti-poverty efforts.

TAP is seeking an experienced CEO who is responsible for maintaining an organizational culture that embodies the following values: Advocacy for the oppressed, the disadvantaged, and disenfranchised. Results orientation. Fiscal and programmatic accountability. Teamwork, collaboration with others and partnership building. Excellence in performance. Innovation. The passion to make a difference. Responsiveness to the needs of the community. Maintenance of an agency-wide focus on Whole Family and Trauma Informed services.

**PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsible for carrying out the mission of the organization and the strategic plan as set forth by the Board of Directors. Responsible for meeting with key board committees especially Finance, Property, Personnel and all others at the request of the Board Chair. Responsible for carrying out the policies and procedures set forth by the Board of Directors. Responsible for final approval of the hiring and termination of all staff.

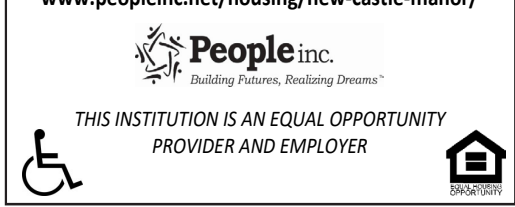
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**Help Wanted - General**

Responsible for the financial health of the organization, the development and prudent expenditures of the same according to budgets prepared by staff and approved by the Board of Directors and audited by financial and program auditors. Responsible for making sure that staff are provided with wages comparable to similar employment and benefits necessary for their well-being and that of their families. Responsible for developing a creative work environment where employees and volunteers are stimulated to take initiative, develop leadership and carry out their responsibilities with dedication, warmth and initiative. Responsible for inspiring others in the organization to be passionate about caring for the needs of our families. Responsible for stimulating collaborative ventures with other organizations, the private sector and federal, state, and local governments to strengthen services for low-income Virginians. Responsible for representing the organization publicly before public, private, and network organizations.

**ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**  
An understanding of the specific nature of a community action agency, its history, and commitment to the same. Advanced understanding of a variety of programming that includes early childhood development, youth and adult education and training, housing development and management and a wide range of economic development programming including business start-ups and loan pools. Excellent presentation, writing and public relations skills. High emotional and cultural intelligence enabling the person to connect with a wide range of people from a variety of ethnic, social and economic backgrounds. High energy level and proven ability to manage stressful or extenuating circumstances. Bilingual ability is a plus.

**QUALIFICATIONS, EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**  
Master's degree or equivalent experience. Ten to twenty years in a senior management position of an organization with similar complexity and size of TAP. Experience writing grant submissions and managing a team of grant writers. Experience working with a board of directors. Experience working effectively with the public and representing an agency before the public. Experience working effectively with local, state, and national public officials on issues vital to the organization. Experience and passion for working with a highly diverse organization. Essential computer skills

**Help Wanted - General**

and the experience and ability to oversee IT operations.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**  
Must pass a comprehensive background and drug check. A valid Virginia driver's license and reliable transportation is required. TAP participates in the Virginia DMV Driver Alert Program. Employees who operate a TAP vehicle or their personal vehicle to conduct TAP business may be subject to driver record monitoring through the Virginia DMV Driver Alert Program.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**  
This description provides information regarding the core functions of the designated position, and general nature and level of work associated with the job. It should not be interpreted to describe all the duties whose performance may be required of such employees or be used to limit the nature and extent of assignments such an individual may be given. TAP is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a Drug Free Workplace. We only hire individuals legally eligible for employment in the United States.

