



# News Journal

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## Radford Police make burglary arrest in College Park

RADFORD – A man is in custody after allegedly breaking into a residence and vehicles in the College Park neighborhood in Radford.

According to the Radford City Police Department, officers were dispatched on Thursday, Feb. 8 to the 100 block of Buckeye Lane, located in the College Park neighborhood, for a report of breaking and entering into a residence, along with multiple car break-ins.

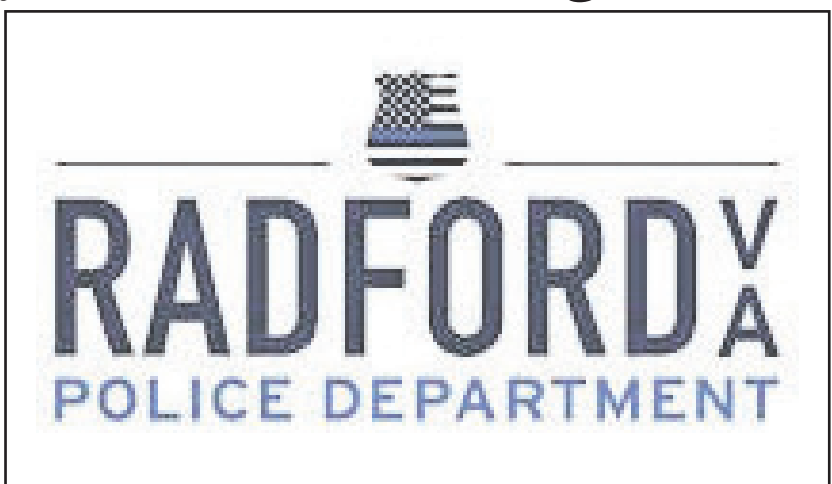
The police department “was able to develop, locate and arrest the suspect on February 9, 2024, without incident,” according to RCPD.

Richard Allen Cherry, 23, of Goodview, Va. was arrested on one count of breaking

and entering (18.2-89) and is currently held at New River Valley Regional Jail with no bond.

“Additional charges are pending as detectives complete their investigation,” the department statement reads. “The Radford City Police Department has recovered several pieces of unaccounted property that was found with the confirmed stolen property. RCPD is requesting anyone who has been the victim of a suspected car break-in or residential burglary in the College Park neighborhood or surrounding area to contact Sergeant Detective Cox at (540) 267-3711.”

Staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RCPD



PHOTO BY LORI GRAHAM

Volunteers (left to right) Rozetta Reed-Steele, Karen Anders, and Sarah Carter with their valentine cards for veterans.

## Volunteer Montgomery honors veterans with valentines

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

Volunteers from Montgomery County and the City of Radford gathered on Feb. 9 to make valentines for local veteran patients in a Volunteer Montgomery event.

“Every year, members of Volunteer Montgomery participate in the National Salute to Veteran Patients by crafting valentines for the VA Medical Center and Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem,” Mandy Hayes, Volunteer Montgomery Coordinator said. “This year, 19 volunteers of all ages gathered at our office on Friday, Feb. 9 and made 490 valentines for veterans.”

The valentine-making volunteers joined together at the Montgomery County office at 210 South Pepper Street, Suite D, in Christiansburg from 10-12 p.m. According to the Director of Human Services, the event has been going on for over 10 years and welcomes

volunteers of all ages.

“This worked out great as schools were out for a teacher workday, so many of our younger volunteers were able to participate as well. If folks weren’t able to make it out to craft day but wanted to participate, we welcomed them to make the valentines independently and drop them off at our office prior to the ninth,” Strickler said.

After the almost 500 valentines were completed, volunteer Taska Bailey then delivered the cards to the two locations in Salem for staff to share with the veteran patients at the facilities.

“We would like to thank Volunteer Montgomery Volunteer Taska Bailey for delivering the cards this year,” Hayes said.

See Veterans, page 2

## Bell collection tells local woman’s life story spanning almost a century

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY-In Mrs. Rubye Scott’s dining room stands a cabinet full of almost 300 bells, each a gift to her as tokens of love and appreciation.

Each special trinket also represents a story of how Scott became such a meaningful part of their lives.

Anyone meeting Mrs. Rubye Scott would never guess her age of 95 years. She drives herself to town and does whatever she sets her mind to do. Her kind eyes and friendly smile invoke a sense of already knowing her, even though you’ve only met for the first time. It must be the natural teacher in her, as she lovingly speaks of the many students she taught at Blacksburg High School. Yet, there’s something else unique about this lady that draws you into her gentle spirit and soft voice as she tells the story of her bell collection.

Born in Grundy, Va., as one of seven children, Scott said she was always too young or too small for everything from the very beginning. She was a premature baby and the oldest of her sisters. Grundy is a very rural, mountainous area in southwest Virginia, and her father worked at the nearby coal mine and was also a farmer. Life was hard and people had to eek out a living the best they could.

One of her prized bells, and one of the oldest, is a cowbell that once hung from the neck of her family’s Jersey cow. In her Grundy community, Scott said, everyone had a cowbell on their milk cow when they would turn them out to graze together.

“When it was 5 o’ clock, it was milking time, you’d go find your cow and bring it home and milk the cow,” Scott said. “You found your cow by the ring; we knew the ring so we could find our cow.”

Scott was fortunate to have parents who always wanted the best education they could get for their children.

See Bells, page 8

## Online bachelor's and master's programs win U.S. News accolades

Radford University’s online programs for undergraduate and graduate students continue to garner recognition from U.S. News & World Report.

The prestigious media company, known for its influential rankings of America’s best colleges and universities, included Radford in its listing of Best Online MBA Programs, Best Online Bachelor’s Degree programs and Best Online Master of Education programs.

U.S. News & World Report released its 2024 Best Online Program Rankings on Feb. 7.

“We are pleased to see that Radford University is recognized once again among national institutions for its affordable, flexible and accessible online degree programs,” said Radford University President Bret Danilowicz. “Many success stories have come from our online bachelor’s degree programs, which have consistently provided non-traditional students with opportunities to enhance their career trajectories. We are proud to see the national recognition of our College of Education and Human Development. Radford’s commitment to offering innovative master’s degree pathways for teachers elevates the experience of

Virginia’s K-12 students and strengthens our reputation as a premier institution for educators in the commonwealth. Once again, the Davis College of Business and Economics and its outstanding faculty and programs have earned a well-deserved national ranking. Prospective students can trust that a Radford online MBA, backed by globally recognized accreditation credentials, will prepare them to excel as leaders.”

