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City proposes increase to real estate tax rate



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY

RADFORD – The Radford City Council is considering an increase to the real estate tax rate.

A public hearing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. April 16, 2024 on the proposed tax rates for calendar year 2024.

“Interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present their views,” according to the city.

The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson St.

Details are as follows:

1. Assessment increase: Total assessed

value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year’s total assessed value of real property by 31 percent.

2. Lowered tax rate necessary to offset increased assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$.64 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the

“lowered tax rate.”

3. Effective rate increase: The City of Radford proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$.69 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$.05 per \$100, or 6.25% percent. This difference will be known as the “effective tax rate increase.”

Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage depending on the property’s newly

assessed value.

4. Proposed total budget increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Radford will exceed last year’s by 10 percent.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for review in the City Manager’s office, and on the City’s website at www.radfordva.gov.

Staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF RFDB

(From left) Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread co-chair Elizabeth Cassell and RFDB Executive Director Karen Jones accept a donation from proceeds of Grace Episcopal Church’s pancake supper from Grace Episcopal Junior Warden Terry Nester, who organizes the supper, and Reverend William Yagel.

Grace Episcopal Shrove Tuesday fundraiser supports Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread

Heather Bell
hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

RADFORD- Grace Episcopal Church has been serving up pancakes for Shrove Tuesday for many decades, and this year proceeds from the event are supporting feeding hungry people in Radford and Fairlawn.

Grace Episcopal recently donated \$1,168 to Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread (RFDB) to support its mission of feeding people a hot lunchtime meal five days a week, as well as delivering Meals on Wheels to homebound senior citizens Monday through Friday.

Karen Jones, executive director of RFDB says donations like Grace’s are essential to supporting RFDB’s mission.

“The Radford, Fairlawn, and Pulaski communities continue to be the largest donors to Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread,” said Jones. “Donations from individuals and organizations support the over 300 meals we serve each week. It is particularly impactful when our faith communities recognize the work that we do and support us with their time and

talents.”

Reverend William Yagel of Grace Episcopal said RFDB’s efforts are important to the community and the church is happy to support the organization.

“Grace Church is excited to partner with RFDB and support those in need in and around Radford,” said Yagel. “RFDB provides an opportunity for the community to come together for a meal and fellowship in a warm environment where all are valued and welcomed. This mission speaks to our call to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” and we couldn’t be more pleased to support RFDB.”

RFDB offers a hot, homemade meal to anyone who wants one Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in its dining room, located at 501 Second St., Radford, on the lower level of the stone building at the corner of Berkley and Second Street in Radford, which is also the home of Long Way Brewing. To make a donation log onto <https://www.radfordfairlawndailybread.org/donate>.

A weird, wild and wonderful musical comes to Radford



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Hailey Barnson (left), Patrick Hurt (center) and Megan Reed (right) rehearse a scene in act I of “Bat Boy: The Musical. Barnson plays angst teen Shelley Parker and Reed plays her conservative mother, Meredith.

RADFORD - If you did any grocery shopping at all in the early 1990s, you almost certainly witnessed the parade of harrowing cover stories featuring the half-human, half-animal tabloid fabrication known as Bat Boy.

According to the Weekly World News, Bat Boy was found by scientists in a West Virginia cave, repeatedly escaping captivity, only to be hunted down and caught again. He drank blood to survive and had run-ins with everyone from Saddam Hussein to Santa Claus.

So naturally, a musical was only a matter of time.

Beginning April 2, Radford University’s Department of Theatre will perform “Bat Boy: The Musical” for audiences eager for thrills, laughs, twists and turns.

“The audience will definitely go on a roller coaster ride,” said director Robyn Berg. “Just when

you think you know which direction the story is headed, it throws a curveball your way.”

The production features a large cast of primary characters, townspeople, a chorus and animals, who are frequently moving, often in conflict. There is dancing, stage combat, and of course, song.

“There is a hoe-down number, a revival number, rock numbers, and ballads,” said Berg. “There is incredible diversity and complexity to the score, which allows the actors to stretch in multiple ways.

“We are also using stage blood, fog, and haze. It is truly unlike almost anything else in the musical theater canon,” she added.

The story revolves around the discovery of Bat Boy by some teenagers who bring him to the sheriff who takes him to a local veterinarian. Simultaneously, the cows

near Hope Falls are dying mysteriously and tensions quickly go on the rise.

The title character is played by Patrick Hurt, a junior music major and theater minor whose natural energy comes forward in every performance.

Hurt describes the experience of playing Bat Boy as fun but challenging. For one thing, the physicality of crawling, jumping, screaming and singing night after night requires thoughtful pacing.

Additionally, Hurt says the character’s development requires a psychological transformation on stage as the play unfolds.

“When we first meet Bat Boy, he doesn’t speak, doesn’t communicate, and pretty much only is thinking about his basic needs,” Hurt said. “But as the show goes on, you see him grow.”

See Musical, page 4

Callery pear trees are blooming again, and that’s bad news



PHOTO BY DEVON JOHNSON FOR VIRGINIA TECH

You’ve probably seen the beautiful white flowers of Callery pear trees, more commonly known as Bradford pear trees, that are blooming now throughout the commonwealth.

