



# News Journal

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Chief Jerry Holdaway

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

## Interim Chief Jerry Holdaway named Radford City Police Chief

RADFORD – The City of Radford has announced Jerry Holdaway will serve as its next Police Chief.

Holdaway has served the Radford City Police Department for close to 22 years in an upward progressive tract, moving from Patrol Officer to Interim Police Chief. Throughout his career he has advanced in rank serving as a Senior Police Officer, Corporal, Sergeant,

Lieutenant, Captain, and most recently Interim Police Chief.

Radford City Manager David Ridpath says he thinks Holdaway's long service to Radford will be beneficial to leading the department.

"Interim Chief Holdaway has represented and served our community well and will continue to do so as Chief,

said Ridpath. "He knows the community, is dedicated to the men and women of the department, and knows a life rooted in public safety. Radford appreciates his willingness to serve in this important role for our community."

Holdaway has a Criminal Justice Degree from Liberty University, is PELS certified by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, he also has FBI and VACP executive leadership training.

"I appreciate all the support shown by the Radford City Council, the Radford City Manager's Office, the Radford City Police Department, and Radford City residents during the Interim Chief period," said Holdaway. "I am

See **Holdaway**, page 4

## Winter Commencement 2023: Overcoming challenges made graduates more resilient



Radford University undergraduates participate in the commencement ceremony held Dec. 9.

Beyond their diplomas, beyond the colorful hoods and sashes and shining pins, the nearly 570 graduates who attended Radford University's Winter Commencement events also received something they can now carry with them for the rest of their lives.

They got a wealth of powerful advice – from university officials and faculty; from a highly accomplished and high-ranking corporate executive; and from their own peers and classmates, family and friends.

Across the numerous speeches delivered Dec. 7-9, many of these mentors urged their audiences to be present and yet also remain aware of life's broader contexts, particularly as they prepared to embark on new and daunting adventures.

One of those speakers was Board of Visitors Rector Debra K. McMahon.

"When you have these milestones in your life, it is really important that you do two things: reflect and savor," she said in her opening remarks at the morning undergraduate ceremony, held Dec. 9 in Preston Hall's Bondurant Auditorium.

"The reflect part is: Think about how you got here. Who helped you get here? What were your experiences like? Think about ... when your grandchild asks you, 'Where were you when COVID started?' Or 'Were you a 'Swiftie' back in the day?' Think about what you would tell them. "And the second thing is savor," McMahon advised.

"Savor these milestones because those savored moments are the moments that make up a good life."

Keynote speaker Susan Carroll '96 – president of Inova Loudon Hospital in Leesburg, Virginia, and the senior vice president of Inova Health Systems – praised the graduates for advancing their educations during a historic period of adversity, the COVID-19 pandemic.

She observed that by working through that hardship and untold others along the way, they had gained a unique resilience.

"Resilience ... is a journey," she told them. "It is about facing life's storms and emerging stronger. It's not merely surviving challenges, but learning, growing and thriving through them."

In her address, Carroll shared the story of a pivotal moment in her life and career: When she first became a hospital CEO, Carroll said, a nurse working the front lines of healthcare gave her a systemic

criticism that stung – mincing few words, the nurse, a Russian native, essentially told her that organizational problems originate at the top, with management, and work their way down.

It was a perspective Carroll said ultimately forced her to re-evaluate her own approach to her life and her work.

"I realized that I was so focused on what I wanted to be that I had lost track of the essence of who I wanted to be," she explained. "To lead an organization successfully, for people to want to follow me, I had to dig deep and see that my journey was like a tapestry of experiences, dreams and values that defined who I was becoming, and I was passing that on to my team.

"I needed to define what I valued and work on what I could instill in my company, what I wanted my personal beliefs to be, not just achievements," she said.

Instead of being simply an executive, Carroll realized she also wanted to be a mentor and a servant leader, and she rediscovered her founding motive for working in healthcare in the first place, which was to help others.

"The belief that you want people to have about you is 100% up to you," Carroll told the graduates.

"It is based on the experiences that you create for them. You have the ability to

See **Commencement**, page 4



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
Radford President Bret Danilowicz celebrates with a graduate at the graduate hooding ceremony.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CHCNRV

## Community Health Center of the NRV receives significant funding boost

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley (CHCNRV) has been chosen to receive a 1.9-million-dollar gift from Yield Giving, a charitable organization focused on providing resources to proven non-profits to use to benefit others.

"This is among the largest gifts ever received by the Community Health Center and is life-changing," Michelle Brauns, MS, APR, CEO of CHCNRV, said. "This donation reflects the success of our staff, the strength of our leadership, and the vision for our

future."

Established by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to share a financial fortune created through the effort of countless people, Yield Giving is named after a belief in adding value by giving up control. Since 2019, Yield Giving has provided over \$14,000,000,000 to 1,600+ non-profits across the world.

Yield Giving privately vets the chosen non-profits and the Community Health Center of the New River Valley met the organization's criteria, including: strong leadership in an

organization; strategy, vision and focus; measurable multi-year success in achieving outcomes for populations, as well as communities; and stable or thriving assets.

Brauns said that the leadership team and volunteer board of directors are being intentional in plans for the gift, which she describes as "transformational." Ultimately, Brauns said that the funds will be used to secure the long-range future and growth of the organization that serves

See **Boost**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

The Blacksburg Master Chorale performs on the stage of the Moss Arts Center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre.

## Celebrate the season with a performance of the iconic holiday favorite Handel's 'Messiah'

BLACKSBURG - The voices of more than 90 singers will fill the Moss Arts Center's theatre when the Blacksburg Master Chorale presents one of the most iconic works of the holiday season. Joined by a professional orchestra and guest soloists, the ensemble presents Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 4 p.m.

Featuring the glorious and resounding "Hallelujah Chorus," the performance also includes Part I of the oratorio, as well as the closing "Amen" fugue. Part I consists of five scenes: Isaiah's prophecy of salvation, the coming judgement, the prophecy of Christ's

See **Moss Arts**, page 3

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sunday, Dec. 17:

### Luminary display

The annual Stroubles Mill Neighborhood Association Luminary display will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Blacksburg (Hethwood). Rain date is Monday, Dec. 18.

## Monday, Dec. 18:

### Pre-K Music Class with Alice Armentrout

At the Radford Public Library; 10 – 10:30 a.m. Local music teacher Alice Armentrout will be at the library to lead a Pre-K music class! There is no registration necessary for this event.

## Tuesday, Dec. 19:

### Coffee Club for Adults (age 50+)

At the Radford Public Library; 10 – 11 a.m. Cultivate community by making new friends at RL! Adults 50+ years are encouraged to come out and enjoy coffee and baked goods, provided by local Arabica Café & Bakery, while making new friends. This informal gathering will be hosted by staff member Monika. Please join us and share your stories!

### Genealogy: Newspapers

At the Radford Public Library; noon-1 p.m. Local genealogy professional Rebecca Novy will teach about how to use newspapers in your genealogical research.

## Wednesday, Dec. 20:

### 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. 21:

### Photo Club meeting

The Radford Photo Club will meet at 6 p.m. at Radford Public Library. Bring

your three favorite photos from 2023 on a thumb drive to share and select one as a print for the photo contest.

## On-going:

## Dec. 14- 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.

## Dec. 15 – Jan. 1:

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

### Blacksburg stormwater utility credit application deadline

Deadline for Stormwater Utility Credit Applications is Jan. 1, 2024. If you are located within the Town

of Blacksburg and have a stormwater management facility on your site, you may qualify for a credit on your monthly stormwater utility fee. Go to [www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund](http://www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund) and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to know more. Stormwater management facilities are typically ponds (either dry ponds/dry detention basins or wet retention basins). Other types include underground storage structures (usually located under parking lots in commercial areas), vegetated areas like bio-retentions, and mechanical filters that remove oil and sediment from stormwater runoff. Questions, contact [stormwater@blacksburg.gov](mailto:stormwater@blacksburg.gov) or call 540-443-1354.