**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:**  
Salary range is \$90k to \$115k depending on qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be offered a generous benefits package including health, dental, vision, retirement plan match and gift, paid time off, sick leave, free short-term disability, long term disability, life insurance/AD&D, and professional development support, 14 paid holidays.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**  
To be considered, please submit a cover letter and resume with salary expectations, and three professional references to **Tabatha Cooper, HR Director, via email at Tabatha.Cooper@tapintohope.org or via mail to: TAP, Human Resources, PO Box 2868 Roanoke VA 24011**

**This position will remain open until filled. Inquiries may be directed to: Tabatha Cooper - HR Director PO BOX 2868 Roanoke, VA 24001 Email: Tabatha.Cooper@tapintohope.org Phone: 540-283-4800**

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**Legals - City of Radford**

**NOTICE: December 13, 2023**  
A white 550 Jet Ski FL8258GV HIN KAW447440482-B. A yellow 400 Jet Ski VA4511AK HIN KAW 051850676. A yellow 400 Jet Ski VA4512AK HIN KAW051690676. Are located at 4923 Clement Lane Radford VA 24141.

**Legals - City of Radford**

If these watercraft are not claimed by the titled owner within 30 days, I will apply to the Department for registration/title in my name. Mark A. 540-639-0610

**ABC NOTICE**

RADFORD COFFEE COMPANY INC., trading as RADFORD COFFEE COMPANY, 333 WEST MAIN ST, RADFORD, VA 24141.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for Restaurant-Wine, Beer, and Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Rachel Doyle-Owner.  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**Legals - City of Salem**

**Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem,**

at its regular meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of E2ST John, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 68 St. John Road (Tax Map # 155-2-2.1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.

2. Consider the request of Poindexter SW Florida, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 2105-2121 Apperson Drive (Tax Map # 281-1-2.2) from BCD Business Commerce District to HBD Highway Business District.

If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

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

**ABC NOTICE**

HANGING ROCK, LLC, trading as HANGING ROCK TAVERN, 1790 THOMPSON MEMORIAL DR, ROANOKE COUNTY, SALEM VA. 24153.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for retail restaurant and brewery restaurant Wine, Beer MB, license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES HARDY, CEO

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**Legals - City of Salem**

**Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,**

at its regular meeting on January 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of T J Real Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1236 West Main Street (Tax Map # 141 - 1 - 4) from HBD Highway Business District to CBD Community Business District.

2. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two family dwelling on the property located at 301 Carey Avenue, (Tax Map # 74-2-6.1).

3. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 416 Electric Road (Tax Map # 150-3-1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.

4. Consider the request of Virginia Baptist Children's Home (dba HopeTree Family Services), property owner, for rezoning the properties located at 1000 block Red Lane and a portion of 860 Mount Vernon Lane (Tax Map #'s 41-1-1, 41-1-2, 41-1-3, 41-1-4, 41-1-5, 41-1-6, and a portion of 44-3-10) from RSF Residential Single Family to PUD Planned Unit District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: H. Robert Light  
Deputy Executive Secretary

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ABC NOTICE**

HANGING ROCK, LLC., trading as HANGING ROCK OUTDOORS, 484 FRIENDSHIP ROAD, SHAWNSVILLE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA. 24162.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a BREWERY license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES HARDY, CEO

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:  
Ordinance 2045: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating

**Legals - Montgomery County**

Budget to Appropriate \$927,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund and \$800,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Stormwater Capital Improvement Fund.

The proposed ordinance will allow the Town's two previously approved agreements with Glade Spring Crossing, LLC for the Glade Spring Crossing housing development. One will be used for the sewer cost sharing of \$927,000 and another for \$800,000 for a regional Stormwater project. These projects will be funded by an upcoming bond offering.

Ordinance 2046: An Ordinance Granting a Lease of Office Space in Town Property Located at 141 Jackson Street, N.E. The proposed ordinance will grant space in the town owned property located at 141 Jackson Street NE to New River Land Trust for storage.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters,

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## House of Marty presents year-end awards

**From the Sidelines**  
**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

The world of sports was full of several success stories this past year both on the field, diamond and court but also off all of those. The annual Marty awards are just an opportunity to bring attention to the big and little stories in that sector of life.

The top Marty has to go to the Radford High School Bobcat football and Virginia Tech women's basketball teams, thanks for giving us something to remember in their respective championships.