In the Best Online MBA Programs, Radford tied for No. 129, and in the Best Online Bachelor’s Degree programs category, the university placed in the No. 262-339 slot, a jump ahead from a year ago when the university landed in the No. 272-359 range. Overall, Radford ranked in a tie for No. 201 in the Best Online Master of Education programs, up from 227 in 2023.

To compile the overall rankings for the Best Online Bachelor’s Degree programs, U.S. News examined each college and university’s engagement, services and technologies, faculty credentials, training and peer assessment. U.S. News used those same categories, plus student excellence, to determine the Best Online Master of Education programs.

“U.S. News selects factors, known as ranking indicators, to assess each program,” in the categories outlined above, the media company explained when announcing the rankings. “A program’s score for each ranking indicator is calculated using data that the program reported to U.S. News in a statistical survey and a peer assessment survey.”

The 2024 complete rankings are available at <https://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/rankings>

Radford’s flexible and convenient online programs are built to help students achieve their higher education goals. The university offers more than 30 programs for learners looking to advance academically and professionally.

To learn more about the U.S. News & World Report rankings and methodologies, visit <https://www.usnews.com/education/articles/rankings-methodologies>

A list of Radford’s undergraduate online programs can be found at <https://www.radford.edu/content/online-programs/home/undergraduate-online-programs.html>.

Chad Osborne for Radford University



Rubye Scott stands alongside her cabinet containing her collection of almost 300 bells; special gifts collected since her childhood beginning in the late 1920s.



PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM

Scott’s sister Lovis gifted her this bell after returning from a trip to England; Scott has bells from eight different countries.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Thursday, Feb. 15:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Will Reed will speak on "Animals of the War Between the States". If Montgomery and/or Floyd County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Saturday, Feb. 17:

### Community Garden planning session

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1 – 3 p.m. First meeting for people interested in a community garden in the Shawsville/ Ellison area.

## Sunday, Feb. 18:

### Quaker Open House

What is a Quaker? The Blacksburg Friends Meeting (Quakers) welcome all to find out at our Open House, 9:45 - 11 a.m. Join us at our Meeting house at 404 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, for a tour and question/answer period at 9:45 a.m., short open worship (with activities for children) at 10 a.m. and fellowship. Children are welcome with accompanying adult. Our underlying principles revolve around the belief that there is that of God in everyone. This leads us to promote peace, simplicity, equality, integrity, community and stewardship. For more information about the Blacksburg Friends Meeting and the event, please visit [www.blacksburgfriends.org](http://www.blacksburgfriends.org).

## Sunday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 25:

### Black History Month speakers

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg, will observe Black History Month each Sunday in February starting at 11 a.m. during church services. The theme "Community - Bringing Hope to a Weary World" will be shared by guest speakers: Feb. 18, 2024- Dr. Frederick Douglass Dixon; Feb. 25, 2024- Ms.

Demiah Smith. Asbury UMC regular services are each Sunday at 11 a.m. Rev. Lance Presley, Pastor. Please join us! For additional information, please call 540-382-0743.

## Monday, Feb. 19:

### The Dinos are coming!

Looking for a fun, family-friendly activity to enjoy together? Join us 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center for Dino Squad! Explore fossils, cast replicas and museum models of dinosaurs during this interactive, educational program. \$3/child, \$2/additional child. Adults free when accompanying a child. Register in advance online, or in-person at the door. Keyword search "Dino Squad", activity number: 201014. For more information, call 540.443.1100.

## Saturday, February 24:

### Soul food tasting event

Celebrate Black History Month and take a step back in time at the 7th annual Soul Food Sampling at historic St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall (SLOFH), where generations met to enjoy delicious food, music, and fellowship. In this spirit, you will receive generous portions of traditional soul foods at dinner table settings, learn about the history of soul food, and enjoy discussions with former New Town residents. There are three time slots for the event, each capped at 18 people: 12 – 1:45 p.m., 2 – 3:45 p.m., and 4 – 5:45 p.m. Tickets \$37 per person and available at the SLOFH Soul Food Sampling Page.

## Monday, Feb. 26:

### Radford City Council meeting

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

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

## Tuesday, Feb. 27:

### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

### Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

## On-going:

### 2024 Blacksburg Citizens Institute

Do you want to learn more about the Town of Blacksburg? Are you a new resident, retiree, or just someone who wants to get involved in the community? Join us for the 2024 Citizens Institute to meet town staff and to learn about the functions of your local government. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from April – June 6- 8 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and must be residents of the Town of Blacksburg. Space is filling up fast! To register and to learn more, contact the Community Relations Office at [cro@blacksburg.gov](mailto:cro@blacksburg.gov) or call 540-443-1090.

### 2024 business license reminder

Town of Blacksburg business license renewal forms for 2024 are due by Friday, March 1, 2024. Businesses are assessed an annual license tax based on prior year's annual gross receipts. Renewals not filed and paid by March 1, 2024, are subject to a 10% penalty and interest at a rate of 10% per annum. Renewal packets were mailed Jan. 2, 2024. If you have not received the packet, email [businesslicensigroup@blacksburg.gov](mailto:businesslicensigroup@blacksburg.gov) or call 540.961.1108.

### Call for Coaches: 2024 spring season

Blacksburg Parks and Recreation is seeking coaches for the following sports during the 2024 spring season (March – July): Boys Majors baseball, ages 11-12; Boys Minors baseball, ages 9-10; Girls softball (No majors), ages 9-12; Girls coach pitch softball, ages 7-8; Coach Pitch baseball, ages 7-8. If interested, please contact Marty Gordon at 540-443-1105 or [mgordon@blacksburg.gov](mailto:mgordon@blacksburg.gov).

## Veterans

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Cards are made by volunteers with materials provided by the Volunteer Montgomery group.



PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM

Special messages on the inside of the cards hope to brighten a veteran's day.

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF PETITIONS BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY AND APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR DETERMINING THE TREATMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CUSTOMERS' RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES FOR PURPOSES OF EACH UTILITY'S RPS PROGRAM COMPLIANCE CASE NO. PUR-2024-00010

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA"), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, *inter alia*, established a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard ("RPS") program ("RPS Program") in § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), which requires Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion") and Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") to procure and retire renewable energy certificates ("RECs") for an increasing percentage of the utility's total electric energy sold in the previous calendar year. The VCEA directed that all costs related to compliance with the mandatory RPS Program, including costs related to the retirement of RECs, shall be recovered from all retail customers as a non-bypassable charge, regardless of generation supplier, with certain limited exceptions.