### 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](mailto:CompPlan@blacksburg.gov), with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

# Warm Hearth Village promotes new Directors of Nursing from within

BLACKSBURG – Warm Hearth Village is pleased to announce Shaunna Andrews, BSN, RN has been chosen as the new Director of Nursing for Kroontje Health Care Center, The Cove, which includes skilled rehab and long-term care.

Formerly the Director of Nursing at Showalter Center, Andrews said, “I have a passion for nursing – geriatrics specifically. I enjoyed my time at Showalter. I had missed the more complex clinical cases that skilled and long-term care brings. I love the continuum of care

that WHV offers and am excited to take advantage of the opportunities to grow afforded by the career ladder at WHV. I’m proud to work for a nonprofit that gives so much back to seniors in this community and its staff.”

Larissa Gilbert, RN has been chosen as the new Director of Nursing for Showalter Center, the assisted living residence at the Village. She will fill the position vacated by Andrews. Gilbert started working for WHV in 2015 as an LPN.

“Nursing and working with seniors is the only job I

have ever seen myself doing. My goal was to one day be the director of nursing, so I went back to school to make that happen and now it has,” Gilbert said.

Warm Hearth Village is proud to have Andrews and Gilbert as part of the team and pleased to help all employees along their career paths for growth and advancement. 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



Shaunna Andrews



Larissa Gilbert

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHV

# Vote now for Radford Chamber Holiday Decorating Contest

RADFORD – Voting is underway in the Radford Chamber of Commerce’s Holiday Decorating Contest.

“Thank you to all the businesses and homes that decorated to celebrate the season,” said Radford Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dan McKinney. “Radford is lit up with all the lights and decorations, making it a great place to call home. Also, a shout-out to the Festival of Lights Committee and the Radford Electrical Department for making our streetscapes festive too.”

Vote at [www.radfordchamber.com](http://www.radfordchamber.com).

- Participants include:
- Business Holiday Displays
  - 1059 E Main Street - Edward Jones
  - 306 Tyler Avenue - Price - Williams Real Estate
  - 50 West Main St - Atlantic Union Bank
  - 1158 E Main St. - Arabica Café & Baker
  - 331 West Main St - NRV Property Management

- 104 Wadsworth Street - Plott & French
- 400 W Main St. - The Vault by Cook’s
- 220 W Main St. - Bank of Marion
- 1055 E Main St. - Farmers Insurance
- 1019 E Main St. - NRV Railroad Express Café
- 115 3rd Ave - Brad’s Barber Shop
- 1136 E Main St. - Garrett’s & Meg’s
- 333 W Main St. -Radford Coffee Company
- 30 W Main St. - Radford Public Library
- 202 3rd Ave - Ameriprise Financial
- 1027 E Main St. - Coco-Nuts Residential Holiday Displays
- 1001 Walker Drive
- 204 9th Street
- 410 Auburn Ave.
- 2005 7th Street
- 314 6th Ave
- 2 7th Street
- 616 7th Street

Staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NRVHBA

# NRVHBA announces 2023 microgrant program recipients

CHRISTIANSBURG — The New River Valley Home Builders Association (NRVHBA) is dedicated to their Workforce Development and community outreach endeavors and is pleased to announce the first round of funding for their new Microgrant program which was funded by the proceeds from the annual community Touch-a-Truck NRV event.

In its inaugural round, the NRVHBA awarded

three educators in the local community with funding for special projects that align with the workforce development interests of both the home building and construction industry. The NRVHBA hopes that this program will provide the opportunity for teachers to enhance their curriculum, maximize opportunities for their students, and encourage interest in construction trades careers.

Grant recipients were

required to propose how their project helps to either raise awareness of careers in the construction trades or give students practical experience in a trade that they can use outside of the classroom. The grant recipients are: Marc Eaton with Eastern Montgomery High School - EMHS currently has a thriving Career and Technical Education program and

See NRVHBA, page 3

# Virginia’s fall fire season ends after extreme fire activity

*Fire danger remains elevated until drought conditions lift*

CHARLOTTESVILLE – During this year’s fall fire season, which ran from Oct. 15 to Nov. 30, the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) responded to 156 wildfires that burned nearly 25,000 acres and damaged 13 structures.

Suppression efforts by DOF and the agency’s firefighting partners are credited with saving 224 homes and 268 other structures, with an estimated protected value of \$46.8 million. For comparison, 89 wildfires burned 2,654 acres in the 2022 fall fire season.

“With 35 consecutive days of suppression efforts, this fall fire season provided tremendous challenges,” said State Forester Rob Farrell. “Our wildland firefighters once again answered the call to protect Virginia’s communities and natural resources. These successes would not be possible without our local, state and federal partners, as well as supporting resources from other states.”

Drought conditions combined with seasonal factors such as low humidity, high winds, and dry leaves and grass, allows wildfires to start easily, spread quickly and be difficult to contain. Although the fall fire season has ended, the threat of wildfire is always present, and many parts of Virginia are still in a drought.

“Until drought conditions lift, fire danger will remain elevated,” said DOF Director of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. “The leading cause of wildfires this year was once again escaped debris burning. Many localities have implemented fire restrictions, so check with local officials before conducting any outdoor burning. Even if no fire restrictions are in place, we encourage those in drought areas to delay all outdoor burning until the drought is lifted.”

Follow these tips when burning debris:  
Check with local officials before burning

- Avoid burning if your locality is in a drought
- Avoid burning on dry, windy days
- Keep your burn pile small
- Stay with your fire until it’s completely out (drown, stir, drown again, ensure it’s cool)
- Have a rake or shovel and charged water hose on hand
- Have a phone ready to call 911 if a fire escapes your control
- Consider a “green” alternative to burning yard debris: compost your organic yard waste

**Remain Safe this Holiday Season**

Don’t let a careless mistake ruin the holidays for you, your neighbors and your community. DOF also reminds those with live Christmas trees to follow safe practices on placing and caring for your tree. Learn more at [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org).

Virginia Department of Forestry

# Virginia Tech biologist is a finalist in the \$10 million XPRIZE Rainforest competition

Next June, Julie Allen and a team of more than 30 researchers who call themselves “Team Waponi” will be dropped “Survivor”-style into a remote part of Brazil’s Amazon rainforest.

They will have just 24 hours to survey the biodiversity of 100 hectares — 247 acres — of rainforest and produce real-time insights within another 48 hours to win the competition. The winning team must develop the fastest, most comprehensive, and most efficient automated technologies for identifying species at every level of the rainforest, from canopy to floor.

For Allen, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences in Virginia Tech’s College of Science, the goal is not so much to claim the \$10 million prize as to help revolutionize how we study and preserve the rainforest.

“We are losing rainforest every minute to human activity,” she said. “The vast level of biodiversity is not known, and these forests are disappearing before we can even identify them. The idea behind the XPRIZE is to find a way to measure and show the economic value of keeping the rainforest intact.”

XPRIZE Rainforest is one of several competitions sponsored by the XPRIZE Foundation to incentivize collaboration by world-leading experts on solving humanity’s biggest problems. XPRIZE judges winnowed the initial 300 entrants down to 15 semifinalist teams for the June semifinals in Singapore. Now, just six teams remain to face off in

the finals.

“I’m running on full adrenaline right now,” Allen said. “We won’t know where we’re going in the rainforest until the day of the competition. They will likely helicopter us into a random plot in Brazil.”

“Waponi” is a term meaning “hi,” “what’s up,” “good,” or “cool,” from the Waorani tribe, who are longtime residents and guardians of Ecuador’s Amazon rainforest. The XPRIZE Waponi team is composed of experts in a variety of fields, including anthropology, biology, chemistry, computer science, ecology, engineering, and robotics, along with members of the Waorani Amazon indigenous community.

