

# News Journal

Saturday, March 16, 2024 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

## McHarg Elementary's Lindsay Lesko named RCPS Teacher of the Year



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

McHarg Elementary School first grade teacher Lindsay Lesko (center) is the Radford City Public Schools teacher of the year. She is pictured with School Board Chair Jenny Riffe (L) and School Principal Dr. Michelle Greene (R).

Heather Bell

hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

RADFORD – McHarg Elementary School first grade teacher Lindsay Lesko is the 2024 Radford City Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

Lesko was one of four school level awardees, who were chosen by the faculty members of their respective schools. She was chosen after a committee interview process and will now be considered in the statewide Teacher of the Year competition.

Lesko's principal, Dr. Michelle Greene, says Lesko's positive attitude and desire to learn and grow as a teacher are some of the qualities that make her great.

"She shows up each day with a smile on her face and a genuine enthusiasm for teaching," said Greene. "Her ability to create a

warm and welcoming classroom environment is truly remarkable, and her students thrive under her guidance."

"As a literacy leader in our school, Ms. Lesko consistently seeks out opportunities to incorporate best practices into her teaching," Greene continued. "She is always eager to learn and grow, including seeking out professional development, like LETRS, to enhance her instructional practices in the classroom. Ms. Lesko is committed to staying up to date with the latest research in the science of reading and pedagogical approaches in which she creates a dynamic and engaging learning environment for her students."

See Lesko, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAARIT KYTÖHARJU

Caroline Shaw (at center) performs with S Percussion.

## Classical and pop music collide with Sō Percussion, Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw, and beat boxer Shodekeh

BLACKSBURG — Multi-genre quartet Sō Percussion joins forces with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw and groundbreaking breath artist, beat boxer, and composer Dominic "Shodekeh" Talifero for an evening of music bridging the worlds of classical and pop at the Moss Arts Center on Wednesday, Mar. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Sō Percussion redefines chamber music for the 21st century with dazzling live performances that bring

the vibrant percussion repertoire to life and an extravagant array of collaborations in classical music, pop, indie rock, contemporary dance, and theatre.

The Moss program includes powerful new original songs performed with Shaw from "Let the Soil Play Its Simple Part." Shaw's faultless ear for melody and harmony combined with Sō's rhythmic invention and

See Moss, page 4

## Youth art featured at Fine Arts Center

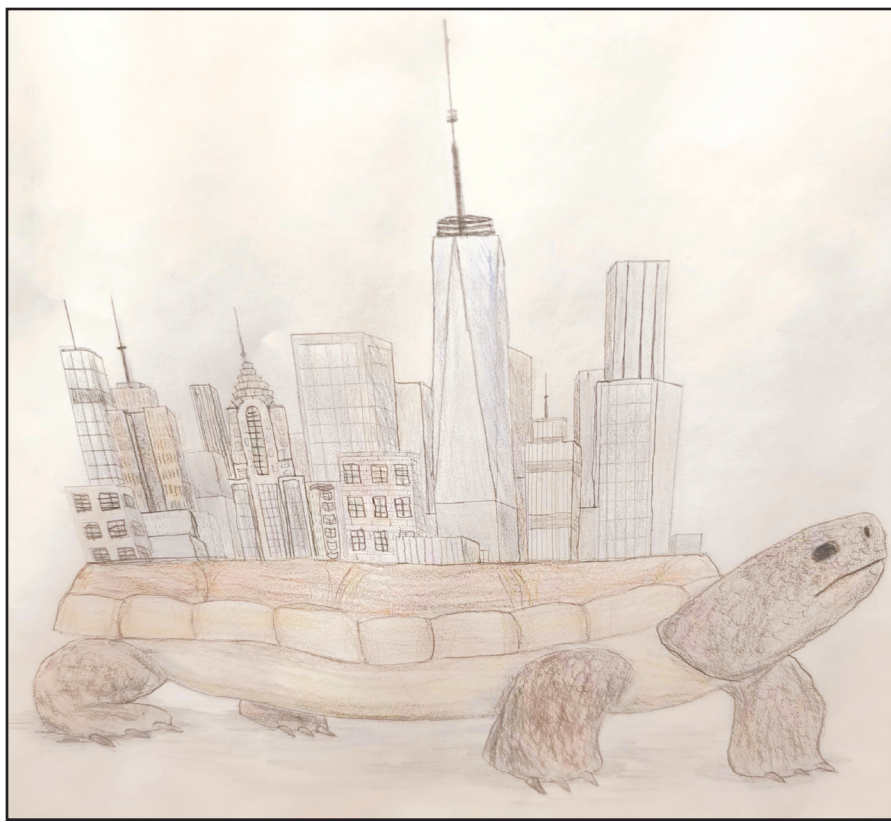


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN TRULOVE

Colin Castleberry, John N Dalton Intermediate School seventh grader's, "Tortoise Town," which won a silver key from the Virginia Art Education Association.

More than 150 pieces of art from students from K-12 student artists from Montgomery and Pulaski County and Radford City Public Schools are on display at the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley (facnr.org).

"March is Youth Art Month, so we are featuring these wonderful works with the theme 'Dream in Art,'" explains John Ross, president of the center's board of directors.

The Fine Arts Center is located at 21 West Main Street in the Historic Commercial District in Pulaski. The center is open 10-5 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 10-3 on Saturdays. For more information about the Fine Arts Center, exhibits, classes, or local, handmade gifts, visit the center's website at facnr.org, email at info@FACNRV.org, or call 540-980-7363.

Submitted by Susan Trulove

## Radford University to host 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee regional competition today

Top spellers from Southwest Virginia schools competing for a spot in the national championships in May

RADFORD - Twenty-four of the top spellers in Southwest Virginia are competing for a spot in the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee during regional competition hosted by Radford University today, Saturday, Mar. 16 at 10 a.m.

The winner of the Radford University regional bee will advance to Bee Week 2024, May 26 through May 31 at

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. The national competition will begin with preliminaries on Tuesday, May 28 and conclude with the finals on Thursday, May 30.

The finalists for the regional bee come from school districts and private schools across the region: Carroll County Public Schools, Amherst County

Public Schools, Bedford County Public Schools, Botetourt County Public Schools, Franklin County Public Schools, Giles County Public Schools, Lynchburg City Public Schools, Montgomery County Public Schools, Radford City Public Schools, Wythe County Public Schools, St. John Neumann Academy

See Spelling, page 4



FILE PHOTO

## Radford U. announces Highlander Works Grant Program

RADFORD - With support from a \$100,000 grant on behalf of

the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP), Radford University is launching the Highlander Works Grant Program to support student participation in work-based learning opportunities.