Additionally, Code § 56-585.5 D requires Dominion and APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity ("RPS Filing"). In APCo's 2023 RPS Filing, two proposals were presented relating to the proper calculation of total electric energy for the prior compliance year. The first proposal was to count the RECs from Rider WWS and Rider REC towards APCo's RPS Program compliance, and the second proposal was to remove the 100 percent renewable customers' load from the calculation of "total electric energy," thereby reducing the number of RECs required for RPS compliance. In its Final Order in that proceeding, the Commission found that the issue warranted additional consideration and directed APCo and Dominion to make a filing addressing these issues and presenting specific proposals for approval, including any proposed mechanism for netting the benefits of such RECs. Specifically, the Commission determined:

On or before January 16, 2024, APCo and Dominion shall make a filing, either jointly or separately, containing the proposed treatment of RECs associated with (i) customers taking service under each [utility's] voluntary renewable tariffs ["Renewable Utility Customers"] and (ii) shopping customers purchasing 100 percent renewable energy, for purposes of RPS Program compliance ["Renewable Shopping Customers"]. Such filing shall include any associated proposal for netting the benefits of such RECs, including applicable tariff language.

On January 16, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00009, APCo submitted its petition ("APCo Petition"), which stated that the Commission should exclude the load associated with the Renewable Utility Customers and Renewable Shopping Customers from the calculation of APCo's annual RPS requirement, thereby allowing them to bypass VCEA compliance costs, if the Commission finds that approach to be permissible under current law. APCo asserts that using RECs to meet the utility's RPS requirement that have either been dedicated to one of its voluntary renewable energy riders or have been purchased by Renewable Shopping Customers is an impermissible double-counting of the RECs. Further, APCo claims that participants in voluntary renewable energy programs would effectively subsidize non-participants to meet the utility's RPS compliance requirement.

Also on January 16, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00010, Dominion submitted its petition ("Dominion Petition") (collectively with the APCo Petition, "Petitions") requesting that the Commission reconsider its decision in Case No. PUR-2020-00164, in which the Commission held that RPS Program compliance requires recognition of RPS eligible renewable sales from competitive service providers ("CSPs"). Dominion requests that the Commission instead find that the RECs of Renewable Shopping Customers cannot be used by the utility for its RPS Program compliance. Dominion further asserts that, if the Commission determines that Renewable Shopping Customer RECs may be used for a utility's RPS Program compliance, their load should be deducted from the utility's calculation of "total electric energy" and they should be excluded from paying Rider RPS. Dominion further states that if the RECs of Renewable Shopping Customers can be used for compliance, the RECs of other similarly-situated customers, specifically Renewable Utility Customers, should also be used to reduce the utility's compliance obligations.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petitions and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, consolidated the two Petitions into one case, Case No. PUR-2024-00010, and scheduled public hearings on the Petitions. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petitions shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on July 31, 2024. On or before July 24, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov); or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 31, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petitions from the Petitioners, any respondents, and the Commission Staff ("Staff").

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Dominion Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the utility: Elaine S. Ryan, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [eryan@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:eryan@mcguirewoods.com). An electronic copy of the APCo Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the utility: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, Three James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [njcoates@aep.com](mailto:njcoates@aep.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Petitions from the Commission's website: [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

On or before July 24, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Petitions by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

On or before March 28, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at [sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Petitioners. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

On or before June 5, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Petitioners, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Petitions, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).



# OBITUARIES

## Akers, Earlene Rose Dingus

Earlene Rose Dingus Akers, 68, of Riner, passed away Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Earl Lee and Mary Mullins Dingus; and a brother, Dennis Lee Dingus.

Survivors include her husband, Eddie Akers; children, Jonathan E. Akers (Christina), James A. Akers (Amanda), and Margaret E. Akers



(Joel); Alex, Jonathan,

David, Briar and April; sisters, Sheila Ann Gallimore (Walter), Patricia Lynn Thomas, and Johnnie Belinda Lytton; and many other relatives and special friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

## Bayes, Bonnie Jean Mayle

Bonnie Jean Mayle Bayes, 86, of Hiwassee, passed away at home Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Derwood Howard Mayle and Jean, and Ilah Good Ebnit and Harvey; sisters, Shirley Roberts, Christine Barnes and Karen Browning; and her brothers, Rex and Bill Ebnit.

She was born in Saginaw, Michigan on Dec. 5, 1957. Bonnie married Tom Bayes in St. Louis, Michigan in 1955 and he has been a devoted husband throughout their 68 years together. She did many

things over the course of her lifetime including being a church secretary, gas station manager, telephone operator, welder, babysitter and certified nursing assistant. She enjoyed singing in the church choir and with the Sweet Adelines, being a girl scout leader, crocheting, gardening, canning and loving her dogs.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas Bayes; son, Tom Bayes; daughter and son-in-law, Kim Marcotte (Paul); six grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; her loving dogs, Buddy and Mollie; sisters, Beverly Hopkins

(Chuck) and Linda Snyder; brothers, Roger Mayle (Joyce), Darrell Mayle (Brenda), Terry Ebnit (Joy), and Butch Alward; several nieces and nephews; and numerous other family members and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff of Medi Hospice for their excellent care. Special shoutout to Kimberly, Kayla, Robbie, Daniel and Bailly.

Per her request, no services will be held at this time.

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

## Atkins, Donald Judd

Donald Judd Atkins, 81, of Dublin, passed away Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore Judd and Virginia Covey Atkins; and brothers, Dean, David and Dennis Atkins.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Peggy McCraw Atkins; daughters, Shirl Nolen, Beth Viperman (Billy), and Terri Grayson (Garin); special sons, Wes Nolen and Brian Wade; grandchildren, Reese, Jaxon, Chloe and Easton; siblings and their spouses, Bobby (Betsy) Atkins, Vickey (Darrell) Woodyard, Ricky (Donna) Atkins,



Carol Hall, Suzanne (Terry) Vaughan, and Sandra (Daniel) McCoy; brother in law, Jimbo McCraw (Vickey); sister-in-law, Patsy Hill (Larry); canine companion, Darla Lou; and many other special friends.

The family will

receive friends 1- 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Tucker LaForce officiating. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery in Pulaski County.

Flowers are appreciated, however if you choose to make a donation, the family requests that contributions be made to the Newbern Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 328, Newbern, VA, 24126.