The team’s main technology is a device called the Limelight, which uses a drone to drop a sample collection raft into the rainforest canopy. Instruments on the raft record sounds and images, capture insects, and gather environmental DNA from the air, soil, and water. Machine learning technology and field DNA sequencing, along with other streams of data coming from the drones, will help to identify species.

“We have to invent a field lab where we’ll do all sequencing at the end of the rainy season in lowland Amazonia,” Allen said. “We’ll be dealing with rain, heat, and humidity. A lot of our machines can’t get too hot – they’ll break. We’re trying to ensure we have a system that is field ready.”

Allen joined Virginia Tech from the University of Nevada, Reno, this year

and is currently setting up her lab and preparing to teach a bioinformatics course in the spring.

As the leader for Team Waponi’s DNA and bioinformatics group, she is developing DNA sequencing technology to rapidly identify species through environmental DNA in the water, soil, and air, and from insect tissue samples collected by drones in the forest.

“What I’ll be doing in my lab over the next semester is testing more DNA protocols to increase our speed for sequencing and analyzing the DNA we collect at the site,” Allen said. “I am hoping to find the support to fund students in paid internships and undergraduate research related to XPRIZE Rainforest.”

Allen said Team Waponi has three distinct advantages going into the competition: insect expertise, indigenous knowledge, and expert drone technology. Several team members are scientists who specialize in insects, which are the most biodiverse animal organism in the forest. Allen herself is both an evolutionary biologist who studies insects and a bioinformatician who analyzes biological data to help answer questions about ecology.

“We are known for being the insect team,” she said. “We expect to have thousands and thousands of insects coming at us, including new species we’ve never seen before. Insects are important stewards of the ecosystem and also great indicators of changes and declines in ecosystem health. When

insects go away, everything goes away.”

Team Waponi also includes Amazonian tribal and Indigenous members, who have strong ties to the land and expertise in the local ecosystem, as paid researchers and advisors.

“Our team includes Indigenous and local communities as part of a collaborative and ongoing, sustainable effort to collect data to understand what the rainforest is telling us,” she said. “Our Team Waponi leader [Professor

Tom Walla from Colorado Mesa University] has been working with the Amazon Indigenous community in Ecuador for over 20 years.”

Allen said that win or lose, the team has already been successful in developing new technologies to advance species detection and identification. She and other members of Team Waponi plan to start a company that commercializes their XPRIZE work and

contributes to global understanding of the importance of biodiversity.

“This competition is allowing me to take all the work and goals from my entire career and push them forward in a way that will have a rapid and significant impact,” she said. “It’s overwhelming and just awesome to be a part of this.”

*Lon Wagner for Virginia Tech*

radfordnewsjournal.com

## Caterpillar dealer looks to Christiansburg

Carter Rental, the authorized Caterpillar dealer for Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia, has announced plans for a new Christiansburg location.

The site is located in the Shelor Motor Mile area, 2091 and 2095 Roanoke St., of the town and is under review by the planning commission.

“It’s an exciting time of growth as we expand our footprint to customers new and old,” said Mike Fogarty, Carter Rental director of business development, strategy and growth for rental services. “We have some very aggressive goals for rental, and the three elements to our growth strategy that will enable us to achieve them are rental fleet growth, footprint expansion, and growing our rental team member base.”

The Christiansburg site has been home to an automobile storage area for a number of years and is adjacent to Roanoke Street Park-in-Ride lot.

Christiansburg leaders would have to approve a conditional use permit for the

5.81-acre site, which is currently zoned for General Business District B-3. The property is currently designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Carter has also announced plans for two other new locations in is preparing to open three new stores in District Heights, Md., and Suffolk, Va., and hopes to be open in early 2024. The company provides products for construction, earthmoving, landscaping, specialty trades, paving and many industries.

The applicant is requesting approval of a CUP to allow the use of machinery and equipment sales, service and storage, and for a contractor equipment storage yard, and for rental of equipment commonly used by contractors. Carter is currently based in Salem.

*Staff report*

## NRVHBA

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by receiving funding from the NRVHBA Microgrant Program they will be pouring a concrete patio for future outdoor classroom space where their students will be protected from the elements.

Veronica Spradlin with Blacksburg High School – With the NRVHBA Microgrant Program, the current Drone

Competition Team will be applying the funds to the purchase of a new drone package. Not only do the students utilize multiple aspects of the construction process when building the drone competition course, drone technology is utilized through site surveys, property management, equipment management, and

project marketing programs.

Rupert Cox with Blacksburg Middle School – Mr. Cox’s animal husbandry class will build multiple animal cages for indoor use and create outside containment for the animals. The class will be learning basic carpentry and framing skills and will be improving the life of their class animals.

The NRVHBA is excited to see what the microgrant recipients will complete during their school semester and look forward to providing updates regarding their projects.

The Spring 2024 funding cycle and application opens Dec. 1, 2023. Teachers and CTE Directors from the following districts are eligible

to apply: Montgomery County, Giles County, Pulaski County, Floyd County, City of Radford, Wythe County, and Carroll County. For more information, visit <https://www.nrvhba.com/microgrant-program/>.

The New River Valley Home Builders Association

## Moss Arts

from page 1

birth, the annunciation to the shepherds, and Christ’s healing and redemption.

A German Baroque composer, George Frideric Handel began writing oratorios — operas about sacred subjects that are presented in concert instead of acted on the stage — after his opera season was canceled because of a lack of subscribers. He wrote 22 oratorios in all, composing “Messiah” in 24 days in 1741.

A magnanimous piece that uses texts from the old and new testaments, “Messiah” tells the story of the coming of Christ. The work gained popularity throughout the 1750s and, after Handel’s

death, was performed all over the world with increasing adaptations and re-orchestrations based on the musical taste of the time.

For this performance, the Blacksburg Master Chorale is joined by an orchestra and soprano Alison Wahl, mezzo-soprano Kayla Brotherton, tenor Benjamin Bunsold, and bass-baritone Markel Williams. Conductor Dwight Bigler is Blacksburg Master Chorale’s music director and associate professor of music and director of choral activities at Virginia Tech.

For 35 years, the Blacksburg Master

Chorale has performed creative and inspiring repertoire, sharing the beauty of choral music throughout the New River Valley. Members of the chorale represent a broad spectrum of the community, ranging from high school students to retirees. Former members now have musical careers with such organizations as the New York City Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, and Chanticleer.

Tickets for the performance are \$25-\$65 for general audience and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the

Moss Arts Center’s box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

The performance will be held in the center’s Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall. Convenient parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street and in downtown Blacksburg. Find more parking details online.

*Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech*



# Marketplace



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**Legals - Montgomery County**

**VIRGINIA:**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**In Re: The Adoption of a Minor Child Under Eighteen Years of Age, to be known as SERITA DANIELLE TICKLE**  
By: MILDRED ANNE TICKLE, FRED LEE TICKLE, JR. Petitioners  
**ORDER Case No. CA23000019-00**

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
The object of this cause is to obtain an adoption of the minor child, Serita Danielle McLemore, by your petitioners, Mildred Anne Tickle and Fred Lee Tickle, Jr., husband and wife. An affidavit having been made and filed, pursuant to Virginia Code §8.01-316(1950), as amended, showing that the biological

**Legals - Montgomery County**

father, Kenneth McLemore (aka Kenneth Sturdivant), despite the exercise of due diligence on behalf of Petitioners, could not be personally served with legal process for this action and his last known address is unknown, though he is known to be residing in and around the Montgomery County, Virginia area. It is therefore **ORDERED** that Respondent Kenneth McLemore, appear at this Court on or before **January 12, 2024 at 1:00 pm** before the Montgomery County Circuit Court and do what is necessary to protect his interest thereby. And, it is further **ORDERED** that this Order shall be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, serving the area of Montgomery County, Virginia, the locality of father’s last known whereabouts, and contemporaneously posted

**Legals - Montgomery County**

in a conspicuous location at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Enter this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2023.  
Robert M. D. Turk, Judge

**I ASK FOR THIS:**  
R. Cord Hall, Esq., VSB 77637  
R. CORD HALL, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, P.C. 106 S. Franklin Street, Suite B-2 Christiansburg, VA 24073  
(540)381-0707  
(540)381-0505-Facsimile  
Counsel for Petitioners



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# Commencement from page 1

be intentional in your interactions, to create experiences that shape others' beliefs."

