



News Journal

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Radford University creates new College of Nursing, setting a statewide precedent

RADFORD - Radford University's newest college is one that's been deeply rooted in campus academics for 50 years.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) recently authorized the new College of Nursing, a name change also approved by the Radford University Board of Visitors. Radford is the only public institution in Virginia to have a separate College of Nursing.

The College of Nursing is led by Interim Dean Wendy Downey, D.N.P., and has learning locations in Radford and Roanoke.

"This is a monumental achievement for the College of Nursing in a 50-year history where we have been part of a college, but never as one dedicated solely to nursing," Downey said. "Numerous alumni and emeritus faculty have told me, 'This has been a long time coming.'"

Becoming a separate college, Radford University is even more so on a national stage by placing the profession of nursing and nursing education at the level of prestige it deserves and giving it far-reaching

significance. "We are setting a new precedent for nursing both in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as the first public institution of higher ed in Virginia to have a College of Nursing, and also across the U.S.," Downey said.

The creation of this separate college emphasizes the importance of nursing and the need for well-educated, practice-ready nurses in the world. It also continues Radford University's devotion to consistent evolution of educational programs in response to the healthcare needs, delivery mechanisms, and technology advancements in the region, Commonwealth, nation, and world.

"The elevation of Radford University's School of Nursing to the College of Nursing is a milestone worthy of celebration. We are well-known for our contributions to the nursing profession: in 2022-23, Radford conferred 258 nursing degrees, the second-highest total among Virginia public institutions. In addition, our nursing programs routinely rank as the very best in the commonwealth. At Radford, we have embraced the



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

A College of Nursing student practices measuring a student's heart rate.

responsibility to prepare a healthcare workforce that will improve outcomes for patients across our region and the

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Unveiling Black History

CI, Inc. and MCCRC launch speaker series on cultural preservation advocacy in Montgomery County

Christiansburg Institute (CI, Inc.) invites the public to a captivating evening on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. at The Lyric Theater in Blacksburg.

This marks the launch of our inaugural speaker series, a collaborative project between CI, Inc. and the Montgomery County Community Review Council (MCCRC).

Delve into the intricate cultural tapestry and history of Roanoke, exploring its profound connections to Montgomery County through the lens of Jordan Bell—a distinguished community historian, professional educator, and dedicated

cultural organizer. A Roanoke native deeply immersed in the region's history, Jordan currently serves as the Program Coordinator at Apple Ridge Farms and is the Founder and President of Gainsboro Revisited. Additionally, Jordan holds board positions at the Harrison Museum of African American Culture and the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation.

Bell's passion for African American cultural heritage, history, and storytelling is palpable through extensive research and preservation efforts, particularly focused on Gainsboro—a historically Black

community in Roanoke. Prepare for an engaging experience as Jordan delivers a dynamic presentation, setting the stage for an immersive panel discussion featuring local community members.

Generously sponsored by the Black Studies Center at Radford University and the More Than A Fraction Foundation, this event promises an enlightening exploration of the region's heritage. Join us as we embark on a journey through time, unraveling the layers of history that define our community.

Christiansburg Institute, Inc.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

New state funded programs will support students who are eligible for federal Pell grants.

State funding to support Radford University programs for Pell-eligible students

RADFORD - The State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) has awarded \$1.5 million to Radford University to support funding for pilot programs aimed at supporting enrollment and retention for students who are eligible for federal Pell grants.

The initiatives involve creating an enrollment coach program to support additional student connections and the establishment of the Highlander Success Scholarship for students who find themselves unable to enroll at Radford because of financial constraints.

"Over the past year, Radford University has made an unprecedented commitment to affordability and access for students through the Radford Tuition Promise. We thank SCHEV for this impactful grant which complements our institution's efforts," said Radford University President Bret Danilowicz, Ph.D. "By closing funding gaps for Pell-eligible students, the Highlander Success Scholarship will allow them to confidently make progress toward degree completion. The peer coaching component is just as important. Students who experience a sense of belonging and community are more likely to remain at the university. We are proud to offer enhanced outreach to ensure that Pell-eligible students have their needs met and are pleased to create meaningful work-based learning opportunities for our new team of student enrollment coaches."

These initiatives will allow Radford University "to pilot and ultimately implement programs that will grow access to higher education," said Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Financial Aid Allison Pratt. "The funding will solidify Radford University's ability to implement best practices in peer-mentorship coupled with using gap funding to support our neediest population."

Radford's Office of Undergraduate Admissions works to connect with every Virginia high school to allow students to learn about unique opportunities and educational experiences at Radford University. In the fall of 2022, admissions staff visited more than 300 high schools in the commonwealth. Twenty percent of those schools were identified as targets for the Pell grant.

"Our goal is to provide a transformational education for all students, and we are uniquely positioned to provide the support Pell students need with our experiential learning opportunities, student support services and small class sizes," said Pratt, touting Radford's 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio, which allows for individual connections between student and teacher.

The enrollment coach pilot program is designed for current Radford undergraduate students to assist incoming students and ultimately expand to include support for first-year Highlanders. Student coaches will work closely with Division of Enrollment Management staff members to help incoming students complete the necessary steps to begin their higher education journey at Radford.

The focus of the program will be to support Pell-eligible applicants while also creating experiential learning opportunities for current students who are considering careers in higher education. The enrollment coach program will give those students an opportunity to earn funds to support their educational experiences. A goal for the future of the program is to increase the number of Radford graduates who enroll in one of the university's many graduate programs or kick-start their careers through working on campus.

The enrollment program will be implemented in three phases, beginning with enrollment coaches working in year one with Radford enrollment management professionals, April through September, to support Pell-eligible students who have chosen to attend Radford. In year two, about 16 coaches will be individually assigned

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Radford police officers help deliver Supplies for Seniors



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RCPD

Radford City Police Department Sergeant Emily Hite (left) and Master Police Officer Chase West (right) assist a Volunteer Montgomery volunteer with delivery of Supplies for Seniors bags recently in Radford. The Supplies for Seniors program delivers needed household items to homebound seniors and veterans.

NRCC Concert Series to hold free concert Feb. 10

The music of Adam McPeak & Mountain Thunder and Gap Civil will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event on Sat., Feb. 10.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

The band Adam McPeak & Mountain Thunder is composed primarily of young bluegrass musicians from Virginia, with mandolin player Adam at the helm. The band includes Mike McPeak, Adam's father, who plays guitar and sings lead and harmony vocals; Nikki Wright who plays fiddle and sings lead and harmony vocals; David Chrisley who plays bass and sings harmony vocals; Steve Chrisley, David's father, who plays banjo; and Lindsey Jackson, who sings lead vocals. The group began playing at fiddler's conventions and then went on to play their own shows and participate in competitions. They have also appeared on public television's "Song of the Mountains."