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

## Warf, Betty Louise Agee

Betty Louise Agee Warf, 85, of Fairlawn, passed away Friday, Feb. 9, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Glenwood, Sr. and Margaret Agee; her husband, Luis Warf; sisters, Lois Rash and Ruth Agee; and her brother, Glenwood, Jr.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Jeff Warf (Michele); granddaughter, Brittany Stassin (Kevin); sister, Jean Long; niece, Ann Phipps; and many other



relatives and special friends.

The family received friends Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, at the

Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Rev. Darlene Marshall officiating. Burial followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Morgan's Chapel UMC, 6540 New River Rd., Fairlawn, VA 24141.

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

## Chocolate and candy: The hidden Valentine's Day dangers to your pet's health



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY VIA VIRGINIA TECH

As Valentine's Day approaches, you may be planning to enjoy some chocolates and candies. While these sweet treats delight us, they can pose significant risks to our pets. Understanding what's enjoyable for us but might be harmful for our furry friends is important during this sweet holiday.

"As pet owners, we understand how tempting it can be to share treats with your pets. They look at you with those adorable eyes, begging for a bite of whatever you eat. But as responsible pet parents, we must resist the urge to share our chocolates and candies with them," said Jenny Marin, a clinical assistant professor at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

Marin shares the following advice for pet owners to understand why your Valentine's Day box of chocolate and candy is harmful for pets.

**Q: What's harmful about chocolate and candy for pets?**

"The primary danger that chocolate poses to pets, particularly dogs, is a compound called theobromine. Theobromine is a stimulant that affects the nervous system and cardiovascular systems of pets. While humans can efficiently metabolize theobromine, pets cannot. As a result, it can build up to toxic levels in their system, leading to serious health complications."

"Candy, on the other hand, contains high amounts of sugar that can lead to obesity, dental problems, and diabetes in pets. Some candies also contain artificial sweeteners like xylitol, which can be highly toxic to pets. Just like chocolate, pets cannot metabolize xylitol, leading to a rapid decrease in their blood sugar levels and potentially causing liver failure."

**Q: What are the health risks of chocolate to pets?**

"The health risks of chocolate to pets can range from mild to severe, depending on the quantity ingested and the size of the pet. The symptoms of chocolate poisoning in pets can include restlessness, excessive thirst, abdominal discomfort, muscle tremors, irregular heartbeat, high body temperature, seizures, and in severe cases, death."

"Dark chocolate and unsweetened baking chocolate have the highest levels of theobromine and pose the most significant risk to pets. The effects of chocolate poisoning can take several hours to show."

"While dogs are most affected due to their tendency to eat anything they find, cats and other pets are also at risk."

**Q: What are the dangers of candy and artificial sweeteners for pets?**

"Like chocolate, candies, and artificial sweeteners can pose significant health risks to pets. Xylitol can cause a rapid decrease in a pet's blood sugar levels, leading to symptoms such as weakness, vomiting, loss of coordination, seizures, and, in severe cases, liver failure. Even a small amount of xylitol can be deadly to pets. It's in many sugar-free candies, gum, baked goods, and peanut butter brands."

**Q: What to do if your pet eats chocolate or candy?**

"If your dog consumes only one or two small milk chocolates, it's unlikely they will experience a toxic reaction, especially if it's a bigger dog. However, the situation becomes more concerning if you're baking brownies and your pet snatches a bunch of baker's chocolate off the countertop. The amount of chocolate, the type of chocolate, especially if it's like gourmet dark chocolate, and the size of your dog are all important."

"If you suspect your pet has ingested chocolate or candy, acting quickly is crucial. The first step is to call one of the pet poison hotlines, such as the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. Another alternative and valuable resource is the Pet Poison Helpline."

"If you do end up at the veterinarian, provide as much information as possible about what your pet has ingested. This can help the vet determine the best course of action. Depending on the severity of the situation, your pet may need to stay at the clinic or hospital for monitoring and treatment."

Marin says that prevention is the best way to protect your pets from the dangers of chocolates and candies. She offers the following tips for preventing pet accidents and securing your sweets.

Keep all chocolates and candies out of your pets' reach. Store them in high cabinets or locked drawers.

Dispose of wrappers properly. The smell may attract pets and eat the wrappers, leading to choking or intestinal blockage.

If you're giving or receiving chocolates or candies as gifts, ensure they're stored securely before and after opening.

Virginia Tech

## PETS OF THE WEEK

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.

*Say hello to Lola. This sweet, shy gal is ready to head home to enjoy the great indoors. Once comfortable, she enjoys affection and quiet time. Lola may have some leftover holiday weight and will need some help shedding a few pounds. In the meantime, there's a lot of cat to love!*



*Daphne is no mystery. She's a happy, energetic younger dog! She enjoys treats as rewards and occasionally likes to play with tennis balls. Her new human may need to refresh her on good doggie manners. Daphne lived with another dog in a previous home and got along well. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her.*

## February photo club meeting features challenges

RADFORD - The Radford Photo Club will meet Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library.

Bring your camera because the evening's program will be photography of five stations: Still Life, Bird's-Eye View, At The Library, Floating Flowers, and, from Tracy L. Burlingame, a cake in a princess house with a slice on a plate.

The photo challenge is Love,

Valentines, and/or hearts. There is also an open challenge.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com.

Radford Photo Club

# Business REVIEW

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Preview will be Tuesday, February 20 th from 4-6pm

Pick-up will be Thursday, February 22 nd from 3-6 pm

Contact Cody Manspile, Auctioneer @ (540) 784-9254 with any questions! VA AF#2908001046

**For Sale - Firewood**

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Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-784-3436 or 540-581-4183. Delivery in Botetourt only.

**Help Wanted - General**

**WANTED**  
Models needed for life drawing class, male and female, \$65 for 3 hour session. Call David (Do not text) 540-473-3713

**Actor/Actress needed**

to present stories for a documentary film. This is paid work. Last film released in December of 2023 is in worldwide distribution. Qualities needed: photogenic and articulate.

Send resume and photo to: Virginia Film Company, POB 3352

Roanoke, Virginia 24015



**Vice President for Planning & Resource Development**

Nonprofit seeks an individual with experience in directing the activities of a planning department. Must have a minimum of seven years successful grant writing and supervisory experience. Thorough knowledge of state and federal anti-poverty programs; ability to understand and interpret RFPs, regulations and guidelines. Preferred knowledge of Human Service, Economic Development, Community Development programs at the local, Commonwealth, and federal levels. Performs complex professional and administrative work in directing the activities of the planning department, providing strategic planning, resource development and program development for the antipoverty programs, economic development, community development and partnership activities of the agency. Assists in gathering and collating pertinent data and program outcomes; identifies and qualifies resources; writes clear and compelling narratives, effective and accurate budgets; and prepares grant applications in response to request for proposals. Leads and trains a team of planners who support the agency's programs. Directs the communications and marketing efforts of the agency.