The Highlander Works Grant Program will assist students in covering

cost-of-living expenses assistance, purchase of professional attire or uniforms, housing costs or other necessary expenses, the Highlander Works Grant Program assures that students can focus on making the most of valuable pre-professional

See Grant, page 4



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Mar. 16:

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Help Save a life by donating blood at the Waldron Wellness Center-Carilion Community Room at the Meadowbrook Library; 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Schedule your appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Brunch will be provided for donors and they may select a used book to take home. Books compliments of Friends of the Library-Meadowbrook Chapter. Blood drive sponsored by Craighill Masonic Lodge and Meadowbrook Library.

## Monday, Mar. 18:

### Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society meeting

The Board of Directors of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society will meet by conference call at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to participate in the call from the Marion Office of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society located at 227 West Cherry St., Marion, VA 24354. For further information, contact: Joseph R. Carico, Executive Director (276) 783-8300.

## Wednesday, Mar. 20:

### Hahn Horticulture

### Garden talk

Tim Shively - Tree of Heaven: Picking up from Scott Salom's talk from last month, Tim will talk about his research and sustainable IPM tools and strategies for use on tree of heaven. The talk is at the Hahn Horticulture Garden, 200 Garden Lane, Blacksburg, at noon. You do not need to register for these talks, just show up and attend. Parking passes for these educational events will be provided by the HHG thanks to supplementary funding provided by the School of Plant and Environmental Design.

## Thursday, Mar. 21:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at American Pie Restaurant, 1041 Floyd Highway North. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Dana Jackson will speak on the "History of the Confederate Veterans Home in Richmond." If Floyd and Montgomery 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.

## Monday, Mar. 25: 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, Mar. 26:

### 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.

## Saturday, Mar. 30:

### Easter Egg Hunt

Come join Pilot Community Center for its first annual Easter Egg Hunt; 2 – 3 p.m.! Kids 10 years old and under are invited to search for candy and prize-filled eggs. There will be refreshments for parents and kids of all ages. So come and join in the fun! This event will be held weather permitting. If there is rain or snow, the event will be cancelled and cannot be rescheduled. For more information: Call Brenda Eanes at 540-382-0857.

## On-going:

### NRV Virginia Passenger Rail Survey

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority is conducting a survey seeking input on planning, designing, and constructing rail infrastructure improvements to extend passenger rail service to the New River Valley. To participate in the survey, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/240044027996054>. For more information on the New River Valley passenger rail expansion, please visit the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's website at <https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/nrvproject/>.

## ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, April 11th at 3 PM  
Income Producing Homes for Sale Near Radford University  
Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141

**Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com**

<p>OFFERING #1</p> 	<p>OFFERING #2</p> 
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Looking to expand your real estate portfolio with high-income properties? We have an unmissable opportunity for you! Presenting 5 homes that are currently used for student housing which are in the vibrant city of Radford, VA. They are just a short walk away from Radford University. These properties are perfectly situated for consistent rental demand and substantial returns on investment. Don't let this chance slip away!

**Terms:** 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per offering is required on day of sale. Close on or before May 28th, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on April 11th, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com).

**CONTACT – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com](mailto:Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com) or Realtor Dari Cupp at 540-250-1839. Auction is in cooperation with Realtor Stephanie Carfagna with Long & Foster; contact Stephanie at 540-230-9357 or email [stephanie.carfagna@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.carfagna@gmail.com)**

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# Clothesline Project Display coming soon in Blacksburg

*Public has the chance to create shirts for the display*

The Clothesline Project, an effort to raise awareness of gender-based and sexual violence, is a visual testimony to the shattering effect of violence and the impact it has on society.

Survivors of violence -- and friends and families of victims -- create shirts emblazoned with direct messages and strong illustrations. The shirts demonstrate the pain and suffering of the survivors, aid in their healing process, and celebrate their strength and courage to overcome the past.

The shirts are hung side by side on a clothesline, as though the survivors were standing there themselves, shoulder to shoulder, bearing witness to the violence committed on a daily basis. The shirts are color coded: white for those who have died from violence; yellow or

beige for survivors who have been battered or assaulted; red, pink, or orange for those raped or sexually assaulted; blue or green for survivors of incest or child sexual abuse; purple or lavender for those attacked because of their sexual orientation; and black for survivors disabled by violence.

The Clothesline Project educates the public about the scope of gender-based and sexual violence and the impact it has on individuals, their families and friends, and the community. The project encourages survivors to come forward to break the silence by creating shirts to share their stories.

To create your own shirt in a quiet, comfortable environment, please drop by the Women's Center at Virginia Tech (206 Washington Street,

Blacksburg) anytime daily from March 25 to March 29 during the hours from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All materials are supplied free of charge.

This local Clothesline Project was initiated in 1994 by the Montgomery County chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Over 670 shirts made by New River Valley residents are currently on the line. Local sponsors include Montgomery County NOW, the Women's Center at Virginia Tech, and the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley. Sponsors encourage community members to view the display on the sidewalk at 204 Draper Road in Blacksburg from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 27.

*Montgomery County chapter of the National Organization for Women*

## Virginia Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport seeing almost doubled fuel sales

*First electric plane lands on runway in February*

CHRISTIANSBURG – Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport (VTMEA) is providing economic opportunity, private and professional travel, sports teams' transportation, international travelers, and new technology while also experiencing increased fuel sales with the new runway extension.

During the introductions and presentations of the Christiansburg Town Council meeting held Mar. 12, Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport Director Keith Holt gave a presentation on airport operations and economic growth provided to the

See **Airport**, page 6



IMAGE COURTESY OF SARAH MYERS, VIRGINIA TECH  
**Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport, located in Blacksburg, historically was first a landing site in a farmer's pasture in 1913, with VPI Airport construction in 1929.**



# Danilowicz joins area college presidents for 'Future of Talent Summit' panel

Radford University President Bret Danilowicz joined the heads of several area colleges for a leadership panel discussion at the first Future of Talent Summit on March 7 on Roanoke College's campus.

The event was part of an ongoing initiative to cultivate and strengthen bonds among regional educators and industries and to unify the workforce and economic development efforts of higher education officials, employers and government agencies.

Across an hourlong dialogue, Danilowicz and four other presidents – Mirra Martin of Ferrum College, John Rainone of Mountain Gateway Community College, Robert Sandel of Virginia Western Community College and Frank Shushok of Roanoke College – addressed a host of central issues.

Chief among those: The need to help Virginia students develop into skilled workers; the best ways to connect them with viable employers and lucrative jobs; and the importance of retaining them locally.