Gap Civil is an Appalachian Mountain music band built on their motto of honor and innovate. They honor the mountain traditions that have shaped and rooted their music, and they take great pride in innovative and



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Gap Civil

exciting original songs, tunes and arrangements. Fluidly blending the genres of old time, country, bluegrass and Americana, their music is sure to make you want to dance. Gap Civil was formed in 2017 based in Sparta, N.C. and features Todd Hiatt on guitar, Chris Johnson

See NRCC, page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 10:

Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will be serving up hot biscuits topped with delicious sausage gravy, or with the latest batch of our "world-famous" apple butter. We will also have scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg; 8 – 10 a.m. This is below the sanctuary, on the lower church parking lot level. This is a fundraiser for our club to help us as we serve our community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. More information at <https://fb.com/MfLaborRuritan>.

Sunday, Feb. 11 – 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 11, 2024- Ms. Stacie Wright; 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. 12:

Radford City Council meeting

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

Tuesday, Feb. 13:

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.

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.

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.

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 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 businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov or call 540.961.1108.

NRCC hosting student art and poetry contests

New River Community College (NRCC) is hosting poet laureate and visual artist competitions for students this spring, along with 21 other Virginia Community College System (VCCS) institutions.

Supported by the VCCS Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Culture, the theme for the competitions is "I Belong." The winner of the college poetry contest at each college will be considered for honors as the "Poet Laureate for Virginia's Community Colleges."

The art and poetry competitions are open to students who are enrolled at least part-time in adult education, workforce credential, certificate, or degree programs at NRCC and live in the NRCC service region. Dual enrollment or early college students under age 18 must secure parent or guardian permission to participate in the competitions. Students may enter original work for either or both competitions at NRCC and will need to complete an application.

Those applying for the college poet laureate must submit three original poems, including one tied to the theme, and be prepared to give a live performance of the theme-related poem. Students vying for the art Luminary award through the visual arts competition will submit one original piece. Works accepted for the visual arts competition are limited to drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture.

Dr. Tammy Parks, NRCC professor of art, is the college's competition coordinator. Those who have questions about the contest may contact Parks at tparks@nr.edu.

For more information, visit <https://www.vccs.edu/blog/poetry-and-arts-contests-launched-at-most-vccs-colleges/>. Students can submit entries online at <https://bit.ly/NRCCartscontest>. The deadline for entry submissions is March 1.

New River Community College

Blacksburg High School students petition for reinstatement of principal

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Blacksburg High School students are petitioning for the reinstatement of Principal Chris Stewart after receiving a statement that he would be taking a leave of absence from their school.

This is following a previous petition from Blacksburg students and parents calling for an investigation into a Nov. 7 2023, murder-suicide that resulted in the deaths of two Blacksburg High School students.

A statement from the Montgomery County School Board confirmed that an investigation into the actions of BHS would be initiated.

"At a special meeting on Jan. 30, 2024, the Montgomery County School Board voted to initiate a third-party review of circumstances related to the off-campus deaths of two Blacksburg High School students on Nov. 7, 2023. Our goals are to work expeditiously in support of this review and to take responsible and appropriate actions based on any recommendations returned. The School Board intends for this review to aid in better understanding of the factual circumstances of the matter

and to assess the school division's legal and regulatory obligations in matters such as these. The School Board will not comment further until the review has been completed," MCPS Public Relations Office said.

Parents and students then received notice that Principal Chris Stewart would be taking a leave of absence and Adam Simpson would be temporarily acting in the administrator's place at BHS as principal.

A later email was sent to parents that Assistant Principal Oliver Lewis was also placed on leave.

Students reacted with a TikTok video protesting the removal of Stewart. In the video, students are holding signs reading "We love (heart symbol) Stew", "Justice for Serenity", and "We Want Accountability", to the tune of Open Your Eyes by Illkan Gunuc and Osman Altun.

Additionally, a petition at www.change.org was started by a BHS student Jan. 28 2024, and has almost reached their goal of 500 signatures as of Feb. 4. The petition on the website states that Stewart had only been the principal of BHS for a little over three weeks at the time of the tragic event and should not be held accountable for the events that led up to the students' deaths.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEWISGALE

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery receives fourth Magnet recognition

BLACKSBURG — LewisGale Hospital Montgomery has received Magnet designation, the highest national honor for professional nursing practice, from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the fourth time.

Receiving Magnet recognition is a tremendous achievement, as only a small, select group of healthcare organizations are recognized each year. Magnet recognition is awarded to organizations and nursing teams that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence, leading to the highest level of treatment for patients. Very few hospitals in the country have four or more Magnet recognitions.

"This recognition is a great honor and reflects our commitment to delivering the highest quality of care to our community,"

said Lauren Dudley, chief executive officer. "Earning Magnet recognition is a great accomplishment and incredible source of pride for our nurses. Our repeated achievement of this credential is the cornerstone of a foundation of excellent patient-focused, quality care."

Less than 10% of hospitals in the United States are Magnet recognized, and less than 1% of those have been designated four or more times. Research demonstrates that Magnet recognition provides specific benefits to healthcare organizations and their communities. These include higher patient satisfaction, lower risk of 30-day mortality, higher job satisfaction, and lower nurse turnover.

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery

Virginia Tech researcher explores hybrid fostering of shelter dogs for improved canine welfare



PHOTO BY LEE FRIESLAND FOR VIRGINIA TECH
Lisa Gunter's dog, Sydney, in a grassy park near Roanoke.

Adoption can be challenging for man's best friend, and Virginia Tech researchers are exploring ways to make the process better for dogs in animal shelters and increase community involvement.

With a grant totaling more than \$135,000 from PetSmart Charities, researchers in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' School of Animal Sciences will work in collaboration with a PetSmart. During the day, the dogs will stay in one of PetSmart's Everyday Adoption Centers to be available for adoption by the public, and they will go home at night with their foster families.

"A barrier to recruiting and retaining foster caregivers is the commonly held belief of the time commitment involved in fostering," said Lisa Gunter, assistant professor in the School of Animal Sciences and project lead. "By providing daytime care at a PetSmart

Everyday Adoption Center, that barrier to participation is greatly reduced. Caregivers can drop their foster dog off during the day and return in the evening to pick up their dog on their way home. In all, hybrid fostering offers a unique opportunity to increase the visibility of shelter dogs and improve their quality of life while awaiting adoption."

Previous research by Gunter and colleague at Virginia Tech and at Arizona State University about the positive effects of short-term foster programs on shelter dog adoptions and the stress-reduction benefits of home fostering stays led Gunter to conduct the study in addition to addressing barriers about why people are hesitant to foster shelter animals.

"We hope that a successful hybrid fostering program could be rolled out to all of PetSmart's Everyday Adoption Centers," Gunter said. "As for bigger implications, ideally this research would inspire shelters to try out hybrid fostering programs in their communities to help improve the welfare of dogs awaiting adoption and increase foster caregiving in their communities. Now more than ever, shelters need the help of foster caregivers to save the lives of homeless dogs."

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

OBITUARIES

Burke, Eldean Thornton

Eldean Thornton Burke, 87, went to be with her heavenly father Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, at her home in Christiansburg surrounded by her loving family. She was a longtime member and secretary of Cornersview Pentecostal Holiness Church and worked at Thornton's Greenhouse in Snowville. Eldean was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Gladys Phillips; and husband, Harold Thornton.