Disseminates information to program components,CEO,

**Help Wanted - General**

Board of Directors, and other management staff on issues affecting the work of agency.

Recruits, trains, supervises, and evaluates planning staff, marketing & communications staff, and Whole Family Intake staff; organizes department responsibilities and workflow.

Coordinates the preparation of grant applications and proposal writing for all new and renewing agency program initiatives. Responsible for quality and effectiveness of all proposals.

Writes proposals for funding of specific projects as assigned.

Training, education and experience: Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major work in planning, public administration, journalism or a related field and extensive experience in community, economic development planning.

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**Events**

**6th Annual Church Community Chili Cook-off**

The 2024 Church Community Chili Cook-off will be held this year at the Grace Baptist Church, on Saturday, February 24th, from 5 PM -7 PM. Each church may enter up to five (5) chilis for the competition. The Championship Trophy Cup will go to the church of the winning chili cook-off chef, to be displayed until the 2024 chili cook-off. There will be individual trophies given to the top three chili cook-off chefs. Free Hotdogs and drinks will be available during the cookoff. All are welcome to participate in the tasting. Come in for a good hot meal, commune with your neighbors and vote for your favorite chili. Official Rules: Each Church may enter up to 5 chilis in the competition. Each chili will be presented for tasting on tables in the competition area. Upon entering the competition area, everyone will be given a vote-ticket. Taste the chilis at your own pace. Place your ticket in the container by the chili you judge as the best. The chili with the most tickets will be the champion. The chili with the 2 nd most tickets will be 2 nd place. The chili with the 3rd most tickets will be 3rd place. In the event of a tie, a mini re-tasting will be held by those present, between the chilis involved in the tie. (New vote-tickets will be issued) The individual trophies will be presented to the winners at the conclusion of the cookoff.

The Championship Trophy Cup will be engraved with the winning information and presented to the winning chef's church in the next week (or whenever it's received back from the engraver). The Championship Trophy Cup will reside at the winning church until next year's Church Community Chili Cook-off.

**Events**

For planning purposes: Please RSVP to Craig Valley Baptist Church if you are entering a chili. 540-864-5667, (if no answer, leave a message). The event is being held at the Grace Baptist Church 159 Old Railroad Ave. (SR696), New Castle, VA, (Near the Field Of Dreams).

**General Information**

**WASHINGTON STREET ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW DATE CHANGE**

The date for the juried Washington Street Arts and Crafts Show has changed to April 6, 2024. The show will now coincide with the Cherry Blossom Festival sponsored by the Town of Buchanan. The show is sponsored by the United Women in Faith at Trinity United Methodist Church in Buchanan, VA. We would love to have you join us and applications are being accepted and may be requested by contacting the United Women in Faith at: [WashingtonStreetArtShow@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonStreetArtShow@gmail.com)

**Legals - City of Radford**

**Public Notice: CDBG Public Service Program COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

The City of Radford Department of Community Development will accept proposals for the 2024 Program Year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) for funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Applicants must be a not-for profit organization as established by the IRS. Proposals for Public Services programs are due no later than March 15, 2024, by 4:00p.m. The major focus of the City of Radford's CDBG program is to provide a suitable living environment, decent housing, social services, and economic opportunities in low-income areas, and low-to moderate- income persons.

Applications may be accessed at [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov) or via email request to [Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov](mailto:Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov).

The applications can also be picked up at Radford Administration Building, 10 Robertson St, Radford, VA, Monday through Friday between 8:30a.m. and 5:00p.m. For more information regarding the CDBG program, please visit <https://www.radfordva.gov/1261/HUD-Community-Development-Block-Grant>

**Legals - City of Salem**

**NOTICE OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING**

**TO: CITY OF SALEM REAL ESTATE OWNERS**

The Board of Equalization for Real Estate Assessments in the City of Salem will meet on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room at City Hall located at 114 N. Broad Street, Salem, Virginia. The Board will continue its meeting from time to time thereafter, by adjournments, at and for such time or times, at the same place or such other place or places, as may be designated and deemed necessary by the Board to accomplish and complete its task of equalization of real estate assessments and to discharge the duties imposed by law upon the Board.

Said meeting will be adjourned on April 23, 2024, unless the powers of the Board are extended by order of the Circuit Court for

**Legals - City of Salem**

The City of Salem. The purpose of the Board meeting is to equalize property assessments in the City and to hear and give consideration to all complaints of any inequalities in such assessment so that the burden of real estate taxation shall rest equally upon all owners.

At its meeting, the Board will hear and decide all inequality protest complaints, whether made by property owners, the City, or any taxpayer, on appeal to this Board by property owners. The Board may equalize any assessment by raising, or lowering assessments fixed by the Assessor, in proper cases, in order to make assessments uniform in the City as far as practicable. If you wish to discuss the assessment with the Board, call (540) 375-3058 for an appointment by February 23, 2024. The Assessor is required by law to prepare necessary papers for the Board and for the property owner who wants to appeal to the Board of Equalization. Information pertaining to the Assessor's valuations, along with forms for appeal to the Board of Equalization may be obtained from the Assessor's office by calling (540) 3753058, or online at [www.salemva.gov](http://www.salemva.gov).

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SALEM Norman J. Beamer Kathy Fitzgerald Wendel Ingram Jr. David Prosser Janie Whitlow

**Legals - Craig County**

**Order of Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. JU02260-06-00 CRAIG COMBINED COURT-JUVENILE Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court District Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MANNING, EMILEE ROSE The object of this suit is to: terminate the residual parental rights of the parents, including the right of visitation, right to consent to adoption, the responsibility of support and all other rights and responsibilities remaining with the natural parents of the aforesaid child and to obtain the right to place said child for adoption. And, based on an affidavit filed herein, the court finds that there exists sufficient grounds for causing service of process by publication.

It is ORDERED that the unknown father and any or all others who may be related to Emily Rose Manning, whose actual whereabouts are unknown, appear at the above-named Court on or before the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to do whatever is necessary to protect their interests.

