



Saturday, February 17, 2024 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

## Mahin, Yurkofsky receive Dalton faculty awards

Radford University's Office of the Provost has presented Dalton Eminent Scholar Awards to two faculty members in recognition of their distinguished academic reputations.

Bruce Mahin, a professor of composition and music theory, is a recipient of the honor, and Maxwell Yurkofsky, an assistant professor in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership, is the recipient of the Dalton Rising Star award.

Each faculty winner of the 2023-2024 awards receives \$10,000 to fund a scholarly project and a \$5,000 award following its successful completion. Each year, recipients are encouraged to include student investigators throughout their exploration, providing opportunities for greater excellence in their chosen fields.

Recipients of the Dalton Eminent Senior Scholar Award, the university's highest faculty honor, must be associate or full professors at Radford University for a minimum of three academic years.

The Rising Star award is given to one faculty member each year who shows extraordinary promise for excellence with creative scholarship or research.

Nominees must be in no more than their sixth year of continuous service as a full-time faculty member at a higher education institution and in at least their third year of continuous service at Radford.

"The annual recognition of our Dalton Eminent Scholars is a wonderful opportunity to shine light on the quality of Radford University's faculty members," said Radford University President Bret Danilowicz. "Dr. Mahin's accomplishments as a composer, recording technician and performer truly distinguish him among university faculty members, and musicians, worldwide. Dr. Yurkofsky's body of work in education at such a young age is impressive, and his efforts to help build Radford's Doctor of Education program are worthy of praise. Both award recipients are gifted teachers and scholars whom we are fortunate to call Highlanders."

The Dalton Eminent Scholars Fund, which provides financial support for the prestigious awards, was originally established in the late 1980s and early 1990s to honor United States District Judge Ted Dalton and former governor



Bruce Mahin



Maxwell Yurkofsky

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

of Virginia John Dalton. Through a grassroots fundraising campaign, more than \$700,000 was raised for the endowment, which now has funds totaling \$2.2 million.

"Our 2023-2024 Dalton Eminent Scholars are deserving of recognition for the outstanding contributions they have made as scholars in their fields and as teachers who bring out the best in their students," said Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Bethany Usher. "For more than 30 years, Dr. Mahin has represented Radford University globally as a musician, composer, teacher and researcher with his groundbreaking creativity and sense of service to others. Dr. Yurkofsky has brought expert

knowledge of organizational theory and passion for improving American education to Radford, and our Doctor of Education faculty members and candidates are fortunate to benefit from his energy and influence. We are proud to celebrate our award winners, as well as all Radford University faculty who prepare our students for success in life."

Mahin has accumulated a lifetime of accomplishments as a composer, performer, scholar and producer of published recordings. His compositions span genres from experimental and classical to popular music. Mahin has released original music on eight albums

See Awards, page 6

## Virginia enters spring fire season

Statewide 4 p.m. burning law in effect Feb. 15 - April 30

CHARLOTTESVILLE — The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) joins fire departments across Virginia to announce spring fire season and raise awareness of the statewide burning law, in effect from Feb. 15 through April 30.

The law prohibits outdoor burning before 4 p.m. when the fire is within 300 feet of the woods or dry grass.

Violation of the burning law is a Class-3 misdemeanor and punishable with a fine up to \$500. Those who allow a fire to escape may be liable for suppression costs and any resulting property

damage. The burning law applies to all open-air fires such as debris burning, campfires and charcoal grills like those found in park settings. This law does not apply to charcoal or gas-fired barbecue grills. Some exceptions to the law are made for campfires at Virginia State Parks. To learn more about Virginia's 4 p.m. burning law and fire prevention, visit

DOF's website: <https://dof.virginia.gov/wildland-prescribed-fire/fire-laws/4-pm-burning-law/>. "Last fall, Virginia experienced extreme fire activity that provided



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DOF

a stark reminder of the importance of safe burning practices," said DOF Chief of Fire and Emergency Response John Miller. "Simple safety measures are easy to follow and

See Burning, page 6



FILE PHOTO

Radford's community garden was named in honor of its founder, Jim Graham, prior to this year's growing season. Graham (center) is pictured with the members of Radford City Council during the proclamation ceremony.

## Sign-ups underway soon for the Jim Graham Community Garden in Radford

RADFORD - The Jim Graham Community Garden in Radford will be enjoying its fifteenth year this upcoming growing season and sign-ups will begin in the coming weeks.

The Garden is located near the Radford Pump Station on Pulaski Street. The site has a six-foot fence enclosing it, has a gate that is locked at all times, and sufficient space for the current size of 42 plots.

Gardeners who sign for a plot are given a Rules and Regulations document which defines their responsibilities in great detail as is necessary in such an undertaking. The plots cost \$20 for the 20 x 20-foot size and \$10 for the 20 x 10-foot size with the income providing for plowing in the fall, tilling just before the planting season, and any necessary clean up after the growing season.

Many of the same gardeners have been in the Community Garden for years and a comradery

exists as they all have a common interest. A variety of vegetables is grown each year with tomatoes, green beans, and various greens being the most popular. Sign up for the 2024 gardening season will begin on March 11, 2024 in the Radford Administration Office. Plots are assigned in the order of sign up with priority given to those who previously had a plot.

Graham started the garden in 2010. When city council changed the name in honor of Graham, the proclamation read, in part: "The Radford Community Garden began in 2010 at what is now the New River sports complex with 10 plots, and initially there were a limited number of 20-by-20 [foot] plots, but over time the garden has grown to have over 40 plots ranging in sizes," the council resolution read. "The garden moved locations to Pulaski Avenue in 2013 and

is now contained in a fenced in area with a combination lock given to all gardeners."

"Jim Graham has served as the Community Garden Coordinator for years and invested time and effort to ensuring the success of the Radford Community Garden; and the atmosphere and success of the Community Garden can be attributed to Jim," it continues. "The garden has been a great place to meet like-minded citizens, make new friends, raise healthy vegetables and be outside along the New River. The Community Garden is truly a community where gardeners share a wheelbarrow and hand plow, as well as tips and tricks of the trade when gardening, and Jim Graham has been the face of the Radford Community Garden, promoting and growing the garden over the last 13 years."

Submitted by Rick Slavings



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN

Dancers with Mark Morris Dance Group perform "Look of Love."

## Visionary choreographer Mark Morris pays tribute to Burt Bacharach in 'Look of Love'

The deep musicality of Mark Morris' innovative choreography finds its perfect partner in Burt Bacharach's timeless and sophisticated melodies. The internationally celebrated Mark Morris Dance Group makes its Southwest Virginia debut with "The Look of Love," an homage to the legendary late hitmaker Bacharach, on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Moss Arts Center.

A towering figure of popular music, Bacharach is known for soaring melodies

influenced by jazz, rock, and Brazilian music — his longtime lyricist Hal David providing unsentimental, poignant lyrics. Favorites such as "Walk on By" propel Morris' deceptively simple, yet glorious movement.

Co-commissioned by the Moss Arts Center, this evening-length work features original choreography by Morris and new musical arrangements by Ethan Iverson, performed by an ensemble of piano, trumpet, bass, and drums,

with singer, actress, and Broadway star Marcy Harriell on lead vocals. Famed American fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi created the glowingly hued costumes for the production.