The Lady Hokies were the ACC tournament champs, and the Bobcats are this year's Class 2 state football trophy winners.

The one-two combo of Tech's Liz Kitley and Georgia Amore has gained them an individual Marty to add to their hardware on the shelf at the shared apartment. Without them, there would have not been an ACC championship.

Okay, another Marty has to be given to Virginia Tech football coach Brent Pry. You have weathered the storm and seem to have found a soft spot in Blacksburg,

rebuilding a program that has some very critical fans.

Just keep being you, and coach, keep stepping into the Portal to gain some depth for a team trying to climb out of the basement. Fans are not the easiest ones to deal with especially after some very lean years.

At no time should you ask Scotty to beam you up. Blacksburg is your home. Okay maybe, fans will give you five years. Let's go bowling.

Individually, Radford's Max Kanipe is given a Marty for producing a season to remember. His future engineering degree will be a great chapter in life, but thanks Max for a memorable year on the football field. You deserve the school record in receiving.

I also have to give the entire Christiansburg Sports of Fame committee a Marty award after finally putting together the first HOF class this past year. It was the longtime idea of several people, but it took the likes of CHS alum Jeremy Williams to finally get it off the ground. A Marty to him and the other founding members of this first class.

Christiansburg High School's inaugural sports hall of fame class was

introduced this past fall with 24 former athletes, coaches and supporters. The group spans six decades ranging from the 1950s to the early 2000s.

Chuck Muncy is a returning Marty award winner. The former recreation supervisor has done a great job at rebuilding a Christiansburg High School golf program, which is on the cusp of greatness.

Also, a Marty needs to go to Robin Boyd who stepped down as the softball coach at CHS. But it was his effort in the youth softball programs throughout the area that will be missed. Thanks coach, for all your volunteer time. Many young ladies are doing great things on the diamond because of you.

I have to stretch the Marty to include Floyd County football coach Winfred Beale, who retired at the end of the football season after 43 years on the sidelines. Thanks for everything you have given us, coach.

A week ago, Christiansburg High School athletic director Tim Cromer was named to replace Beale. Cromer deserves a Marty for everything he has given the school he graduated from. Christiansburg sports has moved into the next chapter of

his illustrious novel thanks to him.

A special Marty is given to the Virginia Tech basketball programs for continuing their relationship with the Shoes for Cancer program. The Hokies have given several children a sense of hope and even put a smile on their face after painting simple white tennis shoes that will be worn at a game this season.

Also, thanks with a Marty to the continued partnership with Kroger's and the Virginia Tech football team for "Touchdown for Turkeys," where Kroger Mid-Atlantic donated turkeys for every touchdown scored during VT's football season. Many families in our area were served by this effort.

A Marty also goes to the retiring basketball coach Rick Cormany, who led Radford High School to the top of the mountain in the Commonwealth. Thanks for all the memories, and I still own a "one" for Cormany, as he was my coach in recreation basketball while growing up in Wytheville. I was the only player to score a basket for the other team on an in-bounds. Woops coach.

That's it, the Marty awards are out for 2023. Mike drop hard for the past year, looking forward to a new year in sports.



**Auburn won its seventh state volleyball championship this fall at the Salem Civic Center. This is their fifth straight Class 1 top mark and eighth over the past 12 years.**



**Blacksburg Golf Team won the Class 4 Region D Championship by 23 strokes with 15 under par, 269 score and then turned around to claim the state title.**

## Sports stories to remember from 2023

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

This time of year, it is hard to look back and pinpoint the top sports stories of the year, and we had our share of headlines.

We said goodbye to one of the state's winningest high school basketball coaches when Radford's Rick Cormany stepped down. He was one of the area and state's winningest high school basketball coaches.

"It's Just time. I've been year to year since 2019," he said.