We ask for this CRAIG COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES 177 Court Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127

February 8, 2024, Patty Taylor, CLERK

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**Order of Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. CL23002018-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MELISSA JANE MCPHERSON v. JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBİ MAZUR The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that JACOB ANDRE MCPHERSON A/K/A KOBİ MAZUR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 8, 2024. JANUARY 5, 2024 K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**TRUSTEES SALE**

**PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN:**

The Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia Containing 1.586 acres, more or less Commonly Known as: 3395 Radford Road, Christiansburg, Virginia IN EXECUTION OF A CERTAIN DEED OF TRUST OF RECORD IN THE CLERKS OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2008000295, DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2008, SAID DEED OF TRUST WAS MODIFIED BY MODIFICATION OF DEED OF TRUST DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2020, RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO: 2020002980, AND BY SUBSTITUTION OF COLLATERAL AND RELEASE DATED MARCH 10, 2020, RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO: 2020002979. DEFAULT HAVING BEEN MADE IN THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBT THEREIN SECURED AND BEING REQUIRED TO DO SO BY THE NOTEHOLDER, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, AFTER GIVING FOURTEEN (14) DAYS DUE NOTICE TO THE OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE OF THE DATE, TIME, PLACE AND TERMS OF SALE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION, IN FRONT OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANBURG, VIRGINIA, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024, AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

All that certain tracts or parcels of land, with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and described as follows: All of the 1.586 acres as shown on plat of survey entitled; Plat of Boundary Line Adjustment Between Tax Parcels 90-(A)-34A & 90-(A)-34E situated along Radford Road, U.S. Route 11 Near Plum Creek Riner Magisterial District Montgomery County, Virginia; dated June 28, 2016 prepared by Ralph O. Clements, L.S. for Gay and Neel, Inc. recorded in the Circuit Court Clerks Office of Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument Number 2016004742.

Tax Map No: 090-A 34A; Parcel No: 024574

More commonly known as: 3395 Radford Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073

SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE. TERMS OF SALE: CASH, SETTLEMENT WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF SALE. A BIDDERS DEPOSIT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) MAY BE REQUIRED. PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, AT 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANBURG, VIRGINIA DATE OF SALE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M.

Daniel D. Hamrick, PC Substitute Trustee

By: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C. 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ABC NOTICE**

W P RISING INC., trading as Spicity, 210 Prices Fork Rd STE E, Montgomery County, Blacksburg, VA 24060-3300.

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

Shu Yuan Lin President/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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**Legals - Roanoke County**

**ABC NOTICE**

SAV ON SHOP LLC., trading as CATAWBA GROCERY, 5944 Catawba Valley Dr., Roanoke County, Catawba, VA 24070-2214.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store Beer and Wine Off-Premises license to sell or

**Legals - Roanoke County**

manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Pabitra Dahal, Member

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**Legals - Town of Vinton**

**The VA Dept of Historic Resources will conduct a public information hearing of the Town of Vinton, VA**

on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. The meeting begins at 6:00 pm and will be held at Vinton Town Hall at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179.

Public comment regarding the proposal will be taken at the time of the hearing or can be sent to Director Julie Langan, Dept of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Ave, Richmond, VA 23221.

This proposal has been recommended eligible for the Virginia Landmarks and National Registers. This proposal will be presented to the State Review Board and the Board of Historic Resources on March 14, 2024.

For additional information, contact Amanda Terrell at [Amanda.Terrell@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:Amanda.Terrell@dhr.virginia.gov) or 804-482-8092.

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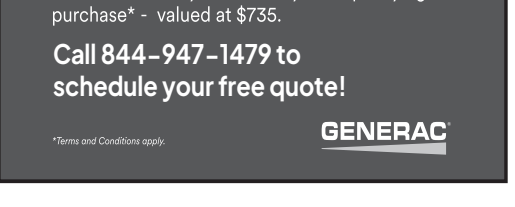
**Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH APRIL 12, 2024**

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. Beginning in 2024, the scholarship program is extended to their descendants. The program is now open to eligible applicants for the 2024-2025 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit: [BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV](http://BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV)



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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Big South evolving in changing landscape

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*Editor's note: Today, we continue to examine the challenges college athletics are facing especially in this age of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL).*

College athletics is changing and continues to this day. But the question is what does the future hold?

The recent movement has centered about the Power 5 conferences, leaving many to wonder what might happen to the smaller schools and conferences.

Big South Conference Commissioner Sherika A. Montgomery took a moment this past week to discuss how hers and other mid-major athletic conferences have been and will be affected in the new landscape.

"We have to continue to evolve," she said. "We've are reviewing our strategic plan and have formed a basketball task force working group."

Montgomery said the question is how the Big South can set its apart from other conferences.

"The NCAA is facing challenges we've never have before."

The Big South Conference was founded in 1983 with charter members including Radford, Armstrong State (later Armstrong Atlantic State University and Augusta University), Campbell University, Baptist College (now Charleston Southern University), Coastal Carolina University and Winthrop University.

The expansion of membership occurred during the '90s. Some of those members were the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Davidson College, Liberty University, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Towson University, Elon University, High Point University and Birmingham-Southern College.

The conference history does include football, which was started in 2002 as part of the Football Championship Subdivision. Fourteen years later, the Big South and the ASUN Conference (ASUN) announced a football partnership that effectively combined the two conferences in the sport.

Slowly teams and schools like Liberty, Campbell and Coastal Carolina have moved to new conferences. The latest being Hampton and North Carolina A&T, which left the Big South in 2022.

Currently, there are nine members in the Big South with another five being listed as associate members.

In April, Montgomery was named the fourth commissioner of the Big South Conference and is a former women's basketball player and staff member of the conference. She previously served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Missouri Valley Conference and served as the Assistant Director of Enforcement

(Investigations and Processing) at the NCAA.

Earlier as a staff member at the Big South, Montgomery served as a two-time chair (2016-2018) of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics during her service from 2014-2018 and was also a member of the inaugural NCAA Board of Governors Ad Hoc Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity. Her familiarity of the Big South also dates to her time as a basketball player (2010) at Gardner-Webb.

Changes in collegiate athletics includes a big emphasis on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL), which is the means through which college athletes are allowed to receive financial compensation. NIL refers to the use of an athlete's name, image, and likeness through marketing and promotional endeavors.

In the past, collegiate athletics' governing body the NCAA has done everything to not compensate student-athletes.

Three years ago, a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court changed that with the introduction and approval of the NIL plan.