"For many years, I've wanted to see my music reimagined in some kind of theatrical production — not just a jukebox musical formula of songs, but an original work with its own story and appeal," Bacharach said. "I've found an

See Morris, page 6

## State Police investigating fatal Montgomery County crash

MONTGOMERY Co. — The Virginia State Police is investigating a two-vehicle crash which resulted in a fatality on Route 11 on Monday.

The crash occurred at 2:20 p.m. on Route 11, one mile south of Plum Creek Road in Montgomery County.

A 2010 Chevrolet Impala was traveling south on Route 11, when the vehicle crossed the centerline and struck a 2016 Ford F-150 head-on.

The driver of the Ford was identified as Jesse Allen Jones, 29,

of Floyd. Jones was not wearing his seatbelt and died at the scene. The Chevrolet was driven by Richard S. Helm, 41, of Shawsville. Helm was not wearing his seatbelt and was transported to the hospital for injuries received in the crash.

Charges are pending. The Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team assisted with the crash. The crash remains under investigation.

Virginia State Police



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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 are 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.

### Blacksburg Presidents’ Day schedule

The Town of Blacksburg will be operating under the following schedule in observance of the Presidents’ Day

holiday:

Town administrative offices will be closed. Blacksburg Transit operating on full service in Blacksburg. BT offices will be closed. Visit <https://ridebt.org> for more information. Blacksburg Community Center and Blacksburg Aquatic Center open regular hours. Trash pickup-There will be trash pickup in the southeast quadrant.

### Christiansburg Presidents’ Day schedule:

Town Hall will be closed. The Recreation Center will be open regular hours and the Aquatic Center will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Administrative offices at both facilities will be closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Mondays will be collected on Tuesday, Feb. 20, along with Tuesday’s regular collection.

### Radford Presidents’ Day schedule:

Trash pick-up on Monday, Feb. 19 will be collected on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Please have garbage ready for collection by 7:30 a.m. Drop Center: closed on Monday, Feb. 19. The Radford Public Library will be closed. City administration offices will be closed.

### MFRL closure:

All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd regional Library will be closed for Presidents’ Day 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 [businesslicensgroup@blacksburg.gov](mailto:businesslicensgroup@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).



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA SIGMA PHI SORORITY

# Radford’s Women’s Resource Center receives donation

Members of Alpha Mu Master of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority recently donated clothing items needed for clients at the Women’s Resource Center of the NRV, located in Radford. The donations were received by Sherry Kramer, WRC Programs Director, shown second from left, from Libby Pettigrew, Kristen Talley, Service Chair, and Sue Warden.

- Staff report

# Proposals being accepted for Community Development Block Grant Program

The City of Radford Department of Community Development is accepting 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 p.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, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. For more information regarding the CDBG program, please visit <https://www.radfordva.gov/1261/HUD-Community-Development-Block-Grant>.

City of Radford

# Business REVIEW

Time to Brag About **YOUR** Business!

YOUR story - YOUR employees - YOUR message in our Business Review Edition on February 28-29 Write your own story & advertisement with pictures of your staff and/or business - Deadline February 21st

TO ADVERTISE, Call Wendi Craig (276) 340-2445 [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

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



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CITY OF RADFORD



# Radford health sciences grad plans to use her degree for career versatility

Abigail Ray '23 always knew she wanted to work in a medical field, but she was also interested in a versatile career that would allow her to explore the many specialties that healthcare offers.

As she considered her undergraduate options, she looked for a program that would help her build basic skills and gain practical, hands-on experience, as well as open her eyes to possible graduate studies and career paths. Enter the Bachelor of Science in health sciences at Radford University at Carilion in Roanoke.

"Until about my junior year in the health sciences program, I wasn't sure which direction I would go in," Ray said. "That was when I realized that becoming a physician assistant is what I wanted to do. I want to play an integral role in diagnosing patients, collaborating with physicians and other healthcare professionals, and developing treatment plans for my future patients."

In the health sciences program, Ray gained the experience and perspective she needed to figure out her career trajectory, even as she was acquiring the foundational skills

that would allow her to move to the next level of her education. She was recently accepted into a highly competitive physician assistant (PA) program at another college.

"I quickly learned that every assignment was developed in a way that helped me problem-solve and then apply those solutions to health-related issues," Ray recalled. "The medical field requires good problem-solving skills and the ability to think quickly. I was able to strengthen my abilities during my time in the program at Radford."

Ray used those skills throughout the rigorous process of applying to and interviewing for the PA program she was accepted into. She will begin that program in May and is excited for the chance to further expand her knowledge and career opportunities.

"As a PA, I do not have to declare a specialty to work in for the rest of my career," Ray said. "Instead, I can go through my clinicals in my graduate program and find what specialty is best suited for me and pursue my career in that certain specialty. I can work in as many specialties during my career as I choose."

One of Ray's professors in the health sciences program, Thomas Castor, said that while he is thrilled that Ray has been accepted into her PA program, he's not surprised by her success.

"From the day we met to discuss our undergraduate program and her professional goals," Castor remembered, "I knew she would achieve great things in her education and her career. She had a dream in mind and worked tirelessly with her academic advisor to achieve it. I'm glad to hear that our health sciences program helped her get there."

Ray said the health sciences program at Radford allowed her to flourish and become a more well-rounded student. Her advice to students who follow her path is to "listen to the advice your academic advisor gives you, study hard and keep polishing your skills because everyone in the program wants you to succeed and thrive. Never settle when it comes to achieving your goals, and don't give up until your goals have been accomplished."

Mark Lambert for Radford University

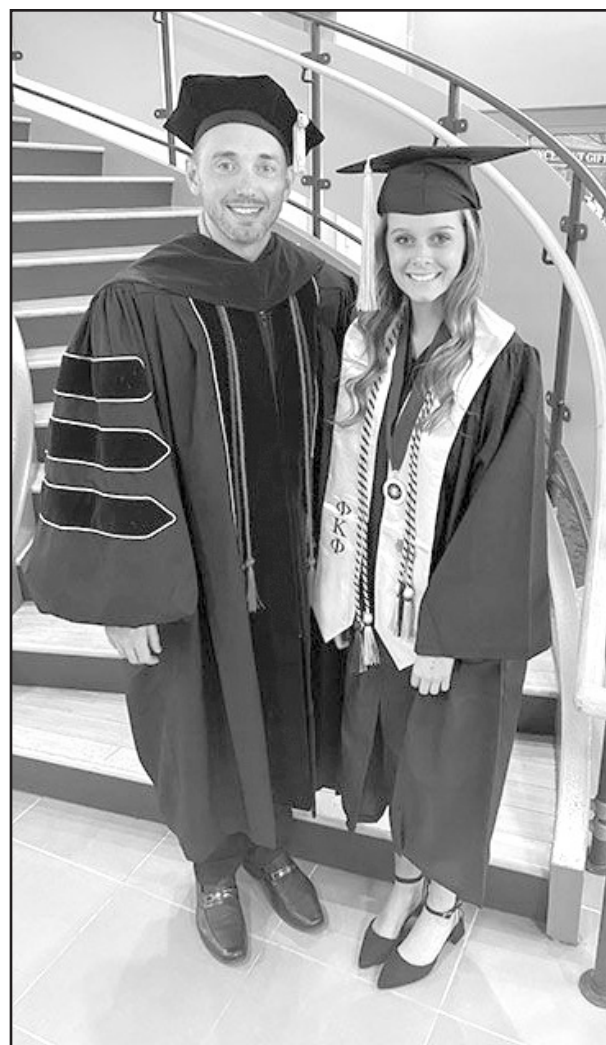


PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
Abigail Ray '23 (right) with Thomas Castor, Ph.D., at her May 2023 graduation ceremony.