Radford's winter Class of 2023: By the numbers  
Just over 560 Highlanders received diplomas during Friday's and Saturday's ceremonies – 169 graduate students and 394 undergraduates.

They range in age from 20 to 73. Fifty-five of them, or about 10% of the total, are first-generation college students.

Worldwide, some came from as far away as Congo, Estonia, India, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago, while within North America, students hailed from as far north as New York and as southward as Florida.

Others hewed still closer to this region – this winter's class included representatives from 77 of Virginia's 133 localities. More locally, it counted among its numbers proud alumni from high schools in Fairfax, Franklin, Montgomery and Roanoke counties and elsewhere, including Radford High.

Significant percentages of the graduates are headed for careers in healthcare and medicine – with 89 receiving their undergraduate degrees in nursing and 47 and 40 earning graduate degrees in occupational therapy and physician assistant, respectively.

And each graduate who came forward to receive their diploma also shook the hand of Radford University President Bret Danilowicz.

"As you cross the stage today, know that all faculty and staff of Radford University are very proud of your accomplishments," the president declared during Saturday's festivities.

"You took the experiences and mentoring that we

provided, and ultimately, you followed through to meet and exceed every expectation for learning that was set in front of you," Danilowicz told them.

"That is worthy of celebration."  
Livestreams of the full undergraduate and graduate ceremonies are available to view on radford.edu.

RUC Physician Assistant White Coat Ceremony  
On Thursday, Dec. 7, family and friends gathered at the Taubman Museum of Art in downtown Roanoke for the Physician Assistant (PA) White Coat Ceremony.

The event recognizes PA graduates with a presentation of a clinical lab coat, an emblem of their ascension to becoming healthcare professionals. Forty students received their coats during the event.

The ceremony also included recognition for several healthcare professionals and organizations that supported the students in the program, including Bobby Cockram Jr., D.M.Sc., PA-C '21, who was recognized as Alumnus of the Year; Eric Swisher, M.D., named the Preceptor of the Year; and Tri-Area Community Health, receiving the Partnership Award.

PA student Abigail Sigmon was named the Anne T. Dale Award for Student Excellence recipient for 2023, and Elizabeth Abel received the Clinical Excellence Award.

Additionally, four PA students were inducted into the Pi Alpha Honor Society – the national physician assistant honor society for the promotion and recognition of PA students and graduates.

Commencement events

At Radford's campus on Friday, Dec. 8, Hemphill Hall hosted the ROTC Winter Commissioning Ceremony. Cadet Colin Boll received his commission, earning the rank of second lieutenant. He took the oath of office and was pinned by his parents, Mark and Debbie Boll, and by his grandparents, Albert and Anne Boll. He received his first salute from Cadet Shelby Valade.

Colin Boll, who earned his Bachelor of Science in exercise, sport and health education with a minor in leadership and military science, held multiple leadership positions while at Radford.

Also on Friday, 47 students received their Master of Occupational Therapy pins at the Hurlburt Student Center Auditorium, and 88 graduates and undergraduates of the School of Nursing were pinned in Bondurant Auditorium.

Ten graduates were recognized at the Honors College Medallion Ceremony in the Douglas and Beatrice Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts later that day.

Five of those students were named Highlander Honors Scholars, the highest academic distinction

bestowed upon Radford's undergraduates for completing a 27-credit honors curriculum and for presenting their capstone project while maintaining a grade point average of 3.5 or greater.

This winter's Highlander Honors Scholars were Rebecca Allen (history and psychology), Grace Burke (communication sciences & disorders), Kristen Chick (allied health sciences), Cassandra Hash (biology) and Ashley Pandelides (allied health sciences).

Five more earned Highlander Honors Distinctions for completing a 15-credit honors curriculum alongside capstone projects and with a 3.5 GPA or higher.

The Highlander Honors Distinctions recipients were Rachel Bird (allied health sciences), Maegan Burnette (communication sciences & disorders), Jahmine Fowler (psychology), Grant McDonel (cybersecurity) and Jordan Rozell (allied health sciences).

Neil Harvey for Radford University



Keynote speaker Susan Carroll '96, president of Inova Loudon Hospital in Leesburg, Virginia, and the senior vice president of Inova Health Systems.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Families celebrate during the Radford University nurse pinning ceremony.

## RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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## Boost from page 1

nearly 6,000 patients through the provision of family medical, dental, substance use, and behavioral health services. Prior to the award, CHCNRV leadership had developed a 2024 growth plan, which includes an expansion of the Christiansburg Center. In the meantime, funds will be invested to allow

CHCNRV to grow the donation and further enhance investment in patient services.

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. CHCNRV has been recognized as performing in the top 10% nationally in terms of patient outcomes by The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). For more information about the Community Health Center's services and programs in Dublin, Christiansburg, Pearisburg, and Pulaski

County High School, visit our website at [www.chcnrv.org](http://www.chcnrv.org) or call 540-381-0820.

Learn more about Yield at [yieldgiving.com](http://yieldgiving.com).

*Community Health Center of the New River Valley*

## Holdaway from page 1

excited about the challenges and opportunities that are ahead of us as a community."

Mayor, David Horton says he thinks Holdaway's leadership abilities will serve him well in his new role.

"I'm proud of the job Chief

Holdaway has done in his time as interim and throughout his career with RCPD," said Horton. "He is an outstanding leader and is helping guide our department to be the very best utilizing best practices in law enforcement and public service.

Radford is safer and stronger

through his efforts and the future is bright for the RCPD."

Holdaway will begin his role on Dec. 16, 2023.

*City of Radford*

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-63.

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Syrian president, 6. Grand Caravan brand, 11. Immeasurably small, 14. Myriagram, 15. Yellow-fever mosquito, 16. Radioactivity unit, 18. Anklebone, 21. Adobe house, 23. Direct to a source, 25. Piper \_\_, actress, 26. Leuciscus leuciscus, 28. Moral excellences, 29. Describes distinct concepts, 31. Rubberized raincoat, 34. Inhabitants of the Earth, 35. Distress signal, 36. Destroyed by secret means, 39. Skin abrasions, 40. Caesar or tossed, 44. Supplied with a chapeaux, 45. Fictional elephant, 47. Forced open, 48. Pole (Scottish), 50. Browning of the skin, 51. Boy Scout merit emblem, 56. British thermal unit, 57. Decomposes naturally, 62. Freshet, 63. Lawn game, 7. Former CIA, 8. Didymium, 9. Gram, 10. Audio membranes, 11. 8th Jewish month, 12. Touchdown, 13. Madames, 14. Metric ton, 17. Fabric colorants, 19. Capital of Bashkortostan, 20. Extra dry wine, 21. An Indian dress, 22. Expenditure, 24. Ribbed or corded fabric, 25. Can top, 27. So. African Music Awards, 28. Weather directionals, 30. A scrap of cloth, 31. Gin & vermouth cocktails, 32. A way to lessen, 33. Contended with difficulties, 36. Egyptian beetle, 37. CNN's Turner, 38. A quick light pat, 39. Shipment, abbr., 41. Resin-like insect secretion, 42. Goat and camel hair fabric, 43. Superficially play at, 46. Network of veins or nerves, 49. Atomic #44, 51. Wager, 52. The time something has existed, 53. Physician's moniker, 54. Talk excessively, 55. Pre-Tokyo, 58. Out of print, 59. Ducktail hairstyle, 60. Carrier's invention, 61. Canadian province

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## OBITUARIES

## Dix, Donald

Donald Dix was a loving husband, Chad, Kayla, Cody and his wife father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was reunited in Heaven with the love of his life, Brenda, on Dec. 9, 2023.