Survivors include her husband of 44 years, Ronald Lee Burke; children, Brenda Roop and Jack, Elaine Snuffer and Benny, Randy Thornton and Christy, and Darrell Thornton and Annette; sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Jerry Harper; grandchildren, Kim Vaughn and Mark, Christie Thornton, Jamie Thornton, Ashley Thornton, Michelle Collins and Delbert, Shauna Farrington and Brian, and Nicole Crowder and John; step grandchildren, Tammy Surface and Alan, and Brad Roop and Jenni; 15 great grandchildren; six great great grandchildren; nephew, Shane Harper;

care givers, Trea, Fannie, Stacey, Natasha, Kathy, Tammy, Julia and Crystal; church family; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Good Samaritan Hospice for all the love and compassion given to Eldean.

The family received friends Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at Cornersview Pentecostal Holiness Church in Snowville with Rev. Frankie Graham officiating. Interment followed in the Appalachian Conference Cemetery in Dublin.

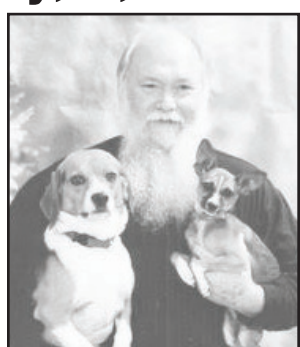
The Burke family is in the care of the Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Gravley, II, John Henry

John Henry Gravley, II, son of Bettie and Clarence Robert Gravley (Boots), left this life Jan. 30, 2024, after a short hard battle.

God's anointing was upon him. He was a member of Mountain View Seventh Day Adventist Church in Floyd. He loved the Lord with all his heart, soul, and mind. He struggled so hard these last few months but never gave up. Now, he's asleep, waiting for the Lord to come upon his appointed day.

John Henry always had a good sense of humor. He loved playing music and singing in



church. He was a friend to everyone. And we all loved him very much. To say he will be missed is an understatement! His presence and impact on those around him left impressions so strong

that he will never ever be forgotten.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Bootsie; brothers, Terry, Dustin, Jay, Jesse, and Beaver; and all aunts, and uncles. He leaves behind Bettie (mom), Toady (sister), Robert (brother), Karin (wife), sons, John, III, and Jason, daughter, Karina, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews, church family, who he loved dearly.

A memorial service was held Monday, Feb. 5, 2024 at Parrott Church of God with Elder Billy Martin officiating.

Sterrett, Robert

Robert "Bob" Sterrett, 72, passed away peacefully Feb. 2, 2024.

He was born in Lexington, Va. Feb. 12, 1951, to the late William and Frances Sterrett. He spent his childhood in Richmond but found his true home in Blacksburg. Bob graduated from Blacksburg High School then received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech. After graduation, Bob became a teacher and coach until he switched careers into sales with Poly-Scientific. He finished his career as the Human Resources Director at Moog.

Bob loved to work, but once retiring, he found his true passion: golf. On any day of the week, he could be found at the Blacksburg Country Club playing a round with his long-time friends or just hitting balls in the evening. He also loved rooting for the



Hokies and vacationing with his family at Wild Dunes. Bob's kindness, and infectious personality touched all who met him. He loved life and fought courageously for it against cancer for two years. Despite this terrible disease, Bob never lost hope.

Bob was most proud of his family, especially his 48-year marriage to Julie. He is survived by her and their two sons Scott (Brittany) and Robert (Yamini) and three grandchildren

Charley, Drew, and Bobby. He is also survived by his brother Bill Sterrett (Cynthia) and brother-in-law Jeff Jenrette (Dorothy) and his nieces and nephews Stephanie Guckenberger (Mark), Meredith Wojnowich (Gili), Jordan Jenrette, and Joseph Jenrette.

The family would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support over the last two years. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Blacksburg Battles Cancer at <https://www.blacksburgbattlescancer.org/donate>.

A memorial service will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, with the Reverend Brad Dulaney officiating. A visitation will be held Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, 4 - 6 p.m., at McCoy Funeral Home.

NRCC from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Adam McPeak & Mountain Thunder

on banjo and bass, Lucas Pasley on fiddle and vocals, and Kyle Dean Smith on bass and lead guitar.

Corporate sponsors of the music events include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc., Radford; CCCKY, LLC - Fazoli's, Dublin; Deanie Hall - State Farm Agent, Dublin; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc.,

Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; King Tire Service, Pulaski; Lee's Body Shop, Pearisburg; Martin's Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgomery & Pulaski Counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset travel expenses for the musicians. The music events are typically held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.

For more information about the NRCC Concert Series, please contact Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625 or visit www.nr.edu/concerts.

New River Community College

Pell Grant from page 1

to work with Radford admissions staff as students are admitted. In the third year, Coaches will be employed to work with first-year Pell-eligible students through their first semester and begin working with prospective Radford students the following January.

Currently, 37% of Radford undergraduate students are eligible for the Pell grant.

The Highlander Success Scholarship program aims to support continued enrollment for students who are unable to re-enroll because of financial constraints. The scholarship would award an additional \$500 to \$1,000 to Pell-eligible students who lost gift aid between their first and second years at Radford, helping reduce the financial gap students may see as a barrier to continued enrollment.

"We know that a financial barrier of as little as \$100 can prevent a student from returning to the institution," Pratt said. "Additionally, we see more than 50% of our students not meet one of the renewal criteria for the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP) and, in turn, lose some level of financial aid support between the first and second year of enrollment."

Measuring the success of the scholarship program would be determined by a minimum 2% increase in Radford's fall-to-spring retention rate among Pell-eligible first-year students.

Radford received additional funding

from SCHEV in December to expand its Highlander Research Rookies program, which couples students with a faculty mentor to work for three semesters on a research project. Pell eligible students will engage in creative work opportunities, about five to six hours a week, that build their fundamental research skills. Students receive a \$1,000 stipend for each semester of participation. When the work concludes, each student presents their research methods and findings to the university at the annual Student Engagement Forum.

"The students participating in the experience gain valuable research skills, develop meaningful faculty relationships and have opportunities to connect with students from across disciplines," explained, Joe Wirgau, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship.

University data shows Pell-eligible students often do not participate in Radford's most supportive research programs, including Highlander Research Rookies. "Our intention with the additional funding is to strategically grow, over the next three years, the number of Pell-eligible students participating in Highlander Research Rookies."

"These students will feel supported at every step of their academic journey as a result of these funds," Pratt said.

Justin Ward for Radford University

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.

Meet Pepperoni! This gal can be shy at first, but once comfortable, she enjoys cuddles and pets from her favorite humans. Pepperoni tends to act a little tough with other felines, so she may do best as the only cat in the home.



Buttercup won't break your heart. In fact, she'll fill it with sweetness and joy! She is a smart girl who knows basic commands, and she'll gladly roll over for a yummy treat. Buttercup also gets along with other dogs. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her.

Varelos, Nicholas Michael

Nicholas Michael Varelos, 52, passed away Feb. 3, 2024, after a battle with Alzheimer's.

He is preceded in death by his father, Michael Nicholas Varelos; mother, Alice St. Clair Varelos; and other family members.