Marketplace ourvalley.org

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

### Auctions

#### PUBLIC NOTICE The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction

February 23, 2024 at 11am at  
1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. D020 D025  
1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:  
A. Code Amendment request by Joe Simmons, Applicant, and Jack Martin, Registered Agent, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-9 - Lighting and minimum off-street parking (a) Specific requirements by use. The request is to include additional language to the "Retail Store or personal service establishment and banks" minimum off-street parking space requirement to exclude non-public areas such as stock rooms and storage areas from the overall minimum parking calculation for a building. A copy of the application and the Town's Zoning Ordinance may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

### Legals - Montgomery County

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by Roger Woody, Registered Agent, RWW 36 LLC, Property Owner, and Denise E. LaCour, Managing Director, Denstock LLC, Applicant, to amend a previously approved Planned Housing Development ("The Verge Apartments") from 209 multi-family residential dwelling units to 206 multi-family residential dwelling units and to change the proposed layout on approximately 18.82 acres located at the terminus of Farnview Road NE, consisting of all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-41, Parcel ID 017576; a portion of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-36, Parcel ID 021677; all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-37, Parcel ID 032861; a portion of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-38, Parcel ID 021678; all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-39, Parcel ID 021679; all of Tax Parcel 436-((A))-40, Parcel ID 021680; and a portion of 436-((A))-35, Parcel ID 033701; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Carnival from April 28, 2024 through May 12, 2024 on the property located at 782 New River Road NW, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 41, Parcel ID 007741, zoned General Business District B-3. The proposed time period includes the set-up and operation of the Carnival. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at

7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning an unimproved 0.047-acre portion of the eastern most end of Farnview Road, NE right-of-way.

Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:  
A. Code Amendment request by Joe Simmons, Applicant, and Jack Martin, Registered Agent, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-9 - Lighting and minimum off-street parking (a) Specific requirements by use. The request is to include additional language to the "Retail Store or personal service establishment and banks" minimum off-street parking spaces requirement to exclude non-public areas such as stock rooms and

### Legals - Montgomery County

storage areas from the overall minimum parking calculation for a building. A copy of the application and the Town's Zoning Ordinance may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:  
A. Rezoning request by Radford Development of Virginia, LLC, Property Owner, and Hy-Tek Collision, LLC, Applicant, to rezone property located on the East side of the intersection of Badger Street NW and Elk Drive NW, identified as Tax Parcel 525-((A))-44A; (Parcel ID 026060), consisting of approximately 2.265 acres, from B-3 General Business District to I-1 Limited Industrial District. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.  
B. Conditional Use Permit request by Radford Development of Virginia, LLC, Property Owner, and Hy-Tek Collision, LLC, Applicant, to allow for automobile and truck or recreation vehicle assembling, painting, upholstering, repairing, rebuilding or reconditioning, body or fender work, including a commercial garage, towing service, or automobile body shop in the I-1 Limited Industrial zoning district on property located on the East side of the intersection of Badger Street NW and Elk Drive NW, identified as Tax Parcel 525-((A))-44A;

### Legals - Montgomery County

(Parcel ID 026060), and consisting of approximately 2.265 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on February 26, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' intention to act on the following request:  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 ENTITLED ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM USES IN THE COUNTY BY AMENDING SECTION 10-61 DEFINITIONS BY DELETING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MAJOR AND SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MINOR AS DEFINED USES AND CREATING NEW DEFINED USES SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FIVE OR LESS MEGA WATTS, SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM UTILITY SCALE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE MORE THAN FIVE MEGA WATTS AND A NEW DEFINED USE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM WHICH TEMPORARILY STORES ENERGY BEFORE GOING TO THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK; AND BY ADDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21(4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-23 (4) R-R RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 10-28 (4) GB GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING

### Legals - Montgomery County

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on February 26, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' intention to act on the following request:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 ENTITLED ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM USES IN THE COUNTY BY AMENDING SECTION 10-61 DEFINITIONS BY DELETING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MAJOR AND SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MINOR AS DEFINED USES AND CREATING NEW DEFINED USES SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FIVE OR LESS MEGA WATTS, SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM UTILITY SCALE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE MORE THAN FIVE MEGA WATTS AND A NEW DEFINED USE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM WHICH TEMPORARILY STORES ENERGY BEFORE GOING TO THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK; AND BY ADDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM COMMUNITY SCALE AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21(4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-23 (4) R-R RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 10-28 (4) GB GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING

### Legals - Montgomery County

DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (4) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (4) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND BY ADDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM UTILITY SCALE AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21 (4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, AND 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT; AND BY ADDING SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, COMMUNITY AND UTILITY SCALE IN SECTION 10-48 (10) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USES; AND BY DELETING THE NO LONGER DEFINED USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, MINOR AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY RIGHT IN SECTIONS 10-21(3) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (3) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (3) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (3) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (3) PUD-COM

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (3) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND BY DELETING THE NO LONGER DEFINED USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, MAJOR AS A USE PERMISSIBLE BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN SECTIONS 10-21 (4) A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, 10-30 (4) M-1 MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, 10-31 (4) M-L MANUFACTURING-LIGHT DISTRICT, 10-33 (4) PIN PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, 10-34 (4) PUD-COM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND 10-35 (4) PUD-RES PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. Copies of the proposed ordinance amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.





**Blacksburg Books added flair and fun to Moon Hollow Brewing with their pop-up Valentines Book Fair.**

## Beer, books, baked goods, and beef make for a fun Saturday to celebrate Valentine's Day

Moon Hollow Brewing offered a fun and relaxing experience to visitors on Saturday in celebration of the upcoming Valentine's Day.

Visitors to Moon Hollow Brewing could grab their favorite brewed craft beer, browse a selection of Valentine's Day inspired books, purchase eats from the Empanada Nirvana food truck, and then have a sweet treat from the Dessert Bar all in one place.

Moon Hollow Brewing, located on Prices Fork Road in the former Prices Fork Elementary School, welcomed a packed house on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 10. The bar and staff were decorated in cheerful pinks and reds and had a valentine table set up for those feeling a bit crafty. Specialty drinks were also a favorite as glasses of bright pink floated around the room in eventgoers' hands.

Empanada Nirvana is a Puerto Rican style



**Blacksburg Books Manager Ellen Woodall and Assistant Manager Nico Hazlett.**



**Dessert Bar owner Stephanie Reschka provided delicious treats to brewery visitors.**

restaurant, located in Roanoke, but also provides food truck service. On Saturday, in addition to their robust menu of beef, buffalo chicken, Spanish sausage and peppers, yucca fries, and so much more, they offered a special of a tripleta sandwich. The tripleta is a combination of meats and veggies including marinated steak, pernil ham, onions, lettuce, tomato, mayo, ketchup and comes with fries, all on a 10-inch hero sandwich.

Blacksburg Books is located in downtown Blacksburg but made their second appearance at the Valentine's Book Fair event held at the Moon Hollow Brewing. Valentine-inspired books provided not only your typical romance novels, but also graphic novels, and non-fiction. A rack



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LORI GRAHAM

**Moon Hollow Brewery Owner Hannah Lester with Pourser FraserLee Hudgins served customers their favorite brews.**

of mysteriously covered books with no title were labeled "Blind Date with a Book". A short synopsis on the cover described what the book was generally about and offered reduced prices. Blacksburg Books has other pop-up events at Moon Hollow in the summer, but their biggest event is around Halloween, manager Ellen Woodall said.