Donald was a compassionate, gentle, and selfless man. He loved his family unconditionally and thought of them as his proudest accomplishment.

Although he was a quiet man, he was there at every moment for his family - big or small. His big heart and contagious smile will be missed dearly.

Donald is survived by his two daughters; Kim, Amy, and Amy's husband, Decota; six grandchildren



Rebekah, Austin, and Cheyene; great-grandchildren Anthony, Tessa, Noah, Emma, Lainey, and Walker; as well as his special furry companions Lettie, Frankie, and Blaze.

The family would like to give a special thanks to his nurse Missy.

Per his wishes, the family will have a private ceremony at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on his behalf.

## Calloway, Danny Lee

Danny Calloway entered into eternal rest peacefully on Dec. 9, 2023. Danny was born on July 28, 1954, in Radford. He was born to the late Clifton Norman Calloway and the late Doretha Hendricks Calloway. He was also preceded in death by his half-brother, James Arthur Taylor, and sisters, Golda Reed and Norma Calloway James.

Danny attended Dublin High School followed by attendance at New River Community College in Dublin, and later completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics at Virginia State College in Petersburg, Va. He also completed post baccalaureate work in Information Systems at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.

Danny served in various private and state employment capacities including at the Small Business Administration and at Virginia Commonwealth University from which he retired.

Danny gave his life to Christ in the 90's and continued to faithfully serve until God

called him home. Danny was a kind, loving and generous person who placed the needs of others above those of his own. His faith was evident in all that he did including serving as Sunday school teacher at First United Methodist Church in Hopewell, Va.

Danny is survived by his wife, Sun Kim, and her three children Donny, Daryl, and "Little Sun"; four grandchildren, Christian, Micah, Alexander, and Layla; brothers and sisters-in-law, Jesse and Ann Calloway of Chesterfield, Clifton (CT) Calloway of Richmond, and Roy Calloway of Christiansburg; and numerous other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. with Rev. Monte Brown officiating. Interment will follow in New River Cemetery.

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

See **Obituaries**, page 6

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

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

## BAPTIST

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

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

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

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

## CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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

## (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

## EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and [www.graceradford.org](http://www.graceradford.org).

## LUTHERAN

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

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

**THE CHOICE IS MINE**  
Read 1 Samuel 25:1 through 27:12

David, a fighting machine, was not squeamish about shedding blood. However, before he went into battle, his habit was to seek the Lord's direction. He forgot this wisdom when one fool's decision enraged him.

Nabal, a wealthy man, refused to feed David's men although they had protected Nabal's shepherds. His arrogant remark infuriated David. Blinded by anger, he bypassed the Lord and ordered his men to arm themselves for battle. The plan: Wipe out Nabal and his entire household.

Meanwhile back at the estate, a servant begged Abigail, Nabal's wife, to do something because David had been good to them. She immediately sent food to David and then followed to ask for mercy.

"May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands" (1Samuel 25:33).

When we are wronged, instead of plotting revenge, we could seek the Lord's help to set aside anger and leave vengeance to Him. We should also pray for the offender.

Thought for Today: I can focus on God's blessings or the offense. I can pray or scheme. The choice is mine.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 25:32-34

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)**

ford.org. 540-639-2671.

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

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

## PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. [l.christopher695@comcast.net](mailto: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. Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday Service 11:00a.m. Rev. Don Makin will be leading worship. Phone 540-639-2585, Email [pcofradford@gmail.com](mailto:pcofradford@gmail.com), Website [www.pcradford.org](http://www.pcradford.org). 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 Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00a.m. Child care is provided. [www.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://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.com](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc.com)

# The hidden gem of the south: Blacksburg's alternative music scene



**Dripping Candles taking a break in the studio lounge area after recording new songs for their upcoming album.**

**Elizabeth Gill**  
*Contributing writer*

BLACKSBURG — From themed house shows to eccentric venue performances, Virginia Tech students have built a thriving underground music scene in their small college town.

“When I first came to Virginia Tech, I didn’t even know there was a Blacksburg music scene,” said Adrian Shirazi, the guitarist for Crack In The Sidewalk. “You start talking to people who have the same music interests as you and realize there’s a whole community of people that love coming out to see live music. It’s a tight knit group of people.”

The Blacksburg alternative music scene connects a variety of people with musical interests spanning from rock to punk to metal. For a school that uses Metallica’s “Enter Sandman” as their football entrance and created a minor earthquake on a seismograph scale, it’s no wonder the students are so passionate about heavy music.

Despite Blacksburg being a small town with not much to do outside of Virginia Tech’s directly affiliated activities, the music scene has taken off and brought many students together, both fans and musicians alike. Nearly every week there is an event happening, whether it be an intimate house show, a hole-in-the-wall concert at the Milk Parlor, a lawn jamming session led by the WUVT student radio, a vodka-fueled gig at the Top of The Stairs nightclub or enjoying a cup of coffee to an acoustic set at the renowned Southpaw Café.

“Nirvana was a pipeline for me discovering music,” said Emma Marshal, the vocalist for Dripping Candles. “I believe that’s how it is for many other people in the scene. They hear an older band and they fall in love.”

Marshal lays back in her chair and rests her bulky Doc Martens on the stool in front of her. Her eyes pan the room, taking in the ambiance of the music studio. She takes a moment to pause and reminisce on her teenage years. “I grew up watching MTV Unplugged and a majority of the shows they will have candles lit around the stage that are just dripping everywhere,” Marshal said with a big grin on her face. “The aesthetic of the messy candle wax seemed so fitting because we all grew up inspired by those grunge bands that played on MTV. From that, we became ‘Dripping Candles.’”

Dripping Candles can be classified as one of Blacksburg’s heavier bands and has a sludgy, distorted sound. Marshal’s raspy layered vocals, Remington

Swisher-Davis’s thick echoing drums, Dylan “Bubbles” Shoemaker’s lowered guitar buzzing and Tanner Close’s dirty guitar complete the group to make the ultimate modern day grunge-influenced Southwestern Virginia band. The band attributes their rough-edged style to their Appalachian roots. Dripping Candles is to Blacksburg what Alice In Chains was to Seattle.

One of the greatest features of the Blacksburg music scene is how kind and supportive the people are. Like many underground music scenes, you may have to ask around to find out about shows initially but unlike other scenes, the people are accepting of newcomers. If you’re willing to put yourself out there in terms of discovery, there is a place for you in Blacksburg as both a musician and a fan.

“After graduating high school, one of the things I said to myself was ‘I want to join a band when I go to college,’” said Caroline Holomon, the bassist for Crack In The Sidewalk. “That was one of my hopes and dreams because it was just something I wanted to do since I was a kid. Everyone in the Blacksburg music scene was welcoming of me.”

With a fluffier rock sound, Crack In The Sidewalk has rapidly gained recognition within the Blacksburg community as alternative music continues to stay on top with 45% of adults listening to it in 2023.

“Each member in the band is extremely different,” said Holomon. “We do a good job of representing the people in our community because anyone who comes to our shows can see themselves in one of us. We like to think of ourselves as for the people, which I believe is why we have the fans that we do.”

The band’s versatile style coupled with their notorious character themed performances ensure each house show is packed full and nearly busting out the roof. Their recent themes include Wizard of Oz, Romans from the Roman Empire, and the Men In Black. “Our band is for people who just want to leave their dorm or house on a Monday night and forget about their responsibilities,” Holomon noted regarding their silly costume parties and upbeat rock music.

With the nearest major music venue over 200 miles away in North Carolina, students tend to get creative in their improvisation of concert venues. A more personal and affordable experience to college students at just five dollars is Blacksburg house shows. Birdhouse, Treehouse and Dawg house are a few of the common houses used for these shows.