He is survived by his wife, Kelly King Varelos; daughters, Katherine Nicole and Alexis Paige Varelos, all of Blacksburg; sisters and brother-in-law, Elaine and Curtis Woods of Elliston, Angela Lance of Roanoke; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Susan and Cameron Craft of Blue Ridge; brother-in-law, Michael King of Blue Ridge; nieces and nephews, Sarah and



Zach Hill of Roanoke, Chloe and Justin Wan of Texas, Rachel and Brevin Thomas, and their daughter, Blair, of Texas, Victor Lance of Texas, and Andrew King of Daleville.

Nick was a 1989 graduate of William Fleming High School in Roanoke. After

graduation, he went on to work at his family's restaurant, Mike's Grill in Blacksburg. He worked in food prep, then as a cook, until becoming the owner in 2011. After closing the restaurant in 2016, Nick worked at Yokohama Tire as a production supervisor until Sept. 2020.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Scott Obenchain officiating. A graveside service will follow at 1 p.m. at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, Roanoke. The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Williams, Sharyn Dawne Poole

Sharyn "Sherry" Dawne Poole Williams, 78, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph Willard and Frances Sawyers Poole; and her husband, Dennis Wayne Cox.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Lori Williams Maxfield (Torgler); former husband, Marshall Williams; sister and brother-in-law, Marsha Poole Simpkins (Donnie); stepdaughter and her husband, Ronda Lambert (Billy); nephew, Will Simpkins; niece

and her husband, Sarah Polcha (Greg); and many other relatives and special friends.

A memorial service will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that

donations be made to the Pulaski County Humane Society, 80 Dublin Park Road, Dublin, VA, 24084.

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

118th ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER



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OPINION

Salem Rebels were a fun part of local sports history

Evans "Buddy" King
Columnist

In the fall of 1967, professional ice hockey came to southwest Virginia in the form of the Salem Rebels,

an "expansion team" in the Eastern Hockey League. That was the year the Salem Civic Center opened. The small arena, located in the Salem sports center that today includes a minor league baseball park and a football stadium that hosted the Division 3

college football championship for several years (the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl), was initially named the

See **Rebels**, page 8

General Assembly "crossover" deadline coming soon

Del. Jason Ballard
Virginia General Assembly

The Virginia General Assembly continues its march toward the "Crossover" deadline; the date when legislation originating in the House of Delegates must pass to the Senate of Virginia (and vice versa). "Crossover" this year is February 13, and any legislation that doesn't pass from its originating body by that day is considered dead. This means that committees are working in overdrive to consider hundreds of bills to meet this hard deadline, and the days have certainly become longer.

As mentioned last week, several of my bills have received favorable committee hearings and have since passed through the full House of Delegates. This includes HB 292, which changes the name of Drug Treatment Courts to "Recovery Courts." HB 292 passed through the House of Delegates with a unanimous "yes" vote, and I look forward to presenting this bill to the Senate Committee on Courts of Justice soon. Also passing the House unanimously was my HB 299, which would allow localities to exempt from their animal license tax retired police K9's or

military working dogs. This local option is a great way for our localities to say "thank you" to our law enforcement and Veterans who wish to adopt their working dogs.

Additionally, I've received many emails from constituents in support of House Bill 906, which would protect consumers from utility shutoffs during a state of emergency declared by the Governor. During this bill's initial committee hearing, I harbored concerns that this law could open the door for abuse and intentional non-payment of utility bills, which could make everyone's electric bills more costly. However, those concerns have since been addressed, and I was happy to vote in favor of this bi-partisan piece of legislation on the House floor that protects us all from utility shutoffs during emergencies. HB 906 passed on a 76-24 vote in the full House, and it will now move on to the Senate for further consideration.

Unfortunately, House Democrats continue their overreach in several areas of public policy, to include such topics as the minimum wage and legislation restricting popular firearms. HB 157, which would eliminate exemptions for farm employees

and certain temporary foreign workers from Virginia's minimum wage law, passed through the House of Delegates on a 50-49 vote. Many—if not a majority—of those voting in favor of this bill have no experience with farming and agriculture is not a substantial industry in their districts. This bill will make our food more expensive and provide an additional incentive for automation, which does not help workers at all. Equally disappointing is House Democrat's fixation with banning so-called "assault firearms," which they seek to do through House Bill 2. Rifles of any kind constitute a very small percentage of firearms used in violent crimes. In fact, Virginia Department of Health statistics show that between 2013-2017, 79.5% of gun homicides were perpetrated by handguns, while only 4% were by rifles of any type. This is obviously misguided policy, and its why Republicans embrace proven gun-violence prevention programs, such as Operation Ceasefire.

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you



COURTESY PHOTO

and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @ JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

You can save more for retirement in 2024

Josh Smith, CRPC
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

As an investor, one way you can enhance your long-term retirement security is to fully leverage the potential of tax-advantaged retirement savings vehicles. Each year, the IRS releases new guidelines on the amount of money you can

contribute to these accounts. New contribution limits in 2024 allow you to save even more this year through plans such as 401(k)s, 403(b)s and IRAs.

Changes to workplace savings limits

Contribution limits for workplace retirement accounts have been raised by \$500 for the year 2024. In 2024, the IRS allows pre-tax employee contributions to 401(k) or 403(b) plans of: \$23,000 for those under age 50 and \$30,500 for those age 50 and older (includes a \$7,500 "catch up" contribution).

When combined with employer contributions, a maximum of \$69,000 can be directed to your workplace retirement plans in 2024 (plus the \$7,500 catch-up contribution for those age 50 and older). Note that total contributions can't exceed your annual compensation at the company that houses your plan.

If offered by your employer, you may be able to make after-tax contributions to a Roth 401(k). Note that any after-tax contributions are counted toward the \$69,000 total maximum limit for employee and employer contributions to workplace plans. Save an amount that makes sense for you, but it can be beneficial to take full advantage of any matching contribution offered by your employer. For example, if an employer offers to match up to 5% of your income into a 401(k) if you make a similar contribution, it, in effect, means you're doubling your contribution for your retirement savings, before investment earnings are taken into account. This is a great way for your savings to make a big impact.

New IRA contribution limits

IRA contribution limits move up periodically to reflect cost-of-living changes. 2024 is one of those years. The new limits are: \$7,000 for those under age 50 and \$8,000 for those age 50 and older.

Note that contributions can't exceed 100% of your earned income if you earn less than the limits stated above. Also, these limits apply to total IRA contributions for the year. This is applicable even if you hold multiple IRAs or make contributions to both Roth IRAs (which feature the potential for tax-free earnings growth) and traditional IRAs.

To make fully tax-deductible (pre-tax) traditional IRA contributions in 2024, your modified adjusted gross income cannot exceed: \$77,000 for single or head-of-household tax filers or \$123,000 for married couples filing a joint return.

Not everyone can make maximum Roth IRA contributions. In 2024, full Roth IRA contributions can only occur if your modified adjusted gross income is less than: \$146,000 for single or head-of-household tax filers and \$230,000 for married couples filing a joint return.

Save diligently, plan wisely

Determining how much to set aside for retirement and in what types of savings vehicles is best determined through careful planning. The start of a new year is a great time to consider if you want to change or start contributions to these types of accounts. Discuss your retirement strategy with your financial advisor and consult with a tax professional on all tax-related matters.