The panel discussed incentives and advantages for students – internships, but also options including co-ops and micro-partnerships.

"We need to advocate for our businesses to stand up to make those opportunities for students who come here," Danilowicz said. "And then they become the future leaders and industry members of this region."

Sandel also pointed to the wide range of today's students and their needs, with some seeking undergraduate or advanced degrees but others earning associate degrees, licensing and technical certification. He praised the current partnerships between community and four-year colleges, such as the articulation agreement signed last year between Radford and Virginia Western.

"Things don't just happen; you've got to make them happen," Sandel said. "We work diligently to make things happen."

Asked about today's students and the new and increased educational alternatives they face, Danilowicz offered advice to those entering

higher education.

"I ... tell freshmen or transfers, the biggest mistake you will make at Radford University is if you don't, within your first month, go to career services and start talking about internships and employment," he said.

He also pushed back against long-standing modes of viewing some degrees as less marketable and, therefore, less desirable.

"There's too much conversation nationally that says, 'Don't study that, there's no employment in that,'" he explained. "What we have to do as institutions is to say, when you are passionate about that field, when you go into Career Services, the conversation should become 'Here's how you take that field, get a degree in it and align it to places where there's demand in the region."

"It is not about the degree ... it is about the professional track that the student is taking. And we have to show them where those kinds of employment areas are," Danilowicz said.

Keynote speaker Kirk Cox, president of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council and a former speaker of the House of Delegates, said the state's schools and industries remain highly ranked and points of pride for residents across party lines.

"At a time of great political division, there is something on which Virginians of both parties strongly agree," Cox said. "It's time to invest in Virginia talent."

In his early remarks to the audience, Roanoke College President Frank Shushok celebrated the fact that both business and educational professionals were uniting in their efforts, and he urged them to make constructive connections.

"The most important thing about this gathering is that we're in the room together," he said.

In a break-out session designed to help meet the modern priorities of younger generations, Radford's Director of Career and Talent Development Lee Svete described



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford University President Bret Danilowicz speaks during the first Future of Talent Summit on March 7 on Roanoke College's campus.

one objective at Radford as "helping students become career- and life-ready.... They come in the door, we help recruit them and then we develop a four-year plan that's comprehensive to make them marketable in this competitive world of work."

Later in the day, the summit also offered four "Lunch and Learn" panel-led sessions, variously focused on developing healthy talent pipelines, capitalizing on grants and other financial incentives, career and technical education programs and meeting the modern priorities of younger generations.

That fourth panel was joined by two representatives from Radford University – career coach Thallya Díaz and Lee Svete, who is Radford's new director of Career and Talent Development and serves as finance director for the Virginia Association of Colleges and Employers (VACE).

Svete described one objective at Radford as "helping students become career- and life-ready."

"It's the holistic point of developing relationships with students early in

their college career," he said.

"They come in the door, we help recruit them and then we develop a four-year plan that's comprehensive to make them marketable in this competitive world of work."

This is the first year the Future of Talent Summit has been held, and it marks a collaboration by the Roanoke Regional Partnership and its satellite, Get2KnowNoke; the Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board; the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council; Onward New River Valley, Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership; the New River/Mt. Rogers Workforce Development Board; and the central colleges and universities in the Roanoke and New River Valleys.

The Future of Talent Summit is funded by grants and support from such entities as GO Virginia and Growth4VA.

Neil Harvey  
Radford University

# Don't test your luck driving buzzed

## DMV reminds Virginians to plan a sober ride this St. Patrick's Day

RICHMOND – St. Patrick's Day is this weekend and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) Highway Safety Office wants to remind holiday revelers not to test your luck driving buzzed. Law enforcement officers across Virginia will be out in full force this holiday weekend looking for drunk drivers.

"Too many people think that as long as they don't feel drunk they are fine to drive. But the reality is that you're impaired long before you

may feel drunk," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "Even a small amount of alcohol in your system can affect your ability to drive. Buzzed driving is drunk driving."

Last St. Patrick's Day weekend (March 17-19, 2023) in Virginia, there were 82 crashes involving alcohol, resulting in 40 injuries – and one death each day.

"You'd never go out on St. Patrick's Day without

wearing something green. So why would you go out without a plan to get home safely?" Commissioner Lackey continued. "Make a plan for a sober ride home before you leave."

This chart, provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), shows how even a little alcohol can affect your body and your driving abilities. Although the legal limit for driving for those 21 and older is generally a blood

alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08, at a BAC of just .02, you can experience a decline in visual function and the ability to perform two tasks at one time, critical skills in driving. According to a BAC chart provided by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, if a female weighing 160 pounds has one drink, her BAC will equal approximately .03, while a male's at the same weight would be .02. A reminder for those under 21, the only legal BAC is .00. The

penalties for violating Virginia's "zero tolerance" law include losing your license for a year and fines or community service.

NHTSA says drivers with a BAC of .08 are approximately 4 times more likely to crash than drivers with a BAC of zero. At a BAC of .15, drivers are at least 12 times more likely to crash than drivers with a BAC of zero. The risk of crashing is even greater for young males.

Department of Motor Vehicles

# Warm Hearth Village and Mark Morris Dance Group transform lives through dance

BLACKSBURG – Co-hosted by the Moss Arts Center and Warm Hearth Village (WHV), Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) recently led a session of Dance for PD at the Village Center.

This session is the group's internationally-acclaimed, research-backed global program that invites people with Parkinson's and their caregivers to transform their lives through dance. More than 40 peer-reviewed studies have shown the effectiveness and many benefits of dance for people with Parkinson's Disease and Dance for PD held classes online, in New York City and around the world.

Jon Catherwood-Ginn, associate director of programming at the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech partnered with WHV Fitness Director, Kenny Harrah to coordinate the event with Harrah's Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) program students. In 2018, Harrah brought RSB, which is specifically designed to improve physical skills for those battling Parkinson's Disease, to the Village. He

and his fitness assistants, Marcus Burks and Jessica Robinson, are certified RSB Coaches and have been leading approximately 35 participants through drills targeted to relieve the symptoms of Parkinson's and strengthen the body as part of the non-contact boxing-based curriculum.

Thirty boxers, family, and caretakers participated in the event led by Courtney Lopes and Taína Lyons. Class started with everyone dancing in their seats and progressed to dancing around the room then closed with hands held, individual dance moves, bows and applause.

Harry Mott, one of the participants, said the session was a real benefit for the people with Parkinson's and their caregivers.

"It was a gray cold day outside, but there was sunshine and warmth on the inside," he added.

Harrah said it was great to invite the dance group to Southwest Virginia and have them work with the RSB clients.