Many student-athletes are now receiving as much as a million dollars a year. Montgomery could not give specific examples, but many Big South athletes are receiving NIL compensation. The total might not be the millions but instead hundreds or thousands.

NCAA President Charlie Baker believes there must be more control over this process as we move forward. During last month's NCAA convention, he said to maximize these opportunities, it will be important for Congress to provide special status to student-athletes.

"That way, schools and conferences can engage in NIL and enhanced educational support without turning the student-athletes into something they are definitely not, which is employees," he said.

According to a recent ESPN survey of more than 200 coaches, players and administrators, nearly 80% of respondents believe schools will pay athletes directly within the next decade. Another 75 percent felt "college athletics will eventually follow some sort of professional model, perhaps with schools forming conferences based on their willingness to pay players."

Just two weeks ago, Montgomery joined a Radford University volleyball player who testified before members of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., during the "NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes' Dealmaking Rights" hearing of the House Innovation, Data and Commerce Subcommittee.

The proposal aims to protect student athletes' dealmaking rights and create clear rules to preserve amateur sports.

In opening remarks, the subcommittee said: "Federal legislation is needed to protect student athletes from bad actors taking advantage of them financially, ensure



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BIG SOUTH

### Big South Commissioner Sherika A. Montgomery

transparency and protections in NIL contracts, and address the patchwork of laws affecting student athletes' dealmaking rights."

Montgomery said it was very important for her to be at the hearing.

"We had to make sure our voices are heard on this matter," she said.

In so many ways, the new definition of the collegiate student-athlete is ever-changing itself. The National Labor Relations Board even suggests athletes at private universities should be classified as employees.

Getting back to the future, Montgomery is optimistic for the Big South. Membership is something that is prevalent on a day-to-day basis.

"We (the Big South) are not immune to that." The commissioner would not say if there were plans to expand to more schools or does she expect others to leave the Big South.

One of the big discussions centers on creating better non-conference schedules, especially in basketball.

"I feel very optimistic about the Big South's future," Montgomery said as she praised the excellent leadership across the conference.

For now, the Big South and its commissioner are trying to stay above water and watch what happens in the near future in college athletics. The next move could lie with NCAA officials and how Congress might be involved somewhere down the road.



Auburn's Lily Phillips placed ninth in the Region 2C 100-yard backstroke at Thursday's regional meet at Christiansburg. Auburn would finish in eighth place in the boys' competition and 11th in the girls.

### Radford girls take region swimming title



Auburn's Kade Hamilton was the 100-yard breaststroke Region2C champion with a time of 1:11.57



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Radford's Trent Hollandsworth raced to a win in the Region 2C 50-yard freestyle on Thursday night during the Region 2C meet held at the Christiansburg Aquatics Center. Radford tallied 98 points in the boys' competition to finish second by Glenvar with 134 points. The Radford girls' squad would total 101 points to finish ahead of second place George Wythe with 87 points.

See **Swimming**, page 8

### Radford boys slip by Catholic



Sincere Taylor buries a 3-pointer against Roanoke Catholic. As a team, Radford hit seven 3-pointers in the 51-50 win on Thursday.



Daniel DeHart-Lewis slides through the paint for an easy basket in the Bobcats' victory. He would finish the contest with 13 points.



Mekih Martin scores on a left-handed layup as Radford completed the fourth quarter comeback after trailing 39-37 after three quarters. Martin had nine points in the game including two 3-pointers.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Jaden Hendricks scores on a fast break in the final minutes of the game as Radford won 51-50. He would finish with 11 points.



# Swimming from page 7



Radford's Evie Grim dives in for the 200-yard freestyle relay anchor leg for the Region 2C race winning Bobcat team. The Radford girls would win the team Region 2C championship, with the boys in second place.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Radford's Peyton Mowry swam to a third-place finish in the Region 2C 50-yard freestyle with a time of 27.89.

# Coliseum from page 4

Mountaineers were in the Field House, the Heels were in Woollen Gymnasium, twice removed from today's Dean Dome, and most colleges still played in similar gyms built soon after WW I) began hosting the district, regional and occasional state high school tournaments. These three weeks of back to back games are what I think of first when the days become longer and the sun looks different in late February.

Schools came from all over southwest Virginia to play life or death games in one of the best college arenas in the country. At that time, Virginia had four classes of schools - 1A, 1B (Christiansburg, Blacksburg and Radford were 1B schools), II and III. The Coliseum hosted the New River District Tournament (the Montgomery County schools and their rivals), the next weekend (or maybe the next two) there were regional rounds for 1B, II and III, and some years we were lucky enough to get the state finals. The "bigger schools", i.e., Roanoke east, Class 1A, did not venture west to play their games. We cared not about them. Teams came from Gate City and Grundy, from Fort Chiswell and Covington, from Pound and Pearisburg, to compete.

These were the real "one and done" days. One loss and your team went home, and we constantly witnessed the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. Christiansburg, Blacksburg and Radford were members of the New River Valley District then, along with Dublin and Pulaski (in the 70s these schools were consolidated, ending one of the great rivalries of all time in my mind), Narrows, Giles County, Galax, Hillsville, and Wytheville and, for a few years, Fort Chiswell. During, this era, probably from my second or third grade year through high school, Blacksburg dominated the district and was a perennial participant in the regionals and states, guaranteeing that my mom and dad would be in attendance since my father was head of the schools in Montgomery County at the time.

Blacksburg won two state titles during this period, led by a wonderful player named Rick Aydlett, who amazingly was the star both his freshman and senior years when the Indians (it was okay to call them that at that time) won state titles. They were coached during this run by the great Allen Wiley, who, if memory serves me well, won a total of five state titles at BHS and went on to successfully coach at Pulaski County, much to the chagrin of all Blacksburgers. Aydlett went on to play for Frank McGuire's great teams at South Carolina, perplexing and breaking the hearts of all Hokie fans, me included.

Sadly, our own Blue Demons never won a tourney game during this time that I can recall, usually being bounced in the very first game of the NRV District tournament, not even making the field a few times when the district

got too big. This game was usually at noon on Thursday and relieved any stress for all Blue Demon fans for the rest of the month.

There were some epic games. One year Blacksburg and Pulaski met in the district finals, with each team sporting a 20 - 0 record, through a scheduling quirk they had not met during the regular season. They both advanced to the Regionals and met again, with Blacksburg winning both games. One of the games ended with Tot Martin hitting a jumper from the top of the key to win the game. It was one of the great clutch plays of my youth. This was Aydlett's freshman year and the Indians went on to win the state. His senior year BHS had another epic win against Harrisonburg in the state finals, from "up the valley".