Josh Smith, CRPC is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Radford (540-639-5153), 202 Third Ave., Radford. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for three years.

Investment products are not insured by the FDIC, NCUA or any federal agency, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by any financial institution, and involve investment risks including possible loss of principal and fluctuation in value.



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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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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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36							37				
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40									41		
42										43	

CLUES ACROSS

- One point south of due east
- Coagulated blood
- Fortifying ditch
- Devotee of Hinduism
- Trunk of a tree
- Bank note
- Capital of Guam
- Study again
- Covered with hoarfrost
- Opening
- Legendary Rolling Stone
- Stray
- Computer storing system
- Signal
- Pitching statistic
- Human being
- Malaysian isthmus
- The "Blonde Bombshell"
- A gland
- Bluish greens
- Endangered
- Three-dimensional
- In a way, precipitated
- God associated with dissolution
- Blemished
- Flow or leak slowly
- Disco legends The Bee
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- A way to board
- Get down
- Highly seasoned sausage
- First day of month
- Eurasian shrubs
- The organ that bears the ova of a flower
- Small lake
- Belief
- Sunrooms
- Metric weight unit
- Vasopressin
- Bravo! Bravo!
- One-time family room staple
- Got back together
- Anger
- Sang merrily
- Sea eagle
- Military men
- Kilo yard (abbr.)
- Found in the sea
- Protects from weather
- Type of medicine
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away
- Lack of disunity
- One-time European Commission officer

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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

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

For Sale - Firewood

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE SALE OF

105 Shade Hollow Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated October 3, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$135,681.00, recorded as Inst. 160003659, subsequently assigned to Virginia Housing Development Authority, and modified to the amount of \$127,131.58 as Inst. 210001144, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on March 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as 1.00 acre, more or less, beginning at a common corner with W.L. Harris on a 30 foot Roadway leading to Va. State Secondary Route 652, corner marked by an iron pin; thence with said W.L. Harris line, N. 89 degrees 31' W. 223.86 feet to an iron pin corner in said Harris line; thence a new line through property owned jointly by Timothy N. Gilbert and Linda D. Gilbert and Herbert O. Ransom and Mary V. Ransom, N. 11 degrees 18' W. 200 feet to an iron on above said property; thence a new line through same property, S. 89 degrees 31' E. 223.86 feet to an iron in west edge of said 30 foot Roadway; thence with the said Roadway westerly line, S. 11 degrees 18' W. 200 feet to the point of Beginning, subject to a Road Maintenance Agreement recorded in Deed Book 494, Pages 811-817, and together with a perpetual easement 30 feet wide located near Hickory Street for ingress and egress to Va. Secondary Route 652, a portion of this right of way is 14 feet wide as shown in Deed Book 579, page 44 and final order recorded as Inst. 030004788, County of

Legals - Botetourt County

Botetourt. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$12,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosure-sales. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE SALE OF

105 Shade Hollow Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

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ABC NOTICE

DPC Living LLC., trading as Sycamore Place General Store, 19758 Main St., Buchanan, Botetourt County, VA. 24066-0000.

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

Debra Conner, Owner

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

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

CSKS LLC, trading as 101 Corner, 1123 Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141-5342

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

Hardikkumar Patel, Owner Chirayau Patel, Owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from

Legals - City of Radford

the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, to consider public comments regarding the following: Proposed amendment to Radford City Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 120.1-228 - Non-Conforming Signs. The proposed amendment will allow for the Consolidation; reconstruction of existing nonconforming off-premise sign structures. Additional information is available at www.radfordva.gov or the Community Development Dept. at (540)267-3188, 10 Robertson Street. Interested citizens are invited to attend this hearing and present their comments.

ABC NOTICE

Tienda Y Taqueria Genesis LLC., trading as Tienda Latina Genesis, 7345 Peppers Ferry Blvd Suite A, Fairlawn, Pulaski County, VA. 24141-8857.

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

Josue Vazquez Quintanilla, Owner.

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

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, voted to continue the public hearing of the following item.

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

This item was continued until the March 11, 2024, meeting of the Council of the City of Salem. This meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street.

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

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

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

Legals - Montgomery County

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

will hold public hearings on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

- Ordinance 2038: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Sections 14-200, 14-201 and 14-202
 - Establishing a Civil Penalty for Certain Trash Violations.
- The proposed ordinance will amend the Town Code to create a process to address loose trash or garbage in a timely manner.
- Ordinance 2040: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code to Establish a New Section 17-315 to Prohibit Overcrowding in Buildings.

This proposed ordinance will incorporate the provisions of § 1001.3 of the Virginia Statewide Prevention Code regarding overcrowding into the Town Code. Violations will be a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Resolution authorizing Deed of Dedication for Meadowbrook Greenway Trail

The proposed resolution will authorize the Mayor to sign a Deed of Dedication which will designate a portion of the Meadowbrook Greenway Trail as permanent open space. All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/publichearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

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, CHRISTIANSBURG, 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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 - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the action to officially list the Vinton Historic District on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

The Vinton Downtown Historic District appears to be eligible for a National Register listing at the local level of significance. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information to affected property owners and local officials about the meaning of a National Register designation.

Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Antonia Arias-Magallon Administrative Manager

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@dhv.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

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RADFORD SPORTS

RU volleyball player testifies on NIL



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Radford University volleyball player Meredith Page speaks to members of Congress during the "NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student-Athletes Dealmaking Rights" hearing Jan. 18, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Page was joined by Radford athletics leaders and Big South Conference commissioner Sherika Montgomery (right) during her testimony.

(Editor's note: Today, we begin a look at the changing landscape of college athletics and how it might affect the mid-major and smaller schools like Radford University.)

Meredith Page had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent herself and Radford University.

Page, a member of the women's volleyball team, 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 on Jan. 18, 2024.

The native of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and third-year member of the Highlanders joined two other student-athletes – UCLA football quarterback Chase Griffin and Michigan softball catcher Keke Tholl – as well as NCAA President Charlie Baker, Missouri Valley Conference Commissioner Jeff Jackson and Victoria Jackson of Arizona State University in testimony on Capitol Hill.

Amid a growing push to professionalize college sports, Page used her time before Congress to send a message – the opportunities afforded to athletes who participate at the mid-major level, and in Olympic or women's sports, must be protected.

"Becoming a student-athlete in 2021 truly changed my life," Page said in her testimony. "I have seen myself grow from an unsure girl to a confident woman with the empowerment of college athletics.

"Swimming, volleyball, tennis, soccer, track and field, and the rest on the long list of non-revenue-generating sports cannot be forgotten. It is easy to lose touch with who is behind those titles. Future doctors, lawyers, scientists, CEOs, and most importantly, the next generation of leaders. They do not deserve to get lost in the narrative."

Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) is the movement that allows student-athletes to receive payments or benefits related to their status as athletes, like the rights afforded to professionals. Schools may not pay the athletes directly for competing, but athletes can receive compensation from businesses or social media platforms or from collectives, which are organizations that pool together the NIL rights of athletes from the same school (or team) and make payments to those athletes based on obligations that they fulfill.