"Courtney and Taína were fun, knowledgeable and approachable and our participants loved the

entire program. A big thanks to the Moss Arts Center and MMDG for making this happen."

WHV Fitness is a proud partner of RSB and uses its resources and practical tools

to encourage and enhance fighters' experience and overall wellbeing.

"It is so rewarding to see this program improve lives," said Harrah. "We also offer support groups for anyone

with Parkinson's Disease and for their caregivers."

Contact Kenny Harrah at 443-3474 to join the program or the support group or visit retire.org to learn more about what's

available at the fitness center at Warm Hearth Village.

Warm Hearth Village

# Marketplace

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**Auctions**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction March 22, 2024 at 11am at 1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. E54 F28 1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**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 March 25, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. in the

**Legals - Montgomery County**

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 Special Use Permit request:

A request by Sara Jones for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a dog grooming business as a Home Business. The property is located at the intersection of Shilo Way (State Route 1106) and Mount Tabor Road (State Route 624). The property is further identified as 1723 Mount Tabor Road, Tax Map 028-1 45.46.49 (Parcel ID: 007792), 2.292 acres,

**Legals - Montgomery County**

zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

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>.

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To place your ad, call 389-9355

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Call 389-9355



# Grant

from page 1

experiences. “Each year, our students forego valuable internship opportunities for various reasons including unpaid or underpaid internships, need for housing stipends, or steep travel costs,” said Jeanne Mekolichick, associate provost for research, faculty, success, and strategic initiatives at Radford University. “This grant will create more opportunity for

students to participate in these career-enhancing experiences.” When cost-of-living needs are met, students stand to benefit from the positive relationship between internship participation and professional skill development, employability and career retention. “The Highlander Works Grant Program is a ‘game changer’ for our

students to participate in high-impact, work-based internship opportunities which will help them become career and life ready, and even more competitive for the national marketplace of jobs,” said Lee Svete, Radford’s director of career and talent development. “With this uniquely funded program, our students can dream big and accomplish big things.” On Feb. 29, the State Council of

Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) announced one-year grants of \$100,000 each for 12 public four-year institutions to help remove barriers to internships and work-based learning opportunities. “We value the commitment made by SCHEV and V-TOP to support student success in work-based learning

See **Learning**, page 6

# Spelling

from page 1

(Blacksburg), Floyd County Public Schools, James River Day School (Lynchburg), New Covenant Schools (Lynchburg), Alleghany Highlands Public Schools, Faith Christian School (Roanoke), Pulaski County Public

Schools, Roanoke County Public Schools, Salem City Public Schools, Campbell County Public Schools, Nelson County Public Schools, North Cross School (Roanoke County), Roanoke City Public Schools, Roanoke

Valley Christian Schools. City of Radford Mayor David Horton will serve as bee emcee and Radford University President Bret Danilowicz will give welcoming remarks. Matthew Smith, dean of Radford’s College of

Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, will perform the role of bee pronouncer.

Radford University

# Moss

from page 1

compositional experimentation make for a world of sonic richness that feels fresh. These contemporary songs represent Shaw’s debut as a solo vocal artist, and Sō opens a world of sonic possibilities and rhythmic virtuosity that dramatically expands Shaw’s palette beyond the vocal and string writing for which she is best known.

on the experimental in “Vodalities: Paradigms of Consciousness for the Human Voice.” The collaboration draws on decades of collective experience that integrates influences such as John Cage, Meredith Monk, and a huge range of hip-hop and house music artists. In the process, they demonstrate how compatible vocal and physical percussion can be. “Vodalities” is dedicated to three towering vocalists: Bobby McFerrin, Ella Fitzgerald, and Doug E. Fresh, the original human beat box.

immediately following the performance on Mar. 20. The artists also will share their talents and expertise with Virginia Tech students during their visit, both at the Creativity and Innovation District living-learning community and in music, creative writing, and dance courses. Shodekeh will lead a workshop with students in a Roanoke City after-school program.

## RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

*Serving Radford since 1884*

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
Heather Bell, *Editor*.....hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com  
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*.....aboyn@ourvalley.org  
W3ndi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*.....advertise@ourvalley.org

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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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The program also features pieces composed by Sō Percussion members Eric Cha-Beach and Jason Treuting and American composer Pauline Oliveros. Sō Percussion’s commitment to the creation and amplification of new work and its extraordinary powers of perception and communication have made it a trusted partner for artists like Shaw and Shodekeh. A New York-based musician, Shaw became the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2013 for “Partita for 8 Voices,” written for the Grammy-winning Roomful of Teeth, of which she is a member, while Shodekeh continues to make musical strides as a highly adept beatboxer, vocal percussionist, and breath artist, pushing the boundaries of the human voice within and outside the context of hip-hop music and culture.

Related events  
Sō Percussion, Shaw, and Shodekeh share their perspectives on composition and collaborative performance in an informal audience discussion

Educators and students in grades five through 9 from Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, Pembroke, and Salem, predominantly, will attend a free matinee performance by Sō Percussion and Shodekeh. Tickets for the performance are \$20-\$55 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.

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

Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech

# Lesko

from page 1

Greene says Lesko’s “advocacy for all students, particularly those with disabilities” is another great quality. “She goes above and beyond to ensure that every student in her classroom has access to the support and resources they need to thrive,” said Greene. “Ms. Lesko’s dedication to inclusive education sets a powerful example for her

colleagues and has a profound impact on the lives of her students.” Lesko is a member of the Radford City Public Schools Innovation Grant team and of the New River Valley Chapter of the Virginia State Literacy Association (VSLA). “Lesko is an exceptional educator who embodies the qualities of a Teacher of the Year,” said Greene. “We are very proud of her hard

work and dedication and appreciate her so Much.” The other school level teachers of the year are Radford High School social studies teacher John Ferguson, Dalton Intermediate School math teacher Tammy Dye and Belle Heth Elementary School fifth grade teacher Robin Hoosier.