On Friday, Dec. 1, hundreds of students poured into the Birdhouse to jam with their favorite local bands before finals week. Fueled by Redbull and Miller Lite, students seemingly were able to relax as they sang along to the lyrics of “Graduation” by Spilt Milkshakes. Sweaty mosh pits took place in

the center of someone’s townhouse with music blasting so loudly that you couldn’t even hear the creaking floorboards. Front and center of the imaginary stage is Dripping Candles to cheer on their buddies in Spilt Milkshakes. The Blacksburg alternative music scene is such a close community that seeing your classmates crowd surf over your head will become a regular occurrence. Everybody knows each other.

“We try to keep our shows very fun and casual,” said George Salcedo, the vocalist for Spilt Milkshakes. “At our last show, we took a shot with the crowd before the beginning of one of our songs.”

Salcedo takes pride in making sure his band’s presence is lighthearted. His playful tattoo of a duck with a guitar confirms this. “One of our most fun shows we ever played was a cat’s birthday party,” Salcedo recalled, which sent the rest of the band into loud laughter. “These girls messaged us on Instagram about playing a gig for their cat’s birthday and we agreed to do it because it was funny in an unusual way. Next thing you know, we were playing for a whole crowd of college students to celebrate someone’s pet’s birthday.”

Spilt Milkshakes, a self-proclaimed “emo pop-punk” band, consists of guitarist Umar Tariq, bassist Levi Keilholtz, drummer John Kizer and singer Salcedo. Spilt Milkshakes can be best described as vibrant and quirky in their performances. Each member of the band plays in a way that exuberates energy on different level playing fields yet piecing together their own styles to create one large collective masterpiece.

Tariq’s introspective vibe mixed with his outward personality make the crowd gasp in awe as they try to figure out what’s going on in his head. With each count, he bends his knees, kicks up his feet and headbangs to the tune of the shredding of his own guitar with pure determination. He displays himself with such confidence while seemingly looking off into the distance of the crowd, as if caught in his own thoughts.

Keilholtz vividly portrays her playful personality within the first moment of taking the stage. Ironically, she carries the rhythm for the cover of Joyce Manor’s “Constant Headache,” giving herself a constant smile rather than a headache. She looks down at the four strings on her bass guitar, gently plucking while giggling with the crowd. She seems happy to just be there, not knowing that she is making history within the Blacksburg music scene.

Kizer is perhaps the most expressive of the bunch. When he first sits down at his drum kit and he seems to be the typical angry drummer. However, once his drumsticks smash into those cymbals, a series of facial expressions make wave across his face. In mere seconds, he goes from smiling to frowning to surprised. These faces closely resemble Melpomene and Thalia’s comedy and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELIZABETH GILL

**Spilt Milkshakes playing the closing set for the Dec. 1 show at the Birdhouse.**

tragedy theatrical masks. Watching him play is quite intriguing, almost like attending a Broadway show. In between songs, Kizer breaks character to present his dark humor through his very own “John’s fun facts” while his bandmates tune their guitars.

Salcedo’s singing is very personable. No matter if you’re separated by a platform stage or just a simple cord plugged into the kitchen counter, his purposeful eye contact makes the audience feel exposed. The way he exerts himself in your face enough to make sure you pay attention to his emotional lyrics, which resembles a best friend

explaining to you their juicy gossip. His voice will take you on a journey through the story of life.

“Even when we’re not playing shows, we’re still active participants and we’ll go cheer on the other bands any chance we get,” said Holomon when remarking on her own band’s relevance to the scene.

Each person in this community is so supportive of the music around them. When a person is crowd surfing, it is general knowledge to hold them up. Figuratively speaking, that’s what the people within the Blacksburg music scene

do for each other. The students at Virginia Tech acknowledge how they can help others and choose to share their love for heavy music, rather than gatekeeping it from outsiders. The community continues to rapidly grow as more students discover their first dingy bar show through a classmate or overhearing loud bass and whiny vocals while walking downtown. Calling Blacksburg’s alternative music scene a hidden gem would be an understatement but there is no other word to capture the charm this small college town holds.



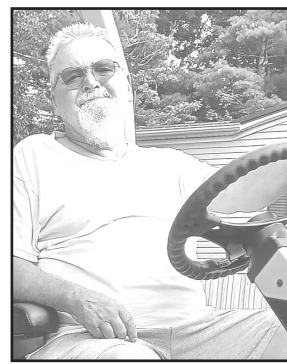
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELIZABETH GILL

**Crack In The Sidewalk members Adrian Shirazi and Caroline Holomon posing for a silly photo.**

## Obituaries from page 5

### Duncan, Kelsey Woodson

Kelsey Woodson Duncan, 65, wife, Jane Banes Duncan; sons of Pulaski, passed away Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. He was a straightforward man who had a deep love for music. Kelsey was especially known for his precision Banjo picking, teaching many others including his son. He loved watching wildlife from his window, and most importantly, his family. Kelsey would give you the shirt off his back, but if he didn’t like you, you knew it. His family will miss him, his big personality, and sunbathing with him on the porch. Kelsey was preceded in death by his parents, Grover Woodson and Mozelle East Duncan; his sister, Cathy Darlene Duncan Lafferty; and his brother-in-law, John Cox.



Survivors include his loving

brother-in-law, Sandra Duncan Cox and Hallie Pifer-Burton (Thomas “Jr.”); mother-in-law, Betty Banes; canine companions, Max and Charlie; and many other relatives and friends. Per his request, no services will be held at this time.

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

### Marshall, Eunice Mae

Mrs. Eunice Mae Marshall, 86, Marshall and wife Lisa Marshall. She of Radford, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023.

Eunice was born Oct. 19, 1937, to the late Amos Alexander O’Dell and Minnie Annie O’Dell in Hiwassee, Va. Eunice was a faithful and godly wife, mother, and grandmother who most cherished the special times spent with her beloved family. She loved to walk in her neighborhood and was passionate about visiting and ministering to people. Over the years Eunice has been a faithful church member serving as Awana leader, Deacon’s wife, Sunday School teacher, and choir member. At the time of her death, Eunice attended Gethsemane Baptist Church where she enjoyed worshipping weekly with her family in Christ.



Along with her parents, Eunice was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Robert Daniel Marshall; her brother, Otis Alexander O’Dell and wife Lois O’Dell; her brother, Junior Ray O’Dell (her twin); and her sister, Annie Zelma Jonas.

She is survived by her sister Francis Orin Thompson; her brother, Elbert Norris O’Dell; her two daughters, Debby Marshall Hodges and husband Dean Hodges, and Penny Renee Marshall; and her son, Daniel Keith

Marshall and wife Lisa Marshall. She is also survived by her four grandchildren, Hunter Cole Marshall and wife Molly Marshall, Madeline Marshall Denny and husband William Denny, Susanna Marshall Thompson and husband Andrew Thompson, and Justice Isaac Marshall; and her four great-grandchildren, Charlotte Marshall, Evelyn Thompson, Caroline Marshall, and Walker Marshall.

The family would like to express gratitude to those who helped with Eunice’s care, including Medi Home Health and Hospice, especially Zeb, Kimberly, and Amy whose compassionate and loving attention to her during this difficult time will not be forgotten.

The family received friends Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, at Mullins Funeral Home, 120 W. Main Street, Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Brent Strouf officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Gideon’s International, Memorial Bibles, PO Box 923, Radford, VA 24143.

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

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A	S	S	A	D	D	O	D	G	E
I	N	F	I	N	I	T	E	S	I
M	Y	G	A	E	D	E	S	R	A
T	A	L	U	S	S	O	D	D	I
R	E	F	E	R	L	A	U	R	I
D	A	C	E	S	V	I	R	T	U
P	A	R	A	D	I	G	S	M	S
M	A	C	M	A	N	S	O	S	
S	C	A	B	O	T	A	G	E	
S	C	R	A	P	E	S	A	L	A
H	A	T	T	E	D	B	A	B	A
P	R	I	E	D	C	A	B	E	R
T	A	N	B	A	D	G	E	B	T
B	I	O	D	E	G	R	A	D	A
S	P	A	T	E	B	O	C	C	E

# RADFORD SPORTS

## Two sports, two degrees, and a whole lot of opportunity for Beck

In just five years at Virginia Tech, Cole Beck, a dual Division I athlete, engineer, and soon-to-be Master of Science graduate, will have accomplished more than many people will in their lifetime.