The Dessert Bar owner Stephanie Reschka situated her baked goods at the entrance of the brewery, delighting customers with the sweet smells wafting from her table. The Dessert Bar is also out of Roanoke but interested customers can visit their Facebook page to find out about their upcoming pop-up events and specials.

# RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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

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## BOS approves Prices Fork Road property amendment

**Lori Graham**

*Contributing writer*

Senior Planner Justin Sanders presented information at a public hearing during the Monday, Feb. 12 Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting addressing a request for Shah Development, LLC to amend proffered conditions of the approved rezoning at 3966

Prices Fork Road in the Prices Fork Village.

The proffered list amendment will give flexibility to business uses for the property owner compared to the prior auto repair business (M&M Tire) that was only permitted there previously.

According to Sanders, most of the surrounding properties are either zoned A1 Agricultural or Planned

Unit Development Residential, but there is also an R1 Residential area for Sterling Manor subdivision. The property is the previous site of the M&M Tire business and was rezoned to Community Business in 2019.

The original nature of the business that was located at the site

See BOS, page 6

## Radford alum named President of Virginia Rural Health Association

Nancy Bell has been named President of the Virginia Rural Health Association.

Bell, Population Health Manager for the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD), assumed the role in January.

Rural health has been the focus of Bell's work since she joined the Virginia Department of Health in 2016 serving Franklin, Henry and Patrick counties and the City of Martinsville.

She has been responsible for leading community health assessments and improvement planning aimed at the needs of rural citizens and for implementing grant-funded programs to address those needs.

Bell is a graduate of Radford University (BA, 1982) and Duke University's Nonprofit Management program (2010).

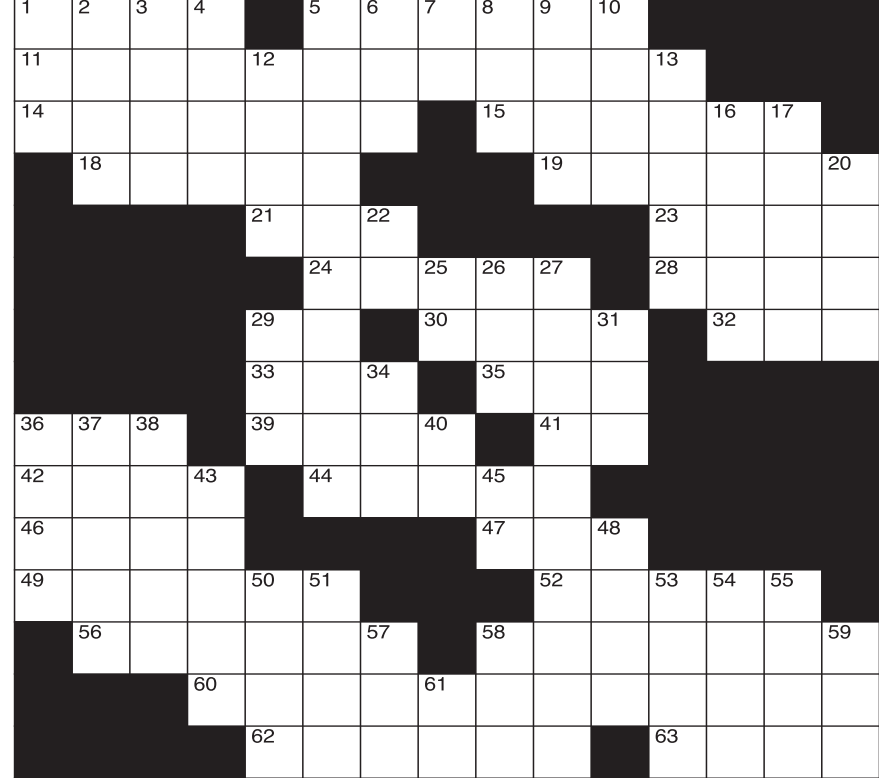
Virginia Department of Health



Nancy Bell

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VDH

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Emperor of Russia
  - Abounding in rocks
  - Increase in speed
  - Music app
  - Not nice
  - Tables (Span.)
  - Decomposes
  - student; learns healing
  - Nursemaid
  - Joke-teller
  - Male parent
  - Group of countries (abbr.)
  - "Rambling Rose" actor Lukas
  - Midway between south and southwest
  - Cartoon Network (abbr.)
  - Peacock network
  - Principal ethnic group of China
  - Made of fermented honey
  - and water
  - Exclamation of surprise
  - Evaluates skill or knowledge
  - Stage in ecological succession
  - Ethnic group of SE Asia
  - Not small
  - A cat is one
  - Broken piece
  - French president
  - Artist's workroom
  - Ability to apply knowledge and skills
  - Visually stunning
  - Ancient region south of Dead Sea
  - Communists (slang)
  - Subjects to hostility
  - A major division of geological time
  - Hitting statistic (abbr.)
  - British thermal unit
  - Influential envoy to Woodrow Wilson
  - Fits on neck of animal
  - Fertile soil
  - Type of battery
  - Khoikhoi peoples
  - Consist of two parts
  - Small group of trees
  - Execute or perform
  - Milliheny
  - 007's creator
  - Associated with esoteric doctrine
  - Electronic counter-measures
  - Schenectady County Airport
  - No (Scottish)
  - Position of leadership
  - Statement
  - Raccoons belong to this genus
  - One who diagnoses
  - True mosses
  - Blood type
  - Albanian
  - Emergency response notification system
  - College reservists
  - Away from wind
  - Tough outer layer
  - Art \_\_, around 1920
  - Born of
  - The greatest of all time
  - Georgia rockers
  - Natural logarithm
- CLUES DOWN**
- Used to pour beer
  - Con game
  - Skin disorder

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# OBITUARIES

## Hall, Michael Steve

Michael Steve Hall, 66, passed away Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at his home in Christiansburg. Steve was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. He was a natural born salesman, selling everything from insurance to steaks. He was preceded in death by his wife, Arleen Patricia Ford-Hall.



Survivors include his parents, Thomas Lee and Catherine Louise Blackwell Hall; daughter, Krystine Atkinson (Chris); sons, Craig Hall (Leigh) and Ezra Ford; grandchildren, Catherine Wirt, Thomas Wirt, Abigail Atkinson,

and Margaret Ford; brothers, Sherman Hall (Nancy) and Tim Hall (Dana); and numerous other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Rev. Leon Alley officiating. Graveside services were held Thursday, Feb. 15, at Rockford Church Cemetery in Fairlawn.

The Hall family are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Jordan, Jerry Wayne

Jerry Wayne Jordan, 73, passed away Sunday, Feb. 10, 2024, at his home in Radford.



He was a U. S. Army veteran and retired from RAAP. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil Roy and Mary Lee Jordan; sisters, Betty and Judy; and eight brothers, Glenn, Jimmy, Kenneth, Buddy, Donald, Bobby, Terry, and Ronnie.

Survivors include his wife, Pamela Elizabeth Jordan; son, Jason Jordan (Amy); daughter, Robin Jordan (Tommy); grandchildren, Megan, Courtney, Katie and Josh; great

grandchildren, Makenzie, Camden and Alayna; sisters, Margaret Morgan and Linda McCoy; brother, Rick Jordan; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services with full military honors followed at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

### BAPTIST

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

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 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.