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## CROSSWORD

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Duck cartoon character

6. Town in Guinea

11. Upright posture

12. Rest on your knees

13. Move upward

15. Disposed to take risks

18. Makes a sweater

19. Grooved surface of a tire

20. Identical in kind

21. Radiotelegraphic signal

24. “Picnic” author William

25. Bashkir Republic capital

26. Male highlanders

30. Doing several things at once

32. Title of respect

33. Old world, new

35. “Sophie’s Choice” actress

43. Encloses completely

44. Decaliter

45. Makes angry

48. Commercial free network

49. Latvian capital

50. Tycho \_\_, Danish astronomer

52. Leave slowly and hesitantly

53. Harm to property

55. Dining, pool and coffee

56. Remove all traces of

58. Yemen capital

59. Passover feast and ceremony

60. Trenches

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Proper fractions

2. Ridgeline

3. Marshland area of E. England

4. Flood Control District

5. Canadian province (abbr.)

6. Project Runway designer judge’s initials

7. Along with

8. Orderly and clean

9. A short-barreled pocket pistol

10. Extraterrestrial being

13. Ancient capital of Ethiopia

14. Goof

16. Annoy constantly

17. Haitian monetary unit (abbr.)

21. Arrived extinct

22. Belonging to a thing

23. Tongue click

26. Fireman’s signal

27. Connecticut

28. 3rd tone of the scale

29. Language spoken in Russia

31. Split occupancy

34. Diacritics for s’s

36. Mobile camper

37. Affirmative (slang)

38. Bachelor of Laws

39. \_\_ Angeles

40. State police

41. U.S. gold coin worth 10 dollars

42. Bets on

45. Million barrels per day (abbr.)

46. Macaws

47. Julie Andrews and Judi Dench

49. Capital of Morocco

51. Oh, God!

52. \_\_ Carvey, comedian

54. Point midway between E and SE

55. Principle of Chinese philosophy

57. Trauma center

58. Atomic #62

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# OBITUARIES

## Carden, Monica Wynn

Monica Wynn Carden, 64, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Mar. 11, 2024.

She was an employee at New River Community College with almost 44 years of service. She was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Lydia Carden; sister, Linda Carden; brother-in-law, Ricky Quesenberry; and parents-in-law, James Sr., and Norma Quesenberry.

Survivors include her husband, David Quesenberry; baby dog, Molly; sisters, Lynn Carden and Cathy Higgins; brother and sister-in-law, Clint Carden (Carol); brothers-in-law, James, Jr. and Danny Quesenberry; and many other relatives and friends.



The family will receive friends 5 - 7 p.m. Monday, Mar. 18, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2024, at the funeral home with Pastor Doug Testerman officiating. Interment will follow in Thornspring Cemetery in Pulaski County.

Flowers will be appreciated or donations may be made to your local SPCA.

The Carden and Quesenberry families are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Marunich, Sr., George Milton

George Milton Marunich, Sr., 73, passed away Sunday, Mar. 10, 2024, at his home in Dublin. He retired from Pulaski County High School where he was a teacher for many years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sanfert and Edna Marunich; his wife, Violet Catherine Marunich; and brothers, Sanfert, Jr., Louie Marunich, and Eric Marunich.



Survivors include son and daughter-in-law, George Jr. and Jennifer Marunich of Radford; daughter and son-in-law, Deanna Marunich and Michael Raines of Dublin; grandchildren,

Michael (Jessica), Haven (Alex), Jeffrey (Katherine), Kimmie, Lakita, Maurice, Milena, Emily, Asia, Cordell, Colton and Charlie; great grandchildren, Kayden, Oliver, Clara, Amilio, Luis, Avery, Molly, Elijah, and Lilith; sister, Shelby Lucas; brother, Vada Marunich (Jocelyn); sister-in-law, Regina Marunich; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be held at a later date.

The Marunich 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 midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

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

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 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

### OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Read Joshua 14:1 through 17:18

Sometimes, in the pursuit of God's will, we "spiritualize" our natural desire for comfort. We make "faith statements," claiming that if God is leading us, every problem should resolve itself. That is not the reality of godly living. Scripture is filled with examples of God's people encountering obstacles while following divine directives.

Division of the Promised Land among the Israelites came with the responsibility of engaging enemy nations. Israel's record in fulfilling that responsibility is spotty. As just one example, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh claimed their inheritance was too small.

"If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites" (Joshua 17:15).

Joshua reminded the descendants of Joseph that much of their inheritance in the Promised Land remained to be conquered. They needed to step up to that challenge.

Prayer Suggestion: As God shows you what He wants you to do, pray in faith that He will help you overcome the obstacles.

Quicklook: Joshua 17:14-17

**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

### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**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.

### 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. Morgan Whitfield Jr., Pastor 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.

**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: StPaulUMC-ChristiansburgVA. All are welcome. Website: www.stpaul-vaumc.org



# Public hearing set for H20kies, New River Valley Aquatics lease request for new building construction

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG – Possible construction for a building to provide additional space needed for the Christiansburg Aquatic Center has prompted a 30-year lease proposal for town property adjacent to the swim facility.

H20kies Head Coach and Director Scott Baldwin presented a lease proposal for a portion of town property at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, located at 595 North Franklin St. for tenant use.

Coaches, staff, parents, and officials are the “unsung heroes” that make these events happen, Baldwin said. However, the peak hours of the facility are already at max capacity, and in the next year or two will have over 300 swimmers in the program.

“Without the manpower that H20kies Aquatics brings to the table, those meets don’t happen; we don’t get those bids for those meets,” Baldwin said.

The Aquatics Center is seeking more space for additional equipment that meets with the needs of the evolving sports of swimming while also providing a place for community youth to have a safe space to practice or utilize the center.

“We are not asking Christiansburg to pay for any of this...we are not asking the town to pay with any of their tax money,” Baldwin said.

Balzer and Associates, Inc., a design, and construction development company, has been working with the Aquatic Center in the process of this facility’s construction, upon lease approval.

Since 2010, the Center has given over \$60,000 in donations to continued operations for competitive swimming and will continue to do so.

Town Council Member and Christiansburg Aquatics Center Council Representative Samuel Bishop questioned Baldwin on whether the town will be paid anything for the lease.

“For the last over 12 months we have sent the ground lease back and forth, back and forth, and you know lease or rent was never brought up,” Baldwin said. “So, we wanted to come here tonight and highlight, you know, a lot of the things that we are doing already behind the scenes that make this facility as successful as it is.”

Baldwin added that 8,600 volunteer hours go into supporting swim meets that include parents contributing their own time and energy for free, asking that council considers this when considering a paid rent or lease agreement.

“I am thrilled that you want to do this for the athletes that you guys train and that all you’re asking for is a small parcel of land to build a building on to do this is pretty amazing to me,”

Council member Tim Wilson said. Citizen comment was opened to the public by Mayor Michael Barber following the presentation of the Aquatic Center Director.

“My question is, if you are going to do a lease, then have it be a lease and there will be money involved. If not, call it what it is, you’re ceding the town’s property for 30 years. Why not sell it? And I would encourage everyone to watch the budget work session, because ya’ll look like ya’ll are ready to spend money like drunken sailors on shore leave, you know, shifting money from one pot to the other. I see tax increases in our future,” Christiansburg resident Chris Waltz said.