After almost four decades, Cormany will finish his career with 773 wins, good for second-most in VHSL history. He previously served as assistant coach at Radford University before accepting a job as the head man at Rocky Gap. He was there for five years before accepting the post at Radford in 1993.

Cormany said he doesn't know what he was thinking in those early days at Rocky Gap.

"I just knew I had to try and out work everyone and try to learn everyday if we had any chance to be successful. I was way too young to be a head coach anywhere, but I had hard working kids that would get to gym at 6 in the morning and would get better," he said.

The 773 wins puts Cormany in some elite company with the likes of Bluestone's George Lancaster (724 wins), former Maury head man Jack Baker (746 wins) along with retired coaches Bill Littlepage from Hopewell (755 wins) and Robert E. Lee-Staunton legendary sideline boss Paul Hatcher (897 victories).

Cormany just finished his 30th season at Radford and over 560 of his wins have come for the Bobcats.

Radford won 21 of the last 22 regular season championships in the Three Rivers District, 16 of 17 tournament championships, the last four Conference 45 championships, four Region C championships (2001, 2002, 2004, 2013), three Region 1A West Championships (2014, 2016, 2017), two Region 2C Championships (2018, 2019), three state runner ups, nine state Final-4's and state champions in six of the last 12 years.

In November came the announcement that would area racing to a screeching halt. The parent company of Calfee Park Baseball and the Pulaski River Turtles said it was resuming management of Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway beginning November 30.

The ownership said after leasing Motor Mile Speedway & Dragway to Rusty Wallace Racing Experience owner Mark

Ebert for the 2021-2023 seasons, Motor Mile will resume management of the venue for the 2024 season.

Current plans include several special events such as the always-popular Monster Truck, Nights of Destruction and JJ DA BOSS Tours. Other types of events such as concerts and live-action events are being considered.

But, according to a press release, there are no plans at this time for a weekly racing series for either the Speedway or Dragway tracks.

Both tracks will be available for rental for individual days, for special events, or for a recurring series if there is interest by an outside party or organization.

In August, officials from the Rusty Wallace Racing experience said there would no operating contract extension after this year.

In 2020, the Rusty Wallace Racing Group took over the speedway, which is celebrating its 34th year anniversary this year. The track has been known over the years as the New River Valley Speedway and has changed its name four times since its opening over 20 years ago.

The multi-year lease agreement allowed RWRE to take over venue operations, with the speedway becoming the home track for the RWRE and its companion companies.

At the time, former NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace called Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway, one of the finest grassroots motorsports facilities in the nation.

The track has a long, rich history in the New River Valley. In 1952, a dirt track originally opened on the former farm site between Radford and Dublin. In the 80's, a paved 0.416-mile oval was built on the site.

The track announced that it had cut all sanctions with NASCAR and discontinued its oval track racing in late 2017 but reopened under NASCAR sanctioning in 2019.

It was purchased by Shelor Automotive Group in 2004 and was subsequently renamed Motor Mile Speedway. The track is most famous for hosting four NASCAR Busch Series events between 1989 and 1992, which included future NASCAR champions like Jeff Gordon.

In July, A Radford City general district judge extended Radford University's basketball coach Darris Nichols probation from a Driving Under the Influence (DUI), The new court appearance deals with a positive reading on an ignition interlock device, which was placed on his vehicle after a February traffic stop.

The court could have suspended all



**Rick Cormany stepped down this year after a long career as the head coach of the Radford High School boys' basketball team. He finished with 773 wins.**



**The Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Virginia partnered this season with the Virginia Tech football program. For every first down, Freedom First donated to the agency. The Hokies tallied 21 first downs and \$2,100 to the nonprofit organization of the Boys and Girls Club.**

of his probation and sent Nichols straight to jail, but the Commonwealth Attorney and Nichols' attorneys agreed the coach should have another chance.

He faced up to 180 days of a suspended sentence, but now, Nichols will remain on probation through April 2024.