You might have caught a whiff of their pungent fishy aroma. You might also have noticed that there are a lot more of these trees than there used to be.

Callery pear trees are beautiful, but they are one of the worst invasive species in the Southeast. That is because the Callery pear is an invasive species — one of the worst in the Southeast — and it’s rapidly spreading from Virginia’s

urban landscapes to disturbed areas such as roadsides and even into forests.

“In areas without active vegetation control, such as roadsides and road interchanges, you see a proliferation of

See Pear trees, page 4

Virginia National History Day district contest draws more than 200 young competitors to campus

By its very nature, the Virginia History Day competition focuses on the past, but in the New River Valley, its present and future seem to be gaining traction as well.

On March 15, as it has done since 1996, Radford University hosted Virginia History Day’s District 3 contest, and students from a dozen local schools came to present their research projects and have them evaluated by judges.

In reviewing the entry list, one of the event’s organizers noticed an encouraging trend.

“Three years ago, the number of students

See Contest, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford University recently hosted Virginia History Day’s District 3 contest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Mar. 30:

Radford Easter egg hunt

At Bisset Park; 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bounce houses, petting zoo, food trucks, tons of sweets, face-painting and Easter bunny. Ages three - five: noon; Ages six - nine: 12:15 p.m.; Ages 10-12: 12:30 p.m.; Ages under three: 12:45. Please bring a basket.

Christiansburg Easter egg hunt

Christiansburg Parks & Recreation and the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg will host the Great Easter Egg Hunt at Kiwanis Park for children ages 12 and under. Children bring their own baskets and search for surprises the Easter Bunny has left behind. The hunts are divided into four different age groups and children will only be allowed to hunt in their age group. Please arrive early to claim your spot for your hunt area. Egg Hunt Times: 10 a.m. ages 3-5; 10:15 a.m. ages 6-8; 10:30 a.m. ages 9-12; and 10:45 a.m. ages under 3. Be sure to also take a moment to pose for a photo with the Easter Bunny.

Blacksburg Easter egg hunt

At Municipal Park, Turner Street. Ages three and under; 10 a.m. Ages four- 12; 10:30 a.m.

Pilot 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.

Auburn Easter egg hunt

The Riner Volunteer Fire Department presents their 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Auburn High School Stadium. Egg Hunt schedule: 10 a.m. ages three and under at Auburn Elementary playground; 10:15 a.m. ages four - six at Auburn High School football field; 10:30 a.m. ages 7-12 at Auburn High School football field. Don't forget to bring your basket! Auburn High School is located at 1650 Auburn School Drive in Riner.

Red Cross blood drive

At St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 E. Main St., Christiansburg; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Appointments: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>.

Blacksburg leaf compost giveaway

Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch, which can be used as a soil additive for composting. This is an important service as composted leaf mulch keeps leaves out of the landfill. Leaves can take up valuable landfill space and produce harmful greenhouse gases. This year, leaf mulch compost will be available for pickup at Glade Road Growing 8 a.m.-12 p.m. To arrange pickup, residents must register at <http://www.tobweb.org/mulch/>.

Thursday, April 4:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Southwest Virginia College and University Pop-up Event

New event brings together Bluefield University, Emory & Henry College, Ferrum College, New River Community College, Radford University and Roanoke College, giving future students a chance to meet college representatives in the New River Valley. Free event will occur at New River Valley Community Colleges' Christiansburg mall location in Christiansburg, 6 to 8:30 p.m., with representatives from different colleges sharing insights about educational opportunities.

Saturday, April 6:

Skipper Cannon Firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired once on Saturday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m. on the Drillfield as part of the opening celebration for The Big Event at Virginia Tech. The Big Event is a student-run day of service. Thousands of students and university employees come together to complete nearly 1,200 community service projects throughout Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and the New River Valley.

Monday, April 8:

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, April 9:

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.

Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will convene for its regular meeting at 6 p.m. at the School Administration Building. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at www.rcps.org.

Saturday, April 13:

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, with scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee; 8 to 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg.

It is fundraiser for our club to help us as we serve our community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. There will be sign-up information available for our newest community initiative -- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This is the last breakfast until October.

On-going:

Radford Noon Rotary Club's Field of Honor

The Field of Honor will be installed on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery prior to Memorial Day and will be displayed until the Fourth of July. The Radford Noon Rotary Club is looking for people to sponsor flags. Individual flags are \$50. Corporate Sponsorship is: Bronze - \$250; Silver - \$500; Gold - \$1000; and Platinum - \$2500. Money raised through the project will benefit scholarships to Radford High School students attending Radford University, and other Rotary initiatives. All flags are made in the USA. For further questions, and to register, contact rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com.

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://vapassengerailauthority.org/nrvproject/>.

Expect delays at Peppers Ferry Road and Prices Fork Road on Tuesday

Drivers should allow extra travel time with delays of 15-20 minutes

SALEM – Weather permitting, on Tuesday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., drivers should expect delays in Montgomery County at the intersection of Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) and Route 685 (Prices Fork Road).