“The fact there is we continue to own the land. We’re not going to give it away, we’re going to own the land and the building...,” Mayor Barber said.

The land proposal public hearing will be set for the next council meeting, on March 26.

A unanimous vote by town council approved “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 Farmview Road, N.E. (all of Tax Parcels 436 – ((A)) – 37, 39, 40, and 41; Parcel IDs 032861, 021679, 021680, and 017576 and a portion of Tax Parcels 436 – ((A)) – 35, 36, and 38, Parcel ID 033701, 021677, and 021678) zoned B-3 General Business. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing was held on February 27, 2024,” as stated in the Town’s agenda.

A right-of-way vacation request by Denstock LLC for the vacation of an unimproved 0.047-acre portion of the eastern most end of Farmview Road, N.E., was also approved with a 6-0 vote by Council members. The Public Hearing was held on February 27, 2024.

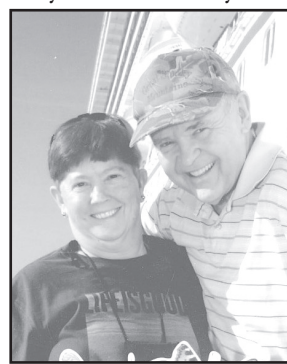
In another 6-0 united vote of approval by town council, a code amendment request by Joe Simmons, applicant, and Jack Martin, registered agent, amended the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-9. According to the town’s agenda, the code section in question is for lighting and minimum off-street 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

# Obituaries

from page 5

## Quesenberry, Debra Altizer

Debra Altizer Quesenberry, 70, Emersyn Altizer; and many other relatives and friends. Debra Altizer Quesenberry, 70, Emersyn Altizer; and many other relatives and friends. Debra Altizer Quesenberry, 70, Emersyn Altizer; and many other relatives and friends.



Debra Altizer Quesenberry, 70, Emersyn Altizer; and many other relatives and friends. Debra Altizer Quesenberry, 70, Emersyn Altizer; and many other relatives and friends. Debra Altizer Quesenberry, 70, Emersyn Altizer; and many other relatives and friends.

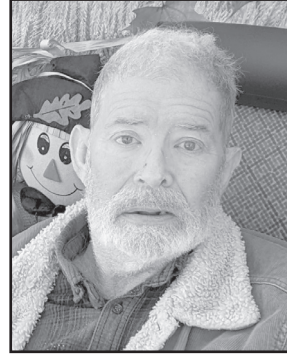
The family will receive friends 12 - 2 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Jordan Secrist officiating. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

Flowers are appreciated or donations may be made to New River Fellowship, 2455 Peppers Ferry Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

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

## Smith, III, Robert Ramsey

Robert “Bobby” Ramsey Smith, III, 65, of Radford, passed away Sunday, Mar. 10, 2024.



He was a chef and served in the U. S. Navy and Navy Reserves. He was a 1976 Radford High School graduate and also graduated from Old Dominion University. Bobby was preceded in death by his father, Robert Ramsey Smith, Jr.

Survivors include his twin daughters, Emily Boyd (Sidney) and Jessica Denny (Jon); grandchildren, Caleb, Jake, Charlie, and Lily; mother, Jean W. Smith; brother, Ed Smith (Becca); and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Mar. 14, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Todd Millsapps officiating. Interment followed in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

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

## Terry, David Eugene

David Eugene Terry, 63, went to be with the Lord on Mar. 7, 2024.



David was a proud Marine serving overseas for three years from 1979 – 1981.

He is preceded in death by his infant son David Ryan Terry; father James Terry; sister Angie Lynch; mother and father-in-law Louise and Bill Hamblin; as well as his beloved dog, of 14 years, Tanner.

David is survived by his wife of 38 years, Kay Terry; son Derek and wife Brittany; mother Nina Miller; brother Steve and wife Lynn; grandchildren Brooklyn, Victoria, Liliana, and Liam; a special niece Marti Hamblin “Loulou” and her son Kamron; sisters-in-law Donna and JD Duncan and Peggy Wickline; special uncles Wilburn Miller, Willis Miller; aunt Nancy Puckett and husband Larry; along with many nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and loved friends.

Services were held Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2024, at the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Brother Jerry Shepherd and Jube Burke officiating. A visitation preceded the service at McCoy Funeral Home.

stock rooms and storage areas from the overall minimum parking calculation for a building. The public hearing was held on Feb. 27, 2024.

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, N.W. (Tax Parcel 435 – ((A)) – 41, Parcel ID 007741) zoned B-3 General Business, as stated in the town’s agenda, was approved with a 6-0 vote by town council. The public

hearing was held on Feb. 27, 2024.

Council member Johana Hicks had one exception to approve the request, in that the agreement from last year’s carnival contract would be accepted without any additional changes. The request was approved 6-0 by council.

A Hickok Street closure, from West Main Street to Commerce, request by NRV Cares for Hickok Street, from 1:30 - 7:30 p.m. on April 11, 2024, for the Spring Family Fun Festival was also approved.

# Airport

from page 2

New River and Roanoke Valleys.

“The Airport Authority, we were established in 2001 by the General Assembly as a regional government entity to run and operate the airport, so we are comprised of the Town of Christiansburg, the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, and Virginia Tech,” Holt said.

In 2020, Holt said, the airport runway extension

project was completed, taking the runway to 5,500 feet; a 1,000-foot extension. The project was 98% supported by federal and state grant funding as well.

“So, the addition of that additional 1,000 feet allowed the aircraft, which, many of which were already visiting our airport anyhow to be able to take on more fuel with us,” Holt said. “Our fuel sales went from about

116,000 gallons per year to 220,000 gallons per year, so almost doubled our fuel sales.”

Holt also pointed out that the Virginia Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport can support Fortune 500 business flight transportation but also sees a lot of local economic support travel that occurs due to the utilization of the airfield, including the Chicken Salad Chick franchise in

Christiansburg.

A 2019 report showed an economic impact of \$10.5 million in economic activity, Holt said, and he is looking forward to seeing increases in the new report. VTMEA becoming self-funded is a goal in the future and Holt said the airport is seeing progress in reaching that goal.

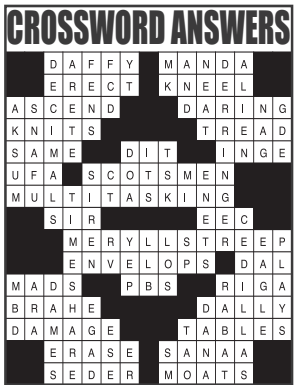
The first electric airplane also recently landed in February at

the VTMEA. The airport has an electric airplane charging station, making this new emerging technology available to pilots.