### LUTHERAN

**Christ Lutheran Church**, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship &

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### PLACE OF REFUGE

Read Numbers 32:1 through 36:13

Select some towns to be your cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone accidentally may flee. They will be places of refuge from the avenger, so that a person accused of murder may not die before he stands trial before the assembly. (Numbers 35:11,12).

God commanded that if anyone died because of violence, and murder was assumed, the murder suspect was not automatically to be considered guilty. Instead, he was allowed to flee to a city of refuge (one of six to be chosen in the Promised Land) that would assure the accused would be treated justly and justice would be done. In this way God provided justice in a culture where protecting the innocent was not a typical response.

When we hear accusations of guilt against others, our first response should be to provide them with a place of refuge in our hearts. That is, we should not rush to judgment, assume their guilt, and be careless in our speech about them. We should treat them fairly, as God intended.

Prayer for Today: Ask the Lord to make your heart and mouth a place of refuge rather than a fount of accusation for others.

Quicklook: Numbers 35:6-15

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

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. 540-639-2671.

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

**St. Michael Lutheran Church**, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where we 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." You'll love our minister, The Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison, who engages us in God's word. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Caring Initiative which includes Micah's Backpack, Soup for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmlc.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11

a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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

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

### PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph. 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, Website 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.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship at 10a.m. with Children's Church at the same time, Sunday School at 9 a.m. Worship is in-person and Live-streamed on our YouTube Channel: StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA. All are welcome. Website: www.stpaulvaumc.org

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



# Obituaries

from page 1

## Keffer III, James Leslie

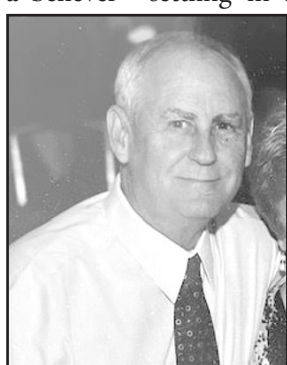
James Leslie Keffer III, a believer in Christ, a beloved husband, father, brother, and community leader, passed away Feb. 9, 2024, at the age of 78.

Born in Blacksburg in 1946, James was preceded by James "Mouse" Keffer II and Margaret Keffer. James is survived by his devoted wife, Carolyn F. Keffer; his loving sons Christopher Keffer and Gregory Keffer; his brother Raymond Keffer; sister Carolyn Bess; and cherished grandchildren Madison Keffer and Carter Keffer.

James honorably served his country in the United States Army before embarking on a successful career. He spent 27 years at Dupont in Richmond, where he served as a Union Steward and worked in Vibration Analysis. Later, he joined Philip Morris until his retirement. Beyond his professional accomplishments, James made a significant impact as a coach and mentor in the Chester League Baseball association, where he served as a commissioner. His guidance and encouragement touched the lives of countless individuals.

James established his family home in Chester, Va., before eventually

settling in Mathews County, where he found solace in the serene view of the river from his living room. An avid outdoorsman, he loved deer hunting, fishing, and passionately supported the Virginia Tech Hokies. In retirement, James found joy in Florida, where he could indulge in his hobbies of golfing and fishing, all while relishing quality time with Carolyn, family, and friends.



His commitment to service extended beyond retirement, as evidenced by his leadership role in the Chester Civitan Club and active involvement in the American Legion. James Leslie Keffer III will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of love, leadership, and sportsmanship will forever endure in the hearts of those he touched. May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to his family and community during this difficult time.

Services were held at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg, Thursday, Feb. 15. The funeral was held Friday, Feb. 16 at McCoy Funeral Home, followed by a graveside service.

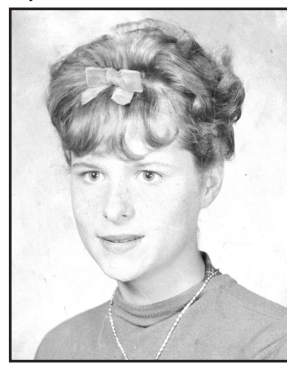
## Petrey, Mary Evelyn Bowden

Mary Evelyn Bowden Petrey, 75, of Dublin, entered into her forever home in Heaven Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024.

She was born Oct. 7, 1948 in West Virginia. Mary was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She loved spending time with her family and being at church. She could always be seen with a smile on her face and would do anything for others. She was preceded in death by her mother, Evelyn Bowman; brothers, Jimmy and David Bowden; and her sister, Ruth Bowden.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Angela Harrison (Delbert), and Crystal Leffler (Chris); grandchildren, Matt Wetzel, Brandon Petrey (Victoria), Jeffrey

Bennett, and Hannah Bennett; great-granddaughter, Ava Petrey; brothers and sisters-in-law, Roger Bowden, and Roy Bowden (Joy); sister, Ruby Bowden; best friend, Glen Branscome; and numerous other family members and friends.



The family will receive friends 10 - 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Pastor Doug Testerman officiating. Burial will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

# BOS

from page 4

allowed for automotive service uses without the availability of the sale of motor fuel.

"The applicant does not currently have an identified use for the property, and they are looking again for that flexibility to determine a future use and market the site accordingly," Sanders said. "They have proffered a list of potential uses that would be allowed by-right. The applicant also proposes additional proffers to address concerns about that future development of the parcel."

An additional landscaping, aesthetics, and signage are also included in the proposal. Buffering would be required between the proposed property and nearby residential zoned parcels. Land use goals for this area do suggest the promotion of expansion, Sanders said as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Sanders also said that the property would meet several policy goals for the Prices Fork Village Plan; including but not limited to meeting requirements for signage, tree placement and vegetative buffer zones.

Further policies and regulations involving environmental issues, stormwater runoff and transportation would be reviewed later once the use of the property is specified.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the site with the property by-right uses being limited to those listed in the proposal and shall remain zoned as Commercial Business.

Supervisor Todd King requested clarification on the current use of the property being limited to an auto repair shop if the amended proffered list proposed by the applicant did not receive approval.

"That's correct, so the existing proffer states that it could be an automobile repair shop without motor fuel sales in a building that is 2,000 square feet or less," Sanders said.

Engineer John Neal from Foresight Design Services presented additional information to

the board.

"Just to point out, we are talking about 1.5 acres of land," Neal said. "The intent, when we went through the rezoning, to Community Business from Agriculture, with M&M Tire operating as a community business for 20-plus years, when it was zoned agriculture, we did it to kind of keep things in line with what M&M was doing there. And the intent was that M&M would operate there for as long as they intended, and then unfortunately, they moved on," Neal said. "So, Mr. Hagan had an opportunity to purchase the property and with our preserve, Walnut Springs, behind it, we thought it was wise to do that."

Neal also said there is a buffer of approximately 25 feet to the rear of the parcel and with an additional 50 feet of common space associated with the preserve, there is a total of approximately 75 feet allotted as a buffer to the nearest residential property.

At this time, VDOT is taking no exception to the proposed property, but a traffic analysis might be required once a determination of the property use is made.

Carol Hoge of Walnut Springs, Blacksburg addressed the board during the public comment session of the meeting. Hoge and her family were previous owners of the property and still own an adjacent farm to the rear of the proposed commercial business site.

"My main concern is, we have a man-made pond that adjoins the property line that they're developing and it's an absolutely beautiful pond," Hogue said. "At the closing, we were asked by Shah Development if we would sign an addendum allowing them to have a water runoff or something... into our pond from their development. The lawyer told us that if we signed it, we had nothing to worry about because the County would monitor this. Now, the construction has begun. I don't know if the County has done any monitoring,

but every time it rains, our pond is filled with mud and runoff from the minimal amount of construction that has started."