Radford's student-athletes can access NIL opportunities through the Highlander Exchange, a platform powered by third-party provider INFLCR.

There are no unified laws, rules or regulations that govern NIL. A patchwork of state laws and the NCAA offers broad guidance, but no uniform governance applies to all 362 Division I schools or the nearly 1,100 NCAA member institutions in all divisions. And following the recent announcement of Project DI, which includes a potential Division I subdivision that will allow for direct athlete compensation, athletes

could soon become employees.

Some fear that proposed changes may lead to lost opportunities for women or Olympic hopefuls. Page was there to provide perspective as a women's volleyball player and on behalf of an institution like Radford, which is considered "mid-major." The NIL conversation has been typically driven by athletes and institutions from "Autonomy 5" conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big XII, SEC, Pac-12; the Pac-12 will dissolve following the 2023-24 season).

Page is the president of the Radford University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and a member of the Big South Conference SAAC. Joined in Washington by Big South Commissioner Sherika Montgomery, Radford University Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg and Radford Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Support Services Allison McCoy, Page sought to bring more inclusion to the NIL discussion.

Page sat down for a question-and-answer session following the hearing.

When did you first find out that you would be giving testimony, and what was the preparation process like?

Meredith Page: I got my invitation from Congress on Sunday (Jan. 14), and the hearing was on Thursday (Jan. 18). I had to submit my written testimony and other forms by Tuesday (Jan. 16) at 10:30 a.m. It was incredibly stressful. The first thing I did was watch three past hearings, because this was the 11th different hearing on NIL, to get an idea of what I needed to do. I had two meetings a day (with NCAA staff) until it was time for me to submit my testimony on Tuesday. It was a short turnaround to submit my testimony - I had to work through the night each night to make sure I got exactly what message I wanted to put out there. I put 19 of 24 hours those days into prep. Lots of sleepless nights.

What happened when you arrived in Washington?

MP: I met with the subcommittee Republican staff (majority party of the House). They took me into the hearing room and let me have a preview. I met in their subcommittee office, where they gave me some pointers, told me about the (timer) on the microphone, let me know how long the hearing would be, and what to expect from different congressmen and congresswomen.

Did you meet the other student-athletes who testified?

MP: I did not get to spend any

time with Chase, but Keke and I had a conversation for about an hour and a half on the phone - we were going to meet in person, but then her flight got delayed. We talked about our opinions and gauged each other out – she wanted to have some reassurance from someone else in the room since she didn't know anyone who was testifying. I knew both Jeff Jackson and Charlie Baker.

How do you think your message was received?

MP: I think it was received really well. I think the consensus going into the hearing was that athletes should be employees. Stepping back now, I think my message and words put some thoughts into the heads (of the representatives) and shifted the narrative on employment status. So, I'm hopeful that it will gain momentum. I think one of the main reasons I said yes to going was that I wanted them to look at somebody that this [athlete employment status] would drastically affect. To see me and know all of my accomplishments and know that this, the changing of (student-athlete) employment status, could take opportunities away for thousands of athletes.

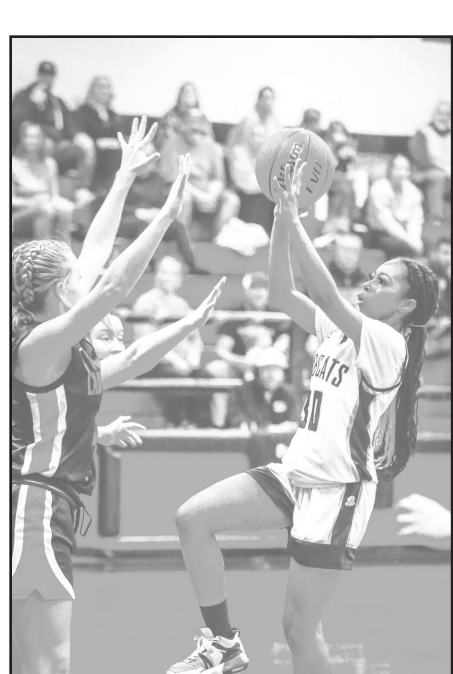
I received really good feedback from the representatives that were there, and their staff members gave me business cards and let me know that they wanted to talk about draft revisions and continue the conversation. But also, the media surrounding (the hearing) has absolutely exploded regarding my testimony. There's a feeling of, "How did I end up here?" My mom called me last night (Jan. 21) and said she saw me on cable news. I can't even count the number of articles I've been in - it's so amazing to see a Big South athlete, a mid-major athlete, at the forefront of this conversation. That's normally where we're not heard like those at Autonomy 5 schools are.

What's next for you, and what are the future outcomes for athletes like yourself?

MP: What's next for me is to use this momentum and put it directly into congressional engagement for the Big South Conference. I want to use all of the momentum and social media presence we have right now to continue to show that subcommittee that these are real people who you are affecting.

Page, a student in the Davis College of Business and Economics majoring in management, is on track to earn her bachelor's degree in spring 2025.

Radford University



Adouncia Hayes puts up a jumper in the lane against James River in a 68-39 loss on Thursday.



Radford's Quinn Burton nails a short jump shot against the visiting Knights.

James River girls down Radford



Senior Claire Fender races up the court on senior night. She led the Bobcats with 12 points.



Radford's Melody Burks shoots a free throw in the fourth quarter. Radford falls to 5-12 overall on the season with the loss.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Wake tops ACC baseball poll, Tech sixth in Coastal

Wake Forest has been selected as the 2024 Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball preseason favorites by the league's 14 head coaches.

The Demon Deacons collected 10 of the 14 possible first-place nods from head coaches. North Carolina tallied two votes, while Clemson and Virginia each received one vote.

Wake Forest was also the clear-cut winner of the Atlantic Division, receiving 12 of 14 first place votes. Clemson, who won the 2023 ACC Baseball Championship, picked up the two remaining first-place votes among the teams in the Atlantic Division.

With Wake Forest collecting 95 points to lead the Atlantic, Clemson finished with 79 total points to be slotted in second place. NC State picked up a third-place selection with 68 points, while Florida State (54), Louisville (48), Notre Dame (31), and Boston College (17) rounded out the grouping.

The Demon Deacons finished atop the Atlantic Division in 2023 before making a run to the Men's College World Series championship series. Clemson won the ACC Baseball Championship and finished the year with 44 wins – the most for the Tigers since 2018.

The Coastal Division was nearly deadlocked between Virginia and North Carolina. The Cavaliers garnered seven first-place nods and 88 total points to inch past the Tar Heels, who received six votes on the top line and a total of 86 points. Duke picked up the final first-place vote among Coastal teams.

The Blue Devils accumulated 71 points to take third in the preseason poll, while Miami finished fourth with 56 points, followed by Georgia Tech (40), Virginia Tech (34), and Pitt (17).

The Cavaliers are coming off of a 50-win season in 2023, including 19 wins in ACC play, which cultivated in a trip to the Men's College World Series. The Tar Heels won 36 games and made a trip to the Terre Haute Regional, while Duke capped its season one win away from Omaha in the Charlottesville Super Regional.