According to the VTMEA’s website at www.vtmea.com, recent sealed bids are being accepted for the Apron Expansion Construction project, through April 16, 2024, at the office of the Airport Manager, 1601 Research Center Dr.,

Blacksburg.

“Improvements include demolition and removal, excavation and embankment construction, constructing new airfield pavement, new electrical items, erosion and sediment control, stormwater piping, and other ancillary work associated with the improvements,” according to the advertisement for bids.



# Learning

from page 4

opportunities, which will develop quality talent that drives Virginia’s economy forward,” Radford University President Bret Danilowicz said. “The Highlander Works Grant Program is one more avenue for our students to take full advantage of valuable

internship opportunities and develop as the next generation of difference-makers across the commonwealth.”

Degree-seeking students currently enrolled full-time at Radford University are eligible to apply for the Highlander Works

Grant Program. Full program qualifications can be found at the Highlander Works Grant Program website. The Highlander Works Grant Program is managed by the university’s Center for Career and Talent Development Office.

V-TOP is administered by

SCHEV in partnership with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Virginia Business Higher Education Council.

Radford University

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org  
www.radfordnewsjournal.com



# RADFORD SPORTS

## Hokies kick off spring practice

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Virginia Tech football coach Brent Pry began his first spring press conference Tuesday by congratulating Kenny Brooks and the ladies' basketball for a successful season.

The praise turned to phases as Pry pointed to the next one for his team.

He said following a successful Phase One, which occurred during the winter and focuses on fundamentals, strength and conditioning, mental toughness and competition, the script now flips to Phase Two.

Phase Two, commonly referred to as spring ball, provides the coaching staff the opportunity to install their base schemes and employ more strategic player development.

The third-year head coach is optimistic about what is happening in Blacksburg. This season received a boost with the return of 86 percent of its

productivity from last year. A large number of players decided to return to Blacksburg, something Pry is happy about. He is also happy that 11 members of the coaching staff receiving contract extensions through at least 2026.

"I'm just as excited about the retention of our staff as I was about the retention of our players," Pry reflected during Tuesday's press conference. "Stability, and consistency, especially when you believe in a process is critical."

His attention now turns to work on the field. The program will have 15 practices during the spring to evaluate talent and focus on specific areas of improvement. Spring practice began Friday, March 15.

"Spring ball is Phase Two. Fundamentals, techniques, base installation of schemes, improve on things that we didn't do

well enough," said Pry. "We've identified those through film study, whether it's a technique issue, whether it's a schematic issue, where we need to be better. February, there was a lot of professional growth and development. For instance, the defensive staff from Iowa was in town for a couple of days. You trade ideas, you swap ideas, you grow, you learn. So, implementing some of the things in all three phases that we learned through our professional development."

His defensive coordinator Chris Marve agreed.

"What we're looking for this spring from an objective standpoint, is certainly we want to establish an identity," defensive coordinator Chris Marve stated. "One that plays consistent, that plays together, plays extremely fast and creates mayhem in ways that I know that we can."

Alongside fellow coordinators Tyler Bowen and

Stu Holt, there will be chances to leverage the talent and production returning from last season and discover what newcomers can offer. The Hokies welcomed 15 signees and four transfers during National Signing Day back in December.

Of the new additions, 16 student-athletes arrived as mid-years and participated in Hunger Drills. The newcomers were able to establish their competitive spirit in front of teammates and coaches.

But the key could be continued play of quarterback Kylon Drones.

Offensive Coordinator Tyler Bowen pointed to the fact his QB1 will be getting most of the reps in the spring, thus helping the second-year player with his continued development.

"Yeah, Kylon's going to get the ones reps and continue with the continuity, the development, the operation of what we're doing offensively.

But I'm excited of the way William "Pop" Watson III and Dylan Wittke have competed during Phase One. And those guys will get an even split. Some days guys going with the twos, some days that rotating back with the threes to make sure that they're getting reps with the right guys so we can make a true evaluation," Bowen said.

The Baylor transfer Drones played in all 13 games, starting 11 at quarterback. He set a Virginia Tech bowl record and Military Bowl record with 176 yards rushing in a 41-20 win over Tulane and also passed for 91 yards and two touchdowns and was named Military Bowl MVP.

He finished the season 166 for 285 with 2,085 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also rushed 166 times for 888 yards.

Tech will have 14 practices before the 2024 spring game on Saturday, April 13. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. ET in Lane Stadium.

## Blacksburg downs Auburn in baseball



Blacksburg senior Conner Smith scores on an RBI by Major Marshall against Auburn. The Bruins would win their season opener 6-3 over the Eagles.



Auburn's Brody Hensel takes a lead after reaching first base in the Eagles' visit to Blacksburg on Monday afternoon.



Blacksburg starting pitcher Brice Abbott earned the win for the Bruins, with seven strikeouts in four innings against Auburn.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING



PHOTO COURTESY OF VA. ELITE WRESTLING

## Local youngsters claim state wins

Virginia Elite wrestling from Christiansburg sent 22 youngsters to the recent Virginia Wrestling Association state tournament with 14 making their way to the podium. The team finished 11th overall out of 138 scoring teams. The group brought home the first place banner in the girls' 9U division with Sylvia Brillhart (left), Roselyn Nowlin (middle) and Raelynn Nowlin all bringing home gold in their individual weight classes.

- Staff report

## RU, Tech scratching heads over men's basketball



**From the Sidelines**

Marty Gordon

Both Radford University and Virginia Tech have not had the men's basketball season they had hoped for.

2023-2024 came to a screeching halt for Radford this past week. Tech still has an outside shot at running the gauntlet during this week's ACC tournament, but this season has been rocky.

Tech Coach Mike Young did manage to win the tourney three years ago, but the wins and success has hit a speed bump.

Meanwhile Radford University's Darris Nichols has reached for the gold ring but keeps missing in the Big South Conference.

Nichols just finished his third season. The native son of Radford is the eighth head coach in program history at RU.

Nichols' plan

to return the Highlanders to their winning ways came to fruition in just his second season at the helm, leading the program to a 21-15 overall record, including a 12-6 mark in Big South play, during the 2022-23 campaign.

Radford came one point away from playing in the conference championship, but still earned a bid to the College Basketball Invitational.

This included a 11-18 record in his debut season.

Before returning to the New River Valley, Nichols spent six seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Florida. While at Florida he helped coach the Gators to a 123-75 record that included four straight 20-win seasons. Nichols and the Gators also tallied four straight NCAA Tournament bids.