While my family and I were died in the wool Blue Demons, we couldn't help but root for BHS during these years, partly because the team was so good and well-coached, partly because of my dad's fondness for Curtis "Ducky" Gray who was principal of BHS, and partly because it would have been poor form for the superintendent of schools not to pull for a county team.

There were legendary coaches as well, the aforementioned Allen Wiley, my cousin Sammy Joe Lucas who won several Class III championships at Auburn High and Sonny Smith who coached at Dublin. Sonny went on to be the head coach at VCU and eventually at the "other" Auburn, the university, not my mother's alma mater in Riner. Sonny was by far the most entertaining, in what had to be one of the first stops on his storied coaching path. I saw him once kick the scorer's table over before being asked to leave the floor of the Coliseum. My mom and dad were so intrigued by Sonny that we tried to sit behind his bench so we could hear him exhorting his troops. His catch phrase when his team transitioned to defense was "get your happy tails up the court". My mother laughed for weeks over that line and some of Sonny's other sideline shenanigans. A few years later these legendary coaches were replaced by other Montgomery County icons, family friend Bob Trear at BHS and Nelson Simpkins at Auburn High.

So, this time of year I remember the drive from Christiansburg to Blacksburg with the sun at a funny angle, walking through the parking lot beside the Coliseum with my parents dodging snow drifts, entering the doors of the grandest arena in the region. And I remember walking the halls during halftimes, looking for familiar faces, smelling the popcorn (served by my Aunt Ruth and her husband Ralph who had the concessions), marveling at a gym that could seat 10,000 people. And I remember the hollow feeling I got, sometime while I was in college I believe, when my dad told me "Tech's not going to let us use the Coliseum anymore."

# Bells from page 1

"At that time, keep in mind this was 95 years ago, they had a schoolhouse in that community. It was a small community," Scott said. "They would only give you a teacher if you had 20 students. So, in that community it was hard to get 20 students. It was 1-7 grades. When they could have school, and had 20, the schoolhouse was used."

Everyone walked to school at that time, and the schoolhouse was close to Scott's house, so the teachers would board with her family. This also provided the added benefit for Scott to receive special attention from the teachers that resided in her home.

When Scott was about 4-5 years old, the school was struggling to have enough pupils to support a teacher, so she started her elementary education at an early age. After her first year of schooling, Scott would return the next year as a third grader.

"For that reason, I've always been too young, younger than the other students. Not because I was smarter," Scott said. "It was because they started me out young."

Scott would graduate from high school at the age of 15 years old and then go directly into higher education at Radford College. This was a grand adventure for someone that had rarely ventured outside of her home community.

She would have never imagined the beautiful life that awaited her.

At age 18, she graduated from Radford College, just at the close of World War II. Her first year of teaching was instructing military men who had returned from the war. Some men had been drafted or signed up before they had finished high school. She would then teach a couple of years in Floyd County schools and another year at a small schoolhouse in McCoy, Virginia, where her husband and she settled down and raised a family.

Her husband Leo, affectionately called "Scotty" by Rubye and all who knew him, gifted her bells as well through the years. Scotty and his brother owned a store in the McCoy community which sometimes required travel to parts of the United States to buy things to sell. One bell he purchased was from 1981 after his visit to the western United States.

Bells line her cabinet made of iron, brass, coal, wood, straw, and glass - all part of a collection that has been labeled with the year and name of the giver. As Scott picked each bell up and gave it a shake, she recalled the story of how each chime came to reside in her display cabinet.

There is one from her daughter Patricia Scott Williams, who lives close by, and another from her son Kim Scott, also of Blacksburg. A sheep bell from her neighbor and farmer and here's her smallest bell, barely the size of the end of your finger. Only two of her bells are alike, one from England and another from Scotland. Rubye Scott's sister, Lovis, visited England on a trip and brought back one of the bells decorated

with delicate lavender flowers. Her sister Lovis passed away recently after battling Alzheimer's, making the bell even more special to Rubye in her remembrance.

Pastor and Missionary Mike Flinchum also gifted Scott a bell from his time spent in Thailand. Altogether, Scott has bells from eight countries.

There are bells that were also gifted to her from her years of instruction too. Although Scott was primarily a business instructor for 33 years, that first teaching job instructing World War II veterans was remembered as some of the best learning years of her life. She thought she had to teach by the book. Later she would come to understand that teachers were a lot of things to students, especially that could not be learned from a book but had to be felt and experienced from the heart.

One year when Scott was teaching at Blacksburg High School, Principal Alfred Curtis Gray approached her about helping to cover for a teacher who was leaving for an opportunity to study abroad for a year. Scott was reluctant at first, as she enjoyed teaching business courses and was very happy to stay where she was. An agreement was made that she would take on a few additional tasks but remain in her business classes. One of those duties was to provide some guidance to students as needed during her non-instructional class periods.

This was when she met "Tommy", a young man in a transient home life, with no parents to look after him.

"He was in trouble all the time, in every class. That little boy was sent to my office, I know every day. Tommy was not his real name; I won't tell you his real name. Here would come Tommy though. He was wasting time, and I didn't think you should waste time. I would find little things for Tommy to do," Scott said. "We got to talking and that's the reason I knew Tommy's situation and Tommy and I got to be good buddies."

The time came when the principal told Scott that Tommy needed something different to help with his education. The principal set to work, finding a place for the student to go where he could learn something; a place where he could get a better start in his life. Special education was not part of the public-school curriculum at this time but both Scott and Gray knew that he needed specialized education.

"I hated to see Tommy go but I knew that is what he needed," Scott said. "Tommy knew that I collected bells, so the day that he was set to leave, he came in my office. He was all dressed up and looked so nice, and he said, 'Mrs. Scott, I've got something for you.', and he pulled it out and it was this bell. Lord, I knew it was stolen off some desk...I didn't want him to think I knew that."

Scott didn't know what to do at that moment, so she went and hugged him and thanked him.

Scott said to Tommy, "Tommy, I will always keep your bell."

# Hole-in-one at Auburn Hills



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS

Thon Keings recently had a hole-in-one at the Auburn Hills Golf Club on hole #17.

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This bell, made from coal, was gifted to Rubye Scott by McCoy coal miner Dudley Scott and his wife, Faye.



A simple teacher's desk bell reminds Rubye of a particular student that touched her heart in a special way.

PHOTOS BY LORI GRAHAM