Hogue also said that she has lived on the property since 1977 and the pond has never overflowed, but recently water has exceeded the pond's boundaries. There is a cottage that she uses as a rental located near the pond as well. In total, Hogue says that she has 300 acres of land now in conservation and has been in her family since the mid-1800s.

Supervisor Derek Kitts made a motion on the proffer amendment, suggesting the Prices Fork Road parcel proffer amendment to be moved to the next meeting on March 11, 2024. Kitts suggested that in light of the citizen's response, more opportunity for discussion may be necessary.

Supervisor April DeMotts agreed a delay on the amendment vote is understandable, but regrets it is also a delay to the applicant.

Supervisor Sara Bohn questioned if the neighboring landowner Hogue's statements are related to the amendment being discussed before the board. Kitts then withdrew his request to delay the vote.

The Prices Fork Road proffered amendment was passed unanimously by the board.

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# Morris

from page 1

ideal collaborator in Mark Morris, whose brilliant choreography and deep musicality give songs new meaning and dimension through movement. Like a great melody, his dances evoke an atmosphere and inspire feelings, and I think that's just what the world needs now. I'm excited to see how Morris and his creative team bring my songs to the stage in "The Look of Love."

The production features many of Bacharach's chart-toppers, including

"What the World Needs Now," "Don't Make Me Over," "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head," "I Say a Little Prayer," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose," and "Always Something There to Remind Me."

Morris formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980 and has since created over 150 works for the company. Much in demand as a ballet choreographer, Morris has created 22 ballets since 1986, and his work has been

performed by companies worldwide. Noted for his musicality, he began conducting performances for the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2006 and has since conducted at Tanglewood Music Center, Lincoln Center, and BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). He was named a fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991 and has received 11 honorary doctorates to date.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Ms. Ann Goette

and Joseph A. Hopkins and Linda W. Hopkins.

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.

Virginia Tech

# Burning

from page 1

significantly reduce the likelihood of an escaped fire, the number one cause of wildfires."

Although Virginia also has a wildfire season in the fall, more than 60 percent of the Commonwealth's annual average of 700 wildfires occur in the spring. Rising temperatures, dry and windy weather, and abundant fuels such as frost-killed vegetation and dead leaves, increase the potential for wildfires and make them harder to extinguish.

In addition to the statewide 4 p.m. burning law, individual cities and counties may have specific burn laws, bans or restrictions. Check with local officials in your area before burning.

Keep these things in mind this spring fire season: Burning is allowed between 4 p.m. and midnight as long as proper precautions are taken. Never leave a fire unattended. Avoid burning during dry and windy conditions.

No fire may be started, and no fuels can be added to a fire after midnight.

Have a shovel, rake and a charged hose on hand to control the fire.

Call 911 if a fire escapes your control.

Virginia Department of Forestry

# Awards

from page 1

in classical, electronic and Americana genres over the past 34 years while teaching as a full professor in the Department of Music.

His collaboration with British pianist Martin Jones and the Glasgow-based Scottish Voices has resulted in more than 30 concerts in the United States and Britain.

"I am deeply honored and humbled by this incredible recognition and looking forward to enhancing the preparation of my students as creative professionals," Mahin said.

Yurkofsky teaches courses in the Doctor of Education program focused on continuous

improvement, leadership, collaborative inquiry and equitable approaches to spreading change. His research centers on developing partnerships with school and system leaders to investigate how school systems can organize for continuous improvement toward more ambitious and equitable visions of learning. Yurkofsky helps prepare school and system leaders to strategically use improvement science, organizational theory and collaborative leadership

practices to inquire into and address high-leverage problems of practice in their settings. He partners with current and former students on research, professional learning and writing projects focused on improving educational systems in Virginia. Yurkofsky obtained his Ed.D. in Educational Policy, Leadership and Instructional Practice from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2020.

"I am incredibly honored to receive this

award. I am grateful that Radford University and the School of Teacher Education and Leadership have supported me in pursuing my scholarly research interests as I have continued to teach in and coordinate the Ed.D. program," Yurkofsky said. "With this award, I hope to engage in further research on how school systems in Southwest Virginia can organize for continuous improvement toward more ambitious and equitable visions of learning, and to

engage in this research in partnership with the incredible students and alumni of our program who are leading this kind of work in their school systems every day."

Mahin and Yurkofsky will be celebrated with other university award winners during the 2024 University Convocation in August.

Chad Osborne for Radford University



CROSSWORD ANSWERS



# RADFORD SPORTS

## Hall named new Executive Associate AD for Virginia Tech



Brandon Hall PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Brandon Hall, a Christiansburg native, is returning to the New River Valley as Virginia Tech's Executive Associate AD / Athletics Chief Financial Officer, announced Monday by Director of Athletics Whit Babcock.

A 17-year professional in college athletics, Hall will serve as the lead financial officer for Tech's athletic department, overseeing all finance and business activities. Additionally, Hall will serve on Babcock's executive leadership team, manage a business office with seven direct reports and maintain a culture of compliance. Hall will begin his new role in March 2024.

"We are thrilled to welcome Brandon and his family back to Southwest Virginia," Babcock said. "Our mantra, 'This is Home,' carries a great deal of meaning for Brandon as a Christiansburg native.

"We are adding a respected professional who I have the utmost confidence in being a good steward of our resources, while providing valuable counsel and financial planning for our department," Babcock continued. "This position is vital as we chart our path forward in the ever-changing landscape of college athletics."

Hall comes to Blacksburg following a three-and-a-half-year stint at Clemson University, most recently serving as the Senior Associate Athletics Director / Chief Financial Officer. In addition to managing the Tigers' \$160 million operating budget, his areas of oversight included business operations, equipment operations and the aviation department.

He also assisted with the establishment and management of Clemson's corporate partnerships venture and served as secondary sport administrator for the softball program. During his

tenure, the Tigers added women's lacrosse and women's gymnastics.

As Clemson's CFO, Hall was the athletic department's financial liaison to the university, ACC and NCAA. He also managed capital project cash flow for several Clemson facilities, including:

\$67 million Memorial Stadium expansion, including new premium areas, scoreboards and ribbon boards, team locker room, and bowl seating

\$12 million football operations complex expansion

\$37 million women's sports expansion project, including gymnastics operations, lacrosse stadium, lacrosse operations building, and elite athlete recovery center

\$50 million performance and wellness center for Olympic sport student-athletes

"My family and I are thrilled for the unique opportunity to come home and join the Hokie family," Hall said. "Special thanks to Whit Babcock, Amy Sebring [Virginia Tech's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer], and the search committee for entrusting me to serve in this leadership role.

"I also want to thank all the wonderful people at Clemson, especially Graham Neff," Hall continued. "It was going to take a special opportunity for me to leave, and Virginia Tech is certainly that for my family. I'm excited to get started and help further the success and momentum in Blacksburg!"

See Hall, page 8

## SPORTS NOTES

Virginia Tech shortstop Rachel Castine has been named the ACC Player of the Week, the league announced Tuesday morning. The junior earns the award for the first time in her career after leading the Hokies at the plate last week.

Castine led Tech offensively over the five games played, hitting a .583 batting average with 13 RBIs and four home runs, two of those being grand slams. The junior individually recorded more RBIs than any other team in the tournament. Belmont had eight RBIs, Illinois recorded 10, and Auburn put up 12.