Crews with the Virginia Department of Transportation will be drilling to collect core samples as part of developing a future turn lane project at the intersection.

The work will require alternating lane closures throughout the day with traffic controlled by flaggers and police. Delays could be up to 15-20 minutes, so drivers are advised to plan ahead, add extra travel time and expect impacts to their commutes.

Construction on the turn lanes is tentatively expected to begin in 2026.

Virginia Department of Transportation



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VDOT

Warm Hearth Village celebrates 50th anniversary

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Physicians



On behalf of everyone at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, we'd like to thank our physicians for their tireless efforts to provide care to our patients and community.

National Doctors' Day March 30th

In recognition of National Doctors' Day, please join us in thanking our dedicated physicians.

For a physician referral, please call 800-422-8482 or visit CarilionClinic.org/providers.



CARILION NEW RIVER VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

BLACKSBURG – Warm Hearth Founders, Wybe (Vee-ba) and Marietje (Mar-ee-cha) Kroontje (Croon-cha) emigrated to America from the Netherlands following World War II. Their story and aspirations are compelling not only because of what they survived but because they were determined to build something meaningful and lasting in their new homeland.

Determined to repay the American people for their liberation, in 1974, after becoming educated and established, they landed on a vision for a retirement community unlike those of the current time in the U.S. They modeled Warm Hearth Village (WHV) after communities in the Netherlands where seniors were viewed as valuable assets always contributing something to their family and community no matter their age or physical condition. This determination to preserve dignity and respect while ensuring seniors were viewed as valuable community resources drove their 100-year plan and mission for an innovative nonprofit community in Blacksburg.

Kroontje was a true visionary enlisting the grass roots support of friends, colleagues and community leaders with donations of time, money and land for the new development. He knew early on the importance of connections to higher education and the medical community forming relationships that have stood the test of time and evolved as the community has grown and the needs of seniors have changed.

Now 50 years into that 100-year plan, employees at Warm Hearth Village strive



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

to keep the Kroontje's vision and values alive and instill them in all who become part of the Warm Hearth family.

"Our culture here is unique and deliberate," says William Lester, President and CEO. "We value innovation, diversity, teamwork collaboration, community and we work hard to ensure this is reflected in our leadership and decision-making. Being a nonprofit community also sets us apart as our focus remains on the residents and their needs first and foremost. This results in high satisfaction among employees and residents, high retention and occupancy and ultimately a higher quality of care."

The Warm Hearth Foundation was founded to support the mission of the retirement community and has become an integral part of Kroontjes' vision to take care of seniors from all walks of life. The Foundation facilitates valuable partnerships with supporters throughout our community, allowing Warm Hearth

See Warm Hearth, page 3

Virginia gas prices on the rise

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 7.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.45/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 25.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 14.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 2.0 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.02 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.99/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.50/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.99/g while the highest was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.50/g.

The national average price of

gasoline has risen 6.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.51/g today. The national average is up 27.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 8.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

March 25, 2023: \$3.31/g (U.S. Average: \$3.42/g)
 March 25, 2022: \$4.14/g (U.S. Average: \$4.24/g)
 March 25, 2021: \$2.75/g (U.S. Average: \$2.86/g)
 March 25, 2020: \$1.93/g (U.S.

Average: \$2.03/g)
 March 25, 2019: \$2.44/g (U.S. Average: \$2.65/g)
 March 25, 2018: \$2.45/g (U.S. Average: \$2.60/g)
 March 25, 2017: \$2.10/g (U.S. Average: \$2.28/g)
 March 25, 2016: \$1.88/g (U.S. Average: \$2.03/g)
 March 25, 2015: \$2.22/g (U.S. Average: \$2.42/g)
 March 25, 2014: \$3.35/g (U.S. Average: \$3.53/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.40/g, up 8.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.32/g.
 Richmond- \$3.51/g, up 13.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.37/g.
 West Virginia- \$3.41/g, up 14.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.27/g.

"We've now seen the national

average price of gasoline rising for four straight weeks, which isn't uncommon for this time of year. What is uncommon is the number of attacks on Russian oil refiners; attacks which could have ripple effects worldwide if they continue," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Russia could see more capacity impacted by the attacks, forcing it to buy such products on the global market, pushing prices up everywhere. With oil prices now under more pressure and attacks potentially increasing on Russian refiners, we could be in for a few more weeks of rising prices. Significant as well is the fact that Americans are now seeing inflation again at the pump with prices higher than they were a year ago."

GasBuddy

Warm Hearth

from page 2

Village to offer innovative care and programming and serve as a leader in advocacy for seniors.

Long-time resident Bridget McMahon moved to America from Ireland in 1954 when she was a child. After her husband died, she decided to move to WHV in 2003 for a one-year trial because she knew the Village had so much to offer.

"I fell in love," McMahon said. "The people here are great,

we have a fitness center, we have transportation, all sorts of activities and music; we have everything. That is why I am still here after 21 years and I intend to stay."

Warm Hearth Village is hosting a year-long series of events that are open to the public and designed to recognize and thank the many