Wake Forest has been named the preseason No. 1 team in the country by D1Baseball, Baseball America, Perfect Game, and the NCBWA. The USA Today Coaches' Poll has not yet been released. Six ACC schools – Clemson, Duke, North Carolina, NC State, Virginia, and Wake Forest – have each appeared in all three preseason polls thus far.

The ACC has placed at least one team in each of the last 17 College World Series and at least six teams in each of the last 19 NCAA tournaments.

All 14 ACC teams will open their seasons on Friday, Feb. 16, with conference play set to begin on Friday, March 8. The 2024 ACC Baseball Championship will be held May 21-26 at Truist Field in Charlotte, North Carolina. ACC Network will be on hand for the first five days of the tournament with ESPN2 set to carry Sunday's championship game.

Full tournament ticket books are on sale now through the Charlotte Knights and the Truist Field box office.

2024 ACC Baseball Coaches Preseason Poll

- First-place votes in parenthesis
- Overall ACC Champion
- Wake Forest (10)
- North Carolina (2)
- Clemson (1)
- Virginia (1)
- Atlantic Division
- Wake Forest (10) - 95
- Clemson (1) - 79
- NC State - 68
- Florida State - 54
- Louisville - 48
- Notre Dame - 31
- Boston College - 17
- Coastal Division
- Virginia (1) - 88
- North Carolina (2) - 86
- Duke - 71
- Miami - 56
- Georgia Tech - 40
- Virginia Tech - 34
- Pitt - 17

Atlantic Coast Conference

RU picked ninth in Big South poll

For the first time, USC Upstate has been voted the Big South Conference's preseason baseball favorite by the league's head coaches, it was announced today by the conference office.

In addition, the coaches voted UNC Asheville outfielder Robbie Burnett (Franklinton, N.C.) the conference's Preseason Player of the Year and High Point hurler Gus Hughes (Greensboro, N.C.) the league's Preseason Pitcher of the Year.

The Spartans, last year's Tournament Runner-up, finished second in the Big South standings last season with a 21-6 record and was 38-22 overall with wins over Power 5 programs Clemson and Northwestern. USC Upstate received seven first-place votes and 79 total points to win the league title in 2024.

Gardner-Webb was second in the preseason poll with 61 points - the Runnin' Bulldogs' highest standing in the ranking since 2013 and 2014. High Point finished in the third spot with 50 points, just ahead of Winthrop (one first-place vote) and UNC Asheville, who tied for fourth with 49 points each. Presbyterian College was sixth in the voting with 39 points, while Charleston Southern finished seventh with 32 points. Longwood followed in the

eight position with 27 points, and Radford finished ninth in the voting with 19 points and received the remaining first-place vote.

Burnett is the first UNC Asheville baseball player to earn Preseason Player of the Year honors. A two-time All-Big South honoree (first-team in 2023, honorable mention in 2022), Burnett led Asheville last season with a .379 batting average to go with 13 home runs and 35 RBI. He stole 11 bases, scored 48 runs and drew 24 walks for a .486 on-base percentage. Burnett's knack of getting on base sparked a 33-game on-base streak in 2023, and he collected 21 multi-hit performances during his sophomore season. Burnett hit .398 in 21 Big South games a year ago with six doubles, two triples, seven homers, a .490 on-base percentage and .771 slugging clip. He received five first-place votes and 22 points in the preseason voting, ahead of USC Upstate's Grant Sherrod (three first-place votes and 16 points) and High Point's Cael Chatham (one first-place vote and eight points).

Hughes is High Point's first Preseason Pitcher of the Year honoree since 2019 and second overall. A Second-Team All-Big South selection in 2023, Hughes went 6-5 on the hill in 14 appearances

(all starts) with a 1.33 WHIP. He pitched 81.1 innings, allowed 73 hits, posted a 4.98 earned run average, and had a team-high 90 strikeouts to rank third in the Big South. Hughes had the fifth-most strikeouts in a season in program history and tallied a school-record 15 strikeouts against Lafayette on March 5. Hughes, who was fourth in the Big South in opponent batting average (.239), was 4-2 in conference play with a 1.30 WHIP, 4.20 ERA and 56 strikeouts in 55.2 innings pitched. He received four first-place votes and 19 points in the Preseason Pitcher of the Year voting, ahead of USC Upstate's Jake Cubbler (three first-place votes and 17 points) and UNC Asheville's Justin Honeycutt (six points).

The 2024 baseball season begins Friday, Feb. 16 and the first Big South conference weekend is March 15-17. The top four teams in the final conference standings will advance to the Big South Baseball Championship, which will be held May 23-25 at Truist Point in High Point, N.C. The champion receives the Big South's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

Big South Conference

Rebels

from page 4

Salem Roanoke Valley Civic Center. The SRVCC. A few years later, the City of Roanoke came along and built a "bigger and (arguably) better" arena (of course they did, the competition between Salem and Roanoke, at least in those days, rivaled any fighting on the ice), and stole the Rebels away.

The EHL franchise in Salem adopted the same name used by the minor league baseball team that played a mile or two away in grand old Municipal Field. Both clubs also had the same general manager for several years, Jack Dame, a legendary Salem sports figure. I remember my Dad telling me that the minor league teams in Salem were there instead of Roanoke because the Star City had not supported a Red Sox minor league team that failed financially in the 1930's or 40's, resulting in Roanoke being blacklisted and labeled a "poor sports town".

The EHL was a "low minor" hockey league, in every sense of the word "low" - low in salaries (a lot of the players had part time jobs in the community to get by), low in number of players (the teams carried 14 players, the bare minimum to get through a game - two sets of two defensemen, three lines of three offensive players (a center and two wings) and one goalie), low in attendance (Salem probably averaged about 1,200 per game, in an arena that sat 4,000). So, the Rebels and the EHL were the "low minors," but make no mistake about it - it was serious professional ice hockey. Nothing amateur or semipro about the game on the ice.

Teams consisted primarily of very young forwards, 18 - 21 or so in age, still with aspirations of making the NHL (the hockey equivalent of Major League Baseball), and older defensemen, on their way down from the high minors, like the American Hockey League, who had not quite made it to the big time.

Goalies were harder to explain - it was a rough, dangerous position with careers ending in the flash (or the loss) of an eye. Goalie masks had only been around for a few years then and were not yet perfected (or perfect). Few players wore helmets, it being thought of as a sign of lack of fortitude. I have to admit I loved the "no helmet" era as it allowed you to identify the players easily. It gave them personalities. And the fights were better.

The EHL had two divisions, a Northern and a Southern, with Salem of course being in the Southern, which consisted of the Charlotte Checkers, the Greensboro Generals, the Knoxville Knights (the league was big on alliteration), the Nashville Dixie Flyers, and the Jacksonville Rockets, along with our beloved Rebels. The

teams played a 72-game regular season starting in mid-October and ending in late March, with no inter-divisional play until the playoffs, when the winners that came out of 4 team playoffs in each division met in a best of seven for the Walker Cup. We knew nothing of the playoffs in Virginia, however, with the Salem Rebels never sniffing them in their 3 seasons in the EHL before the franchise started splitting games between the SRVCC and the "brighter and shinier" Roanoke Valley Civic Center for the 1970-71 season and became the Roanoke Valley Rebels, removing some of the charm from the games and lengthening the drive from Christiansburg.