During the initial arrest,

Nichols had a blood alcohol level of .025, twice the legal limit. He was fined \$2,500 and had his drivers license suspended for a year. He was also required to use the interlock device, which alerted the court to the use of alcohol.

Nichols made no statement following the ending of hearing.

The Radford native

Nichols was hired two years ago after serving as an assistant at the University of Florida. Nichols played basketball at West Virginia University and climbed the ranks as an assistant coach all the way to the University of Florida in the SEC.

Nichols helped lead Radford High School to

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Players react as the Highlanders take the win of West Virginia in the final seconds of the game.

# Smith's game-winner stuns West Virginia, Highlanders earn first-ever win over Mountaineers

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – With the game on the line and the clock racing towards all zeroes, DaQuan Smith knocked down the game-winning shot to give the Radford men's basketball team a 66-65 win over West Virginia at WVU Coliseum on Wednesday night, Dec. 20.

The Highlanders missed the chance to tie the game at 65-all with a missed free throw, but they turned the page to the next play and made the most of it. When the Mountaineers missed the front end of a one-and-one on their end, Radford pushed the ball up the court and into the hands of Smith.

The redshirt senior didn't panic, even as the ball slipped from his hands, as he collected it and rose above a defender before hitting nothing but net to give his team a 66-65 lead with just 1.5 seconds left. A heave fell short for WVU and elation spread throughout Highlander Nation, knowing the Mountaineers were felled for the first time in program history.

gaining a narrow lead that never grew beyond four points in the period. Radford's big men produced some scoring punch midway through, as Justin Archer and D'Auntray Pierce scored six straight points to give the Highlanders a 15-14 lead – their first of the game – at the 9:06 mark.

It was yet another back-and-forth affair from there, as the Highlanders and their hosts traded buckets, and many more missed shots, until Radford took a 29-28 lead into the break.

Bryan Antoine and DaQuan Smith combined for just three points on 1-of-14 shooting (1-for-8 from three) in the period while WVU got just six points up to that point from players who were eligible to play this time last week.

Shots didn't exactly fall in the second half either, as the Highlanders shot just 43.3% from the field and 30.8% from deep in the final period.

Leading 41-37 with 16:07 on the clock, Radford went without a field goal for more than four minutes, allowing WVU to slide in for a 43-41 lead that eventually became 54-52 at the 7:07 mark.

The Mountaineers led for the entire rest of the contest, that is, until Smith's shot sent the Highlanders home happy.

### PLAY-BY-PLAY

With neither team shooting above 35.0% from the field by halftime, defense reigned supreme for the first 20 minutes of action.

The Mountaineers started the scoring with a layup by Akok Akok,

# Hokies add 15 signees

Highlighted by 13 high school captains and five state championships as a class, Virginia Tech football head coach Brent Pry welcomed his third signing class to Blacksburg this past week, as the Hokies introduced 15 signees and four transfers on National Signing Day.

Pry and his staff continue to focus on the Hokies' recruiting footprint, inking five in-state signees, all ranked within the top 25 in the Commonwealth per 247 Sports. Six of the 15 signees are from within a 325-mile radius of Blacksburg, including defensive lineman Deric Dandy and running back Tyler Mason, both from Mount Airy, North Carolina, along with defensive back Quentin Reddish from Charlotte, North Carolina.

The class represents seven states. In addition to Virginia, three signees hail from North Carolina, with two each from Maryland and Ohio and one each from Georgia, Florida and New Jersey.

On the offensive side of the ball, Tech welcomed seven signees, comprised of one quarterback, one running back, two wide receivers and



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

three offensive linemen. Defensively, the Hokies signed eight players, featuring four defensive linemen, three defensive backs and a linebacker.

Among Tech's incoming transfers, the Hokies welcomed redshirt junior offensive lineman Montavious Cunningham (Georgia State), junior defensive tackle Kemari Copeland (Iowa Western Community College & Army), senior transfer defensive lineman Aeneas Peebles (Duke) and senior linebacker Sam Brumfield

(Middle Tennessee).