Dubbed the fastest football player in the world, he also holds the Virginia Tech track record for 100 meters in the outdoor season sprint, won first place in the 200-meter and 4x100-meter races, and was named Atlantic Coastal Conference Track MVP for both the indoor and outdoor seasons, all of which happened in the past year. On the gridiron, he set a career-long 40-yard kickoff return record and is capping off 2023 with his team going to the Military Bowl in Annapolis, Maryland.

In addition to athletics, Beck is doing double the work in the classroom as he prepares to graduate this December with a master's degree in building construction science and management. He is building upon the skills he learned while completing his bachelor's degree at Virginia Tech in apparel, housing, and resource management in 2022.

It's a hard list of accomplishments to keep up with, much less live out. Beck attributes his ability to balance and excel with his busy schedule by staying disciplined.

"I grew up as an athlete who has had trials, failures, and successes to learn and grow from which ultimately has helped in the academic world," said Beck of his journey from Blacksburg High School to Virginia Tech.

Beck calls football his first love, but in middle school, he turned to track to stay in better shape for his favorite sport.

On his first day of middle school track practice, Beck beat the fastest high school student in a 100-meter race. He didn't stop there and went on to win numerous state meets that earned him the 2018 All-Timesland Boys Athlete of the Year. His confidence continued to grow in both football and track, and he graduated from Blacksburg High School in 2018 with offers from multiple universities to play football.

In the end, he decided to continue his career just up the road at Virginia Tech. Here, his successes have continued as he has held multiple positions on the football team as well as set track records, impressively excelling at both sports.

"I feel very rewarded in what I do. I love to stay busy, and I love to accomplish what I'm doing in the academic world and on the football and track field," Beck said.

While a Hokie, he has tied the

university's 60-meter and 200-meter indoor record. Assistant head coach Tim Vaught said Beck's positive attitude and Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) spirit has not only made him, but also his teammates, a better athlete.

"Cole knew the work was going to be hard, but he knew the rewards were going to be greater than any pain he was going through at practice," said Vaught. "To me, it was like having an extra coach with Cole sometimes leading warm-ups at practice."

Leadership and service are threaded throughout Beck's college career, especially football. His special teams coach, Stu Holt, said Beck comes ready to work every day with a detailed approach, but his spirit to step up and play special teams this season is what strikes him the most.

"There's no question in my mind that he is capable of playing at the highest level of professional football when the time is right for him," said Holt.

In the classroom, Beck's motivation has been simple: create meaningful change for those who need it. With an undergraduate degree in property management under his belt and more time left to play football, Beck was faced with a choice: Get another undergraduate degree in a secondary area of study or go for a master's degree.

"I was unsure of what path I wanted to take. When I looked at the big scheme of what I want to do, it was ultimately to help people," Beck said.

Joe Gabbard, a family friend and Virginia Tech professor, introduced Beck to Philip Agee, a building construction professor whose work includes affordable housing. Agee introduced Beck to the Myers-Lawson School of Construction and its master's program in 2022. The educational opportunity was a winning combination of hands-on learning and advanced technologies with a focus on the area Beck wants to pursue in the future.

With that, the pieces fit into place for Beck and he focused on utilizing the knowledge from his prior degree and his goal to give back. Adding even more to his plate, Beck set forth toward a master's degree that would align with his long-term career goals post-graduation. But it was a transition that took some time to get adjusted to.

"The first semester of my master's degree was like a shockwave. Over this last year, I feel like I've become more mature and determined to achieve, learn, and grow in the industry," said Beck. "It's



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

**In addition to setting records in football and track, Cole Beck now has doubles degrees at Virginia Tech.**

difficult, and coming from my undergrad to my master's, I had to almost relearn."

With that determination, Beck has spent hours focusing on the advanced technologies engineers utilize across construction. He now dedicates hours of his schedule to learning the ins and outs of software such as Revit, a staple on job sites. Despite the long hours of learning, he calls the end product "satisfying" and something that will help him further his career outside of athletics.

"I've always wanted to be more than just an athlete. I wanted to further my education. So when I'm ready to start my career, I have something I really want to do," said Beck.

Along with learning the tools of the trade, Beck also has taken a deep dive into the world of affordable housing. Learning under Andrew McCoy, they have walked through the process of conceptualization to reality to create more housing opportunities for communities. Alongside the push for change, McCoy has shown Beck how to weave in innovative technologies to solve some of the industry's most complex issues.

"The housing industry has experienced severe shortages in labor, supply disruptions, record-level cost increases, and a resulting lack of affordable options for large parts of our population, especially those in need," said McCoy. "In class, Cole has been instrumental in considering new ways our industry can solve these complicated problems and provide needed housing options for our communities."

Beck's spirit of giving back is more than just a mission. This past semester, he used his coursework to create an immediate opportunity to make a difference. As part of a construction leadership course, he and a team of graduate students organized a veterans donation drive. The group, with support from the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities, encouraged people to give back ahead of the holidays. It's a project that hits close to home for him and many of his peers with families who have served in the military.

Backed by a service mentality, Beck is already helping the next generation of athletes as a mentor and example of what is possible with a dedication to greatness.

"The hard work that he puts into achieving his goals will only open doors for him long after he graduates from Virginia Tech," said Vaught.

As Beck prepares to graduate, his athletic successes are far from over. Later this month, he will cheer on his Virginia Tech football teammates at the Military Bowl against Tulane. With high hopes for his next steps, Beck has had two goals written down for over a year: participate in the NFL Combine and compete in Olympic trials in June 2024. But first, he will get to add another degree to his roster, this time, sporting an orange hardhat as he builds the life he has worked so hard to have.

The Military Bowl on Dec. 27 will kick off at 2 p.m. on ESPN.

*Ashley Williamson for Virginia Tech*

## Hokies host second annual Shoes 4 Hope event



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

**Over 25 families participated in a special pediatric cancer awareness initiative Wednesday with the Virginia Tech basketball teams.**

In conjunction with Carilion Children's to fight pediatric cancer, Virginia Tech basketball held the second annual Shoes 4 Hope event on Wednesday morning inside the Hahn Hurst Basketball Practice Center.

The event included players and coaches from both the men's and women's programs partnering with Carilion Pediatric Hematology-Oncology patients, with the effort centered around raising awareness for pediatric cancer.

"Anytime you get to see kids engaged in things that just bring smiles to their face, it's an incredible opportunity," Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Carilion Clinic Don Halliwill said. "Then when you get to see their parents sitting beside them watching them, especially given what some of those children have been through and are still going through with their parents alongside them, it really brings home the reason that Carilion Clinic exists and the benefit that a partnership between Carilion Clinic and Virginia Tech and Learfield can bring to our communities."

More than 25 participating children and teens were able to paint custom shoes for the coaches and basketball staff to wear later this season, with the women set to do so on Jan. 7 against NC State and the men slated to lace them up on Jan. 13 against Miami.

"This is what it's all about," Tech women's basketball head coach Kenny Brooks said. "I know we're here to win basketball games, but you're also here to help build character. Anytime [our young ladies] can go and spread joy and cheer through their celebrity, they feel like it's a privilege."

"For them, it's not a burden, they come out here with big smiles on their faces, and we're able to give back to the community. It makes me feel good as a coach because you know you're doing things the right way. You're teaching young people how to go out and make a difference in the world."