The northern division was made up of the Clinton (N.Y.) Comets (perennial champions), the Jersey (Cherry Hill I think) Devils, the Long Island Ducks, the New Haven Blades, the Syracuse Blazers, and the Johnstown Jets (who played in the iconic Cambria County War Memorial Auditorium made famous in the movie Slap Shot - the team in the movie was modeled after the Jets and the cinematic fights and games were a reasonable facsimile of the EHL).

Life was brutal for EHL players in that era. The 72-game schedule was played over five and a half months, with three or four games a week, and all travel was by bus. Meal allowances were meager, often spent at 7-11's and the "meals" eaten while going up and down the interstates of the southeastern U.S. It was not unheard of to play on Saturday night in Salem and Sunday night in Jacksonville.

Not only was the lifestyle brutal, but so were the games. Fights were common, probably because the players were ill tempered from sleeping on buses and eating bologna sandwiches and drinking cheap beer. The crowds on the road were not unlike professional wrestling fans - they came to boo and heckle the visiting villains and entice fisticuffs. With 14-man rosters, an injury mid game forced extra minutes on the other players, and, heaven forbid, if your goalie was hurt or tossed out of the game, a player with little or no experience in the net was forced into action. Several teams had "player-coaches" to save a salary.

To further emphasize the hard scrabble nature of minor league hockey in those days, Salem's rink had hard chain link surrounding the areas where the better rinks had plexiglass. So, if you were "boarded", your face would go into the metal wire. Each team had at least one "policeman" or "enforcer", a "goon" who was willing to drop his gloves and fight in a heartbeat. While most of the players at that time played for the love of the

game and had known little else since peewee hockey in Canada, almost all still harbored dreams of making the NHL and playing in front of thousands, not hundreds, and earning a decent paycheck. Accordingly, notwithstanding the travel and the lifestyle, effort was usually fanatical and the games intense.

Not unlike professional baseball in the early years, most of the players had left school without high school diplomas and were playing to keep from going back to the farms and factories of their cold hometowns in the north. The players were almost exclusively Canadian at all levels of hockey in those days. O Canada was played before every game, and between the Rebels and my time as a Key Clubber at CHS, I still know all the words today.

How did I develop my love for the EHL and the Rebels? In the early fall of 1967, my mother and her dear friend Nedra decided to attend the Ice Capades at the brand spanking new arena in Salem and to take me and Nedra's son, my great friend John, along. How they got us to go is beyond me. I vividly recall that I was severely unhappy because I had to miss the Redskins that day, but John and I got enthused when we saw posters and banners saying that "Hockey was Coming." We got the bug.

A few weeks later, after high school football had ended and Friday nights became free, my dad took John and me to a game against the Knoxville Knights. Our first game. I had followed hockey enough in Sports Illustrated and the occasional game on television to realize that the Rebels wore red, white, and blue uniforms just like the New York Rangers of the NHL, and the Knights wore all red, identical to the Detroit Red Wings.

We probably couldn't have picked a better game for a couple of 14-year-old boys to get hooked on hockey. The small arena put you on top of the action, the play was fast and furious from start to finish with lots of goals, and there was a major bench-clearing brawl that must have lasted 15 minutes.

My dad had been skeptical about the sport, particularly its penchant for fighting. He warned me it was like professional wrestling that we watched on Channel 7 from Starland Arena in Roanoke on Saturday nights. That the fights were "fake". Wrong. After sitting four or five rows above the ice during a brutal fight involving all 14 players from each team, with blood flying and jerseys being pulled over heads, he conceded it was real. Real as a heart attack.

I am sure my dad didn't enjoy the fights as much as John and I did, but he came to appreciate the sport and the

skill and the action. He took John and me to several more games over the next couple of years and we followed the team religiously - loss after loss after tie after loss. The Rebels' first season ended 11-53-8.

I still remember a few of the Rebels' "stars", if you could call them that - right winger Jimmy Jago and center and Captain Sam Gregory, decent goal scorers, and Bob Zupan, an extremely overweight goaltender enjoying his only season of professional ice hockey, stand out the most in my memory.

During the fall of 1967, while Zupan, all 260 pounds of him, manned the nets in Salem, the Hokies were quarterbacked by Al Kincaid (who later coached at Giles High before a solid college coaching career). In my mind, Zupan and Kincaid were the 2 most unfairly criticized athletes in southwest Virginia at the time, with one writer saying that Kincaid had as much of a chance of completing a forward pass as Zupan did of stopping a shot on goal. My lasting image of Zupan in action was with his back turned, reaching into his own goal with his stick to retrieve another puck he had watched go by. I remember my dad saying, "he's just not very good".

The third season of the Rebel brought a true star to the Valley, Dave Schultz, who went on to win two Stanley Cups with the "Broad Street Bullies," the Philadelphia Flyers of the early 70's. Dave set the penalty minute record in the EHL that season of 1969-70, and went on to do likewise in the AHL (with the Richmond Robins) and in the NHL, while making many friends along the way.

A couple of years after that first season, several of my CHS classmates had cars and we were allowed to drive "down the mountain" to games on our own. I remember some wonderful nights watching the Rebels lose 8-3 in the SRVCC, with Bob and Bobby and George and Bo and the Greys and Steph and Phyllis and Sara and others. The girls made a few bedsheet banners insulting the Generals or the Checkers that we would dangle over the walk from the visitors' locker room to the ice, and I remember George spraying lilac air spray around the head of an older fan who was smoking a cigar a row in front of us. They were different times - most indoor sports arenas in the 60's had a smoky haze above the ice or court from cigarettes and cigars. We didn't care for it, and George came prepared that night.

Alas, the EHL disbanded, the franchise moved to another league, and the games at SRVCC were no more. We moved on with our lives, and the Salem Rebels became part of history. But it was fun while it lasted.

Nursing

from page 1

entire commonwealth. The enhanced commitment of resources and new model of governance that the College of Nursing benefits from will further advance our university and the communities that Radford-educated nurses serve," said Radford University's President Bret Danilowicz.

Radford University's Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Bethany Usher,

also celebrated the new name and opportunities it provides nursing students.

"Creating a College of Nursing as a free-standing unit showcases our high-quality nurse education programs, and the value we place on educating nurses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The College will be able to grow and attract faculty who want to be at the nexus of scholar, educator, and practitioner. In the College of Nursing, students will get focused teaching and advising that help them become well-educated and sought-after professionals," Provost Bethany Usher said.

The College of Nursing also includes two of the most advanced level Clinical Simulation Centers in Virginia, one on campus in Radford and

one at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. Both were developed, through public and private funds, to address the nursing shortage and explore alternatives for clinical education for students.

The Radford nursing program's charter class of 11 students graduated in 1973. Since then, nursing has expanded its academic offerings to include degrees in Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate. The nursing program has received countless accolades, including Top Nursing Program in Virginia by allnurses.com and registerednursing.org.

Radford University

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