In last week's opener win against Illinois, Castine went 2-for-2 with a grand slam, the Hokies' first home run of the season. She then hit her second grand slam of the day to put the Hokies up 8-1 in the extra inning victory against No. 20 Auburn.

Castine also produced pivotal home runs during the Saturday rematch against Auburn and the weekend finale against Illinois, as both home runs helped the Hokies come from behind. She rounded out her career-weekend with a total of seven hits and a 1.667 slugging percentage.

### ACC kickoff

For the first time in the history of the event, the Atlantic Coast

Conference will conduct the annual ACC Football Kickoff with four full days of interviews, July 22-25, at the Hilton Charlotte Uptown in Charlotte, North Carolina. ACC Network will provide live coverage for all four days.

With the addition of three new members in the University of California (Cal), Southern Methodist University (SMU), and Stanford, the breakdown of all 17 schools will consist of three schools on Monday, July 22, five schools each on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 23-24, and four schools on Thursday, July 25.

### Women's tourney tickets

Single-session tickets for the 2024 Ally ACC Women's Basketball Tournament, to be held March 6-10 at Greensboro Coliseum, are now on sale.

Individual session ticket prices start at \$10 for reserved seating and \$7 for general admission seating (for select sessions). Additional reserved seating is now available for all sessions, which starts at \$99.

A nation-best nine ACC teams are ranked in the top 40 of the NCAA NET rankings, headlined by five teams in the top 25. In the latest Associated Press (AP) Poll, five ACC teams are in the Top 25, beginning

with NC State at No. 6. Virginia Tech is No. 12, Notre Dame is No. 16, Louisville is No. 18 and Syracuse is No. 19. Duke and North Carolina are receiving votes.

The 2024 Ally ACC Women's Basketball Tournament will mark the 47th edition of the nation's longest running women's basketball conference championship. It will mark the 24th time in the last 25 years the Greensboro Coliseum has hosted the event.

Nine different ACC institutions have combined for 23 trips to the Women's Final Four, with 2023 ACC Tournament Champion Virginia Tech making its first-ever appearance a season ago. ACC teams have made five trips to the Final Four in the last five seasons. Over those five seasons, 40 teams have earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament, the most among all conferences. Since 2014, the ACC has combined for 119 NCAA Tournament wins, the next closest conference has just 105.

### Lady Hokies 12th

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team is ranked 12th in the AP Poll the organization announced Monday

See Notes, page 8

ACC FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIPS	
<b>MEN'S &amp; WOMEN'S SOCCER</b>	<b>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</b>
2024-29 - CARY   WAKEMED SOCCER PARK	2024 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO COLISEUM
	2025 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO COLISEUM
	2027 - CHARLOTTE   SPECTRUM CENTER
<b>MEN'S &amp; WOMEN'S SWIM &amp; DIVE</b>	<b>GYMNASTICS</b>
2024 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	2024-26 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO COLISEUM
2025 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	
2027 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	<b>ROWING</b>
2028 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	2024 - RALEIGH   LAKE WHEELER PARK
2029 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO AQUATIC CENTER	2026 - RALEIGH   LAKE WHEELER PARK
<b>MEN'S &amp; WOMEN'S LACROSSE</b>	2027 - RALEIGH   LAKE WHEELER PARK
2024-28 - CHARLOTTE   AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL STAD.	2029 - RALEIGH   LAKE WHEELER PARK
<b>WOMEN'S GOLF</b>	2030 - RALEIGH   LAKE WHEELER PARK
2024 - WILMINGTON   PORTERS NECK COUNTRY CLUB	
2025 - GREENSBORO   SEDGEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB	
2027 - GREENSBORO   SEDGEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB	
2029 - GREENSBORO   SEDGEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB	
	<b>MEN'S BASKETBALL</b>
	2025 - CHARLOTTE   SPECTRUM CENTER
	2026 - CHARLOTTE   SPECTRUM CENTER
	2027 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO COLISEUM
	2028 - CHARLOTTE   SPECTRUM CENTER
	2029 - GREENSBORO   GREENSBORO COLISEUM
	<b>MEN'S &amp; WOMEN'S TENNIS</b>
	2024-29 - CARY   CARY TENNIS PARK
	<b>BASEBALL</b>
	2024 - CHARLOTTE   TRUIST FIELD
	2025 - DURHAM   DURHAM BULLS ATHLETIC PARK
	2026 - CHARLOTTE   TRUIST FIELD
	2027 - DURHAM   DURHAM BULLS ATHLETIC PARK
	2028 - CHARLOTTE   TRUIST FIELD
	2029 - DURHAM   DURHAM BULLS ATHLETIC PARK

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ACC

## ACC announces championship locations

On Thursday, Feb. 8, the Atlantic Coast Conference announced Charlotte, Greensboro, Cary, Durham and Raleigh will play host to numerous future neutral site conference championships as approved by the league's membership.

Half of the conference's 28 sponsored sports are named, including the ACC Women's Basketball Championship and ACC Men's Basketball Championship, as well as Olympic Sports, including baseball, women's golf, gymnastics, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's

soccer, men's and women's swimming and diving, rowing, and men's and women's tennis.

As was announced in April 2018, the ACC's Football Championship Game is scheduled to be played on the first Saturday in December at Bank of America Stadium through 2030.

"We are incredibly proud to announce this tremendous package of neutral site championships that will be held in the State of North Carolina, where the league was founded more than 70 years ago,"

said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "Each of these outstanding cities and venues will provide a first-class experience for our student-athletes, coaches, institutions, alumni and fans over the next seven years. We are also pleased to have been able to deliver so quickly on our commitment to continue to hold numerous tournaments and championships in cities across the State of North Carolina as part of the ACC Board of Directors' decision to relocate the conference office headquarters to

Charlotte."

The ACC Men's Basketball Tournament will take place in North Carolina for five consecutive years from 2025 to 2029. The historical postseason tournament will alternate years, taking place at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte in 2025, 2026, and 2028, and at the Greensboro Coliseum in 2027 and 2029. No venue has hosted the ACC Men's Basketball Tournament more than the Greensboro

See ACC, page 8

## DeMartini embraces leadership role

As the 2024 baseball season nears, Virginia Tech third baseman Carson DeMartini has been steadily tabbed for his talent and grit on the diamond. The junior from Virginia Beach, Virginia, was praised as D1Baseball's No. 3 third baseman in the outlet's 2024 Preseason Player Rankings, has garnered 2024 Preseason All-American consideration from three leading outlets (D1Baseball, NCBWA,

Perfect Game) and ranks as the No. 43 overall prospect for the 2024 MLB Draft per mlb.com.

"It's the body of work that I put in," DeMartini said. "I've been working at this game since I was two years old. It's something that I've always done well. I've always worked my butt off at it."

During his sophomore 2023 season, DeMartini started 52 games, batted .323, had an on-base

percentage of .455 and boasted a .947 fielding percentage at third base. After sustaining a mid-season injury that kept him from playing the field, he transitioned into the role of the Hokies' designated hitter, hitting triples during each of his next two games in the heart of Tech's lineup.

Back at full health in 2024, DeMartini has added a new role to his repertoire, one he has not truly held with the Hokies

until now – leadership. This offseason, Tech welcomed 24 newcomers and 13 true freshmen, leaving many new faces to integrate into the clubhouse.