Virginia Tech's 2024 National Signing Day class ranks sixth in the ACC according to On3 Sports and eighth per the 247 Sports Composite. Nationally, the Hokies' class has peaked at No. 36 among NCAA FBS programs, per On3 Sports.

Tech's 2024 signing day class achieved a composite win-loss record of 141-48 (.746 winning percentage) during the 2023 season.

Virginia Tech Athletics

### NOTES & STATS

Radford's 29 first-half points were its fewest this season (previously 33 at VCU)

The Highlanders are now 8-2 this season when leading at halftime.

WVU went 0-for-10 from three in the first half. Radford entered the night ranked 42nd in the nation in three-point defense (28.9%).

Rae'Quan Battle led all scorers with 29 points in his debut for the

Mountaineers.

The game featured 15 different lead changes.

Radford will take time to celebrate the holidays with friends and family before refocusing just in time to play Clemson in the final non-conference game of the year. The Highlanders and Tigers will face off on Friday, Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. with all the action being streamed live on ACC Network Extra.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Grid of crossword puzzle answers with words like SVIC, ARIES, MACAO, CIA, WORDE, APHIS, etc.

## Achievements

from page 4

### Omicron Delta Kappa celebrates new members

LEXINGTON, VA - Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, welcomed 348 new initiates from 12 universities during October 2023. Students

initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five

percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year. New inductees include Amanda Bishop, of Christiansburg, and Brianna Huffman, of Blacksburg, both students at Radford University.

### Concord University announces Fall 2023 Dean's List

ATHENS, WV - Hannah Deck, Blayne Ferguson, and Kayla McCraw, of Blacksburg, and Connor Brizendine, Kelsie Groseclose, and Andrew Tickleare, of Christiansburg, are on the Fall 2023 Dean's List at

Concord University. The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who were registered for a minimum of 12 Concord credit hours and have attained a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the end of the semester.

## Stories

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four appearances in the state Group A playoffs, averaging in double-figures every season. He coached seven seasons at Florida, helping lead the Gators to a 108-65 record, including four straight 20-win seasons and three consecutive NCAA Tournament bids.

Nichols garnered a spot in ESPN.com's 40 Under 40 in the summer of 2020, rated #17 on the national list that included both head coaches and assistant coaches. He was also rated the #2 assistant coach in the SEC in a Stadium poll of coaches around the league.

A four-year letter winner at West Virginia under Bob Huggins and John Beilein, Nichols helped the Mountaineers to a 26-11 record and a trip to the 2008 NCAA Sweet 16 his senior season.

At WVU, Nichols shined as a player in the Big East. He scored 993 career points and dished 399 assists while shooting at a .375 clip from 3-point range. He averaged 10.7 points per game as well as 3.2 assists per game as a senior on the way to WVU's Sweet 16 run. He was also a member of the 2007 NIT

Championship, 2006 Sweet 16 and 2005 Elite Eight teams and finished his collegiate career as a top five most winningest player in Mountaineer history. After graduation, he played professional overseas in the Hungarian

League. Blacksburg High School golfer Jake Albert has announced plans to continue his career at Auburn University after another great summer season.

Albert, who is only a junior, is currently ranked 17th in the American Junior Golf Association after picking up a win at the recent Jack Burke Jr. Invitational and 18th at the Junior Players Championship presented by Rolex. The 16-year-old also finished third earlier this year at the Will Lowery Junior Championship. His biggest accolade was last year as the national champion at a high school golf national at Pinehurst, N.C. Albert's 10-under for the three-day, 54-hole event was the lowest score in the tournament's history. He finished the event with 16 pars.

The invitation-only tournament field featured more than 330 of the top high school boys' golfers from across the country. They had each won their respective state championships as a team or as individuals. Albert would also finish one-hole out in the 2023 VSGA Amateur Championship for second place.