Though the event certainly is aimed at making a difference in each patients'

**See Shoes 4 Hope, page 8**



PHOTO COURTESY OF BHS

**Madison Stewart of Blacksburg High School will continue her lacrosse playing career at Emory and Henry after graduation this year.**

## Stewart to play lacrosse at Emory & Henry

Madison Stewart Lacrosse. Stewart has served in a leadership position on every team, being a captain for Blacksburg Lacrosse since her Junior year and was first team all-district her sophomore year as well as an All-Region honorable mention both her sophomore and junior year. She has served the community by supporting future lacrosse players in the New River Valley by coaching at multiple NRVC Rattlers Lacrosse Camps and intends to study Health Science at Emory and Henry.

Reese Bradbury, a senior cross country and track athlete, signed her national letter of intent

to continue her academic and athletic career at High Point University. She has run competitively for five years, the last three at Blacksburg High School. Bradbury's all state performances led her team to a Class 4 state title in cross country and runner up finish in indoor track in the 2022-2023 school year.

During her time at Blacksburg, she has achieved seven individual All-State performances in addition to three All-State finishes, including one state championship. Bradbury has been around running her entire life and cannot wait to

See Stewart, page 8

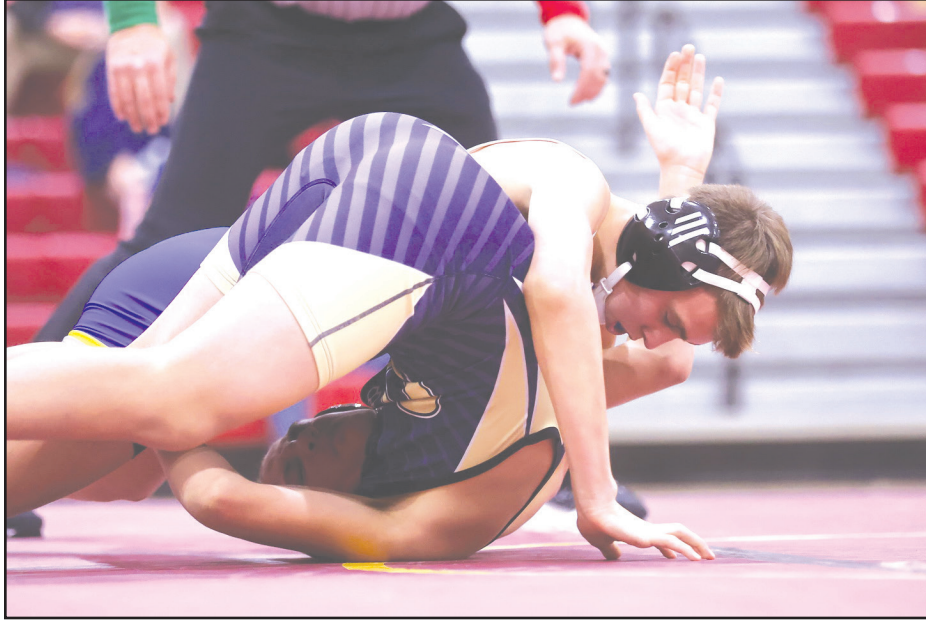
# Blacksburg, Christiansburg face off in wrestling



Christiansburg's Brady Hand takes down Blacksburg's Jake Henry on the way to a win by fall in the 138-lb class at a Wednesday night quad meet hosted by Pulaski County.



Christiansburg's Evan Mefford defeated Blacksburg's Brady Ankrum in the 144-lb class.



At 150 lbs, Blacksburg's Patrick Dickans works to eventually pin Christiansburg's Marcus Ojeda.



Blacksburg's Tharin Svetanant takes down Christiansburg's Avi Gandhi on the way to a pinfall win at 126 pounds.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Blacksburg boys fall to Patrick Henry



Blacksburg's Xavier Bland scores two of his 11 points on a layup against Patrick Henry in a Tuesday night game. Blacksburg is now 4-3 on the season.



Blacksburg junior guard Paul Distler fires a 3-point shot against Patrick Henry. Distler scored 19 points to lead the Bruins, but the team would fall 63-81 in the Tuesday night game.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Stewart from page 7

continue to run in college. At High Point, she plans to study psychology to become a sports psychologist.

Kallan Malabad, a senior soccer player, signed her national letter of intent to continue her academic and athletic career at Saint Michael's College. Malabad has been on the varsity soccer team since 9th grade. She helped the Bruins win the region championship in 2021 and 2022 as well as the district championship in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Malabad also helped the team get to the state semifinals her Freshman year and the state quarterfinals her sophomore and junior year.

She received all district honorable mention in 2022 and all district 1st team in 2023, is also captain of her club soccer team, Virginia United FC, and was selected First team all ECNL RL Virginia in 2023. In addition, Kallan is a three-year letter recipient in Track. Malabad plans to study Digital Media & Communications at Saint Michael's

College.

Katey Mathena signed a National Letter of Intent to continue her academic and athletic career as an Eagle at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee. She has been a starter on the varsity softball team since ninth grade. Her primary position is catching but she also plays middle infield and outfield. Mathena helped the Bruins make it to the Region Semi-finals in her sophomore and junior years. She also helped the Bruins clinch the District Championship in her junior year and made First-Team All-District in both her sophomore and junior years and Second-Team All-Region her sophomore year. She has played softball for 12 years and is a member of the Virginia Scrappers travel softball organization. Mathena is looking forward to studying Graphic Design with a Marketing minor at Carson-Newman University while having the opportunity to continue playing the sport she loves.

Lindsey Polan is headed to the

University of Virginia's College at Wise. She has been on Blacksburg's Varsity team for three years, helping them win the District Championship in 2023, where she hit a homerun in each of the three playoff games.

She also helped them advance to Region Quarterfinals in 2022, and 2023 and has played softball since 2019. When her schedule allows, Polan helps coach a 10u Five Star Mafia team because she enjoys giving back to the younger generation. She plays for Virginia Phoenix 18u- Wood. Lindsey plans to study Elementary Education at UVA Wise.

Lorelei Spradlin is off to Carson Newman University. She has been on Blacksburg's Varsity team for four years, helping them win the District Championship in 2023, and helping them advance to Region Quarterfinals in 2022, and 2023. She received first-team all-district pitcher and second-team all-region pitcher in her sophomore and

junior years.

Spradlin has been on the diamond for as long as she can remember and has played travel softball for eight years and currently enjoys her time with the Virginia Scrappers Showcase team. Spradlin plans to study Exercise Science at Carson Newman University.

Hayli Williams, a senior lacrosse player, will sign her national letter of intent to continue her academic and athletic career at Longwood University. She is a 3-year letter winner in Girls Lacrosse and plays attack and takes the draw.

Williams was team captain and MVP in 2023 and led the Bruins in scoring with 100 career goals over two seasons, earning First Team All-Region honors as a sophomore and junior. She has been playing lacrosse for 13 years and has been a part of the Valley Select travel team and plans to study Kinesiology at Longwood.

Staff report

## Shoes 4 Hope from page 7

lives, it's designed to resonate with the Tech student-athletes that participated, too, something that resonated with men's basketball standout guard Hunter Cattoor.

"It's awesome to take the time away from basketball and enjoy time with [these kids]," Cattoor said. "It means a lot to them, but I think it means

more to us. Just to kind of sit down with them, have a laugh, joke around and paint some shoes. I was joking around, I can't remember the last time I colored something or painted something, probably since last year when I did this.

"So, it's a super cool experience to kind of put me back as being a kid and kind of

just experience this with them. ... You make a friend every single time."

The event also is part of the NCAA's ongoing "Coaches vs. Cancer" initiative, where collegiate basketball coaches and staff nationwide wear sneakers at designated games to raise awareness for the cause.

Each pair of shoes will be

up for auction following the conclusion of both contests. To help support the cause, you may donate today. An auction link to bid on the specially designed shoes will be available as we get closer to the designated basketball games.

"[This] is why our 14,000 employees do what they do every day," Halliwill said.

"[We're] trying to bring smiles or return smiles to people's faces. There are a lot of times that there are also tears and we're there for that, too, but when you can do things that are contributing to the smiles, that makes it all worth it."

Virginia Tech Athletics