"I think I'm one of the leaders on the team," DeMartini said. "I think that's fair to say. I feel like I've earned that role, both vocally and by how I carry myself. Throughout [my] years it has built [up], and this year is the climax of that role."

DeMartini is now a

See DeMartini, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech's Preseason All-American Carson DeMartini is determined to will club through new season.



# RADFORD SPORTS

# Radford girls falls to Floyd



Abby Hodock races up court after grabbing a rebound against Floyd County.



Senior Claire Fender sinks a free throw in the first quarter in the final regular season game for the Bobcats on Wednesday night.



Radford's Adouncia Hayes shoots a short jumper in Tuesday's 61-39 loss.



Radford's Angel Thompson gets fouled while driving to the basket.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## DeMartini from page 7

seasoned veteran with the Hokies, having started all but two of the team's 112 games since arriving as a freshman in 2022. As a rookie, he slugged .659 on Tech's 2022 NCAA Blacksburg Super Regional team, hammering 15 home runs while totaling 50 RBIs.

This season, DeMartini anchors the infield alongside a core group of returners

who are poised to lead the Hokies to the program's first Men's College World Series appearance.

"I think it's huge having returning guys in every spot on the infield," DeMartini said. "We all know what to expect with the season. It's a lot. The game moves fast and it's tough to worry about everything else and still play well. I think we're able

to loosen [the newcomers] up a little bit and in turn, they are able to have a better season."

Attitude and skill form the foundation to any third baseman, especially in DeMartini's case. His day-in, day-out demeanor helps him emerge as a player who can lead this 2024 team and he is prepared to do so.

Virginia Tech baseball begins its 2024 campaign on Friday, Feb. 16, at Charlotte. Following a midweek away game at James Madison on Wednesday, Feb. 21, the Hokies will debut at English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park on Friday, Feb. 23, against Rhode Island.

- VT Athletics

## ACC from page 7

Coliseum, and 2027 will mark the 30th time. The City of Charlotte has hosted the ACC Men's Basketball Tournament on 13 occasions.

The ACC Women's Basketball Tournament will also split time between Charlotte and Greensboro, as the women's tournament will tip off in the Greensboro Coliseum in 2024 and 2025. In 2027, the longest-running DI conference women's basketball tournament in the country will be held at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte.

Like the men's and women's basketball championship, the ACC Baseball Championship will also alternate sites over the next six years. Starting this spring, the baseball conference championship will be hosted at Truist Field in Charlotte in 2024, 2026, and 2028, while Durham and the Durham Bulls Athletic Park will

host the championship event in 2025, 2027, and 2029.

In addition to basketball, the Greensboro Coliseum Complex will also host men's and women's swimming and diving as well as gymnastics. The Greensboro Aquatic Center will host the ACC Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving Championships in five of the next six years – 2024, 2025, 2027, 2028, and 2029. The ACC Gymnastics Championship will be held three straight years – 2024, 2025, and 2026 – at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Charlotte is the host city for both the ACC Men's and Women's Lacrosse Championships beginning this spring and running through 2028. Both events will be held at the American Legion Memorial Stadium.

The ACC Women's Soccer

Championship and the ACC Men's Soccer Championship will continue to be held at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary through the 2029 season.

The Cary Tennis Park will continue to host the ACC Women's and Men's Tennis Championships from 2024 through 2029.

Lake Wheeler Park in Raleigh will host the ACC Rowing Championship in five of the next seven years, including 2024, 2026, 2027, 2029, and 2030, while the ACC Women's Golf Championship will be played on a variety of McConnell Golf properties throughout the Southeast through 2029. The 2024 event will be held in Wilmington at Porters Neck Country Club, while the 2025, 2027, and 2029 tournaments will take place at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro.

The ACC continues to accomplish

greatness with a monumental start to the 2023-24 academic year.

This past fall, the ACC saw four different ACC teams win four NCAA Titles across the seven league-sponsored fall sports. The conference as a whole, also continued to rank among the nation's best in both U.S. News and World Report Rankings and NCAA Graduation Success Ratings while making momentous changes to the league with the relocation of the office headquarters to Charlotte, North Carolina, the announcement of the addition of three world-class institutions in University of California (Cal), Southern Methodist University (SMU) and Stanford University and the launch of a new brand campaign entitled Accomplish Greatness.

Atlantic Coast Conference

## Radford claims two region wrestling titles, Christiansburg's Hand takes Region 3D title

Radford High School came home with two Region 2C wrestling trophies after competition this weekend.

Taven Williams took region crown at 157 pounds, and Charlie Davis rolled at 215 pounds.

Jackson Gilbert took second at 138 pounds, Lance Duncan at 165 and Cole Martin at 175 were runner ups. Radford's Dawson Martin was also second at 190 pounds. Ricky Bailey finished the Bobcat top finishes with a second at 285 pounds.

In the team scores, Radford tallied 150 points to finish fourth with Glenvar taking the regional championship with Chatham in second place.

Christiansburg's Brady Hand defended his Region 3D crown with a victory at 138 pounds. Teammate Jacob Robie would finish in second at 165, and Zachary Cumming was second at 175. Brandon Bevins was third at 190 pounds as the Blue Demons had 122.5 points to finish in sixth place. Staunton River continued its dominance with 286 points and four regional champs for first place with William Byrd second and Lord Botetourt third.

In 4D, Blacksburg finished seventh as a team with two place winners. Sherando took the region title with 220.5 points with Orange County second at 198. Blacksburg finished 134 to 114 behind Salem.

Tharin Svetanant took the 126-pound class, while Braden Henderson finished first in the 132-pound class.

Blacksburg's Tyrique Nicholson was third at 138 pounds.

-Staff report

## Notes from page 7

afternoon.

The Hokies are 20-4 (11-2) on the season following another 2-0 week which featured a fourth consecutive victory over NC State and an 11-point win against Boston College in front of a sellout crowd. Overall, the Hokies have won seven in a row and are in solo first place in the ACC standings with five games remaining.

### ACC honors Kitley

Virginia Tech center Elizabeth Kitley earned ACC Player of the Week honors the conference announced Monday afternoon. For the graduate student, it is her fourth time winning the award this season and 13th time in her illustrious career.

Kitley recorded two 20-point double-doubles this week as the Hokies ran their winning streak to seven games. In the second game of the season sweep of NC State she led all scorers with 25 points on 50% shooting while securing 13 rebounds as the Hokies became the first team to win at Reynolds Coliseum since they won there last season. Sunday, she put up 24 and 15, going 9-14 from the field.

She became the all-time leader in ACC history with her 73rd career double-double against the Wolfpack and then added to that total against the Eagles.

Staff report

## Hall from page 7

Hall came to Clemson after serving as the Senior Associate Athletics Director / Chief Financial Officer at the University of South Florida from 2018-2020. During his tenure in Tampa, Hall was a member of the Bulls' Athletics Cabinet and oversaw business operations, equipment operations, human resources, and information technology.

Prior to USEF, Hall spent six years

at the University of Oklahoma from 2012-2018 – starting as the Director of Business Operations before being promoted to Assistant Athletics Director in 2016. Hall primarily managed the Sooners' budget that grew over 60% during his time in Norman.

Hall began his career in athletics in his home state of Virginia, spending two years at the College of William and Mary (2010-2012) after four

years at Radford University (2007-2010).

Hall earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Radford University in 2009 and Master of Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 2015. Brandon and his wife Cindy have two sons, Dylan and Tanner.

Virginia Tech Athletics