In October, Blacksburg claimed another state golf championship, shooting a 282 total for a minus-6 at the Williamsburg National Golf Club. Monacan was a distant second at a plus-3.

Jamestown and Loudoun County finished tied for third at plus-4. Woodgrove was fifth at plus-23.

Albert finished tied for second for the individual championship with his own teammate Major Ewing and Salem's Kathryn Ha, all at minus-5 67. Joe Johnson of Heritage was the state champ with a minus-6 at 66.

Albert and Ewing's teammate, Piece Campbell completed a course plus-one 73 for a tie for 15th and Cameron Sharp a tie for 23rd with a plus-five 77. Blacksburg was also the Region 4D champ.

Blacksburg High School canceled its 10th football game of the year with Salem. Blacksburg principal Chris Stewart issued this statement at the announcement:

"With student safety as our primary focus, BHS will forfeit the varsity football game with Salem High School. This decision comes in response to the high number of injuries our student-athletes have experienced that prohibit their ability to return to play and out of an abundance of caution for the limited number of student-athletes that remain active on the roster."

"We also believe that this is the best decision for the long-term success of the program, we want to see our younger student-athletes stay in the sport and build upon the

positive outcomes they have gained during the JV season," Stewart said.

Besides the high school athletic area, Riner's own Matt Hagan won another NHRA world championship. Number Four was celebrated, and he is already looking for number five. Hagan is the 2011, 2014, 2020 and 2023 NHRA Funny Car World Champion and has had a total of 49 Career Event titles, 87 Career Final Rounds, and 21 Career No.1 qualifying positions.

This year, Hagan clinched a Fourth NHRA Funny Car World Championship at the Camping World Series finale in Pomona, CA on November 12. Hagan's title places him in an elite group of only four racers to have won four funny car championships in the history of the sport. Racing greats John Force (15 championships), Don Prudhomme (4), and Kenny Bernstein (4) round out the list.

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team reached the top of the mountain with the school's first ever ACC tournament title. Tech's women's basketball team knocked off Miami (Fla.) and Duke enroute to the championship game as part of the 2023 Ally ACC Women's Basketball Tournament. The third-seeded Hokies pulled away from No. 4 seed Louisville down the stretch to

punch their ticket to the NCAA Tournament, while Georgia Amoore was tabbed tournament MVP after draining a tournament-record 14 3-pointers.

And speaking of the ACC, the year finished with lots of question on whether the conference would still be looking the same when the new year gets here.

The expansion of collegiate athletic conferences means there will be a log jam in both football and basketball, and the ACC is one of those examples. The ACC announced a new football scheduling model that will go into effect beginning with the 2024 season.

With the additions of Cal, SMU and Stanford, each ACC school will continue to play eight conference games per season with all 17 teams facing each other at least twice through the next seven years (once at home and once on the road). Under the new schedule rotation, the league's current 14-team membership will also play three times each in California before 2030 with no team traveling to the west coast during consecutive seasons.

The new schedule will continue with no divisions, feature 17 schools and will increase the number of annual conference matchups from 56 to 68. The top two

teams based on conference winning percentage will compete in the ACC Football Championship Game.

"We are extremely excited to welcome Cal, SMU and Stanford to the ACC and look forward to having them compete beginning in the fall of 2024," said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "Throughout the entire scheduling model process, the membership was incredibly thoughtful and purposeful in building a creative, flexible and aggressive conference scheduling model while keeping the student-athlete experience at the forefront. The excitement and anticipation for our teams, alumni and fans will undoubtedly build as we look ahead to the future of this incredible conference."

The approved format will continue to have each member institution play eight conference games preseason, with all 17 teams playing each other at least twice over the next seven seasons – once at home and once on the road. The current 14 conference teams will play a total of three times each in California over the seven years and none will travel west to California in back-to-back seasons. But the question remains whether some teams and schools will bolt and leave the ACC.