The 2016-17 season was one of the best, while Nichols was at UF. Florida earned a 27-9 record and reached

the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament. The Gators finished second in the SEC with a 14-4 record, matching the second-most conference wins in team history. Florida climbed as high as 12th nationally in both the AP and coaches polls and hit No. 3 in RPI and KenPom rankings.

Nichols, a member of Coaches 4 Change, garnered a spot in ESPN.com's 40 Under 40 in the summer of 2020, rated #17 on the national list that included both head coaches and assistant coaches. He was also rated the #2 assistant coach in the SEC in a Stadium poll of coaches around the league.

Young also came to the New River Valley with lots of optimism. He is also a native of Radford.

Initially, he was hired in 2019 and steered the Hokies to their first-ever ACC men's basketball championship by winning four games in four days in Brooklyn, New York in March

See Sidelines, page 8

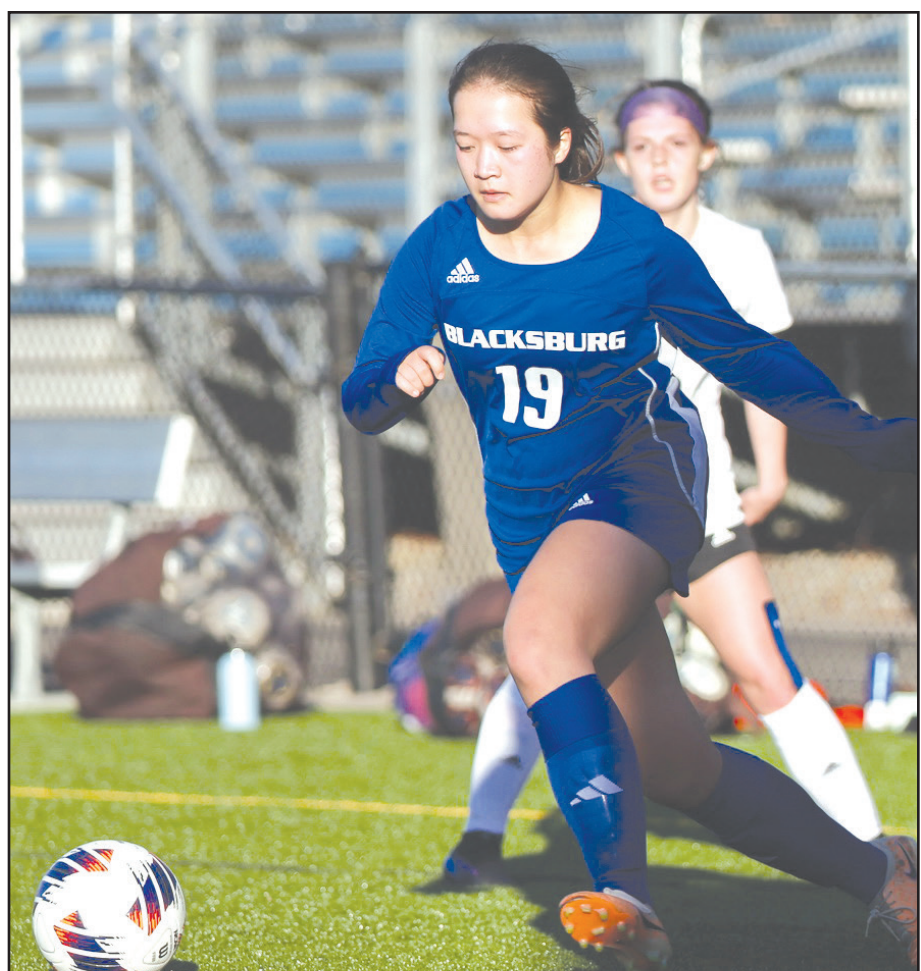


# RADFORD SPORTS

## Blacksburg girls down Botetourt



Blacksburg senior keeper makes a save against Lord Botetourt in a season opening 2-0 win for the Bruins on Monday. Erin Bishop scored both goals off assists from Claire Langlais in the second half. Blacksburg outshot the visitors 21 to 3.



Blacksburg's Isabel Vikesland dribbles in from the corner against Lord Botetourt during the first half.



Lord Botetourt's Katherine Woodward keeps the ball away from Blacksburg's Ginny Crawford with a first half header.



Blacksburg's Elayna Weatherspoon takes a shot against Lord Botetourt in Monday's season opening match.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

### ONLINE AUCTION

Cabin for Sale at Auction in Pulaski VA  
Ends Wednesday, March 20th at 3 PM  
2937 Haynes Rd., Pulaski, VA 24301

Bid Now at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)



Looking for your new weekend getaway? Check out this small cabin for sale in Pulaski VA! This 1 bedroom, 1 bath cabin features 783 sq ft of living space on +/- 3.14 acres. The inside has been updated with new appliances, an open living room, and large kitchen and bath. This property is an outdoor enthusiast's dream as it adjoins the Jefferson National Forest! The cabin is located minutes from downtown Pulaski and within a short 10 minute commute of Interstate 81. Make this your dream hunting cabin or weekend getaway!

**Terms:** 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$2,500 per tract is required on the day of sale. Close on or before April 19th, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on March 20th, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com).

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### Sidelines from page 7

2022.

His resume includes some very successful times at Wolford.

He has made the NCAA Tournament in seven of the last 13 seasons, including being the fastest Virginia Tech coach to make The Dance.

Under his watch in 2020-21, he led Tech to being 4-0 versus the AP's Top 25, with the four wins being tied for the most ranked wins in a season in school history.

This all includes being very successful in beating some big time programs and their legendary coaches like Mike Krzyzewski, Jay Wright, Tom Izzo, Jim Boeheim, Roy Williams and Tony Bennett.

He joined the Hokies after a record-setting 17-year tenure as the head coach at Wolford. The Terriers posted a 30-5 overall record in 2018-19, including a perfect 18-0 mark in Southern Conference play, and registered a convincing 84-68 win over Seton Hall in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament.

The 2019 Sporting News Coach of the Year, Young built the Terriers into one of the Southern Conference's preeminent programs and a perennial NCAA Tournament participant. He guided Wolford to five NCAA Tournament berths over the past 10 seasons and five Southern Conference championships. In addition to the on-court success of his teams, 100 percent of Young's student-athletes at Wolford who completed their eligibility graduated.

This year, Tech has only managed to stagg 18 wins and fell to near the basement of the ACC conference. A late season surge of winning did push them back to the middle of the pack. But that's where they remained.

Already fans are asking if changes need to be made to one or both programs. Both Young and Nichols deserve another year to right the ship.

The future has not been written, and with the idea of the transfer portal, things could change on its own. But with this, both programs are hungry - hungry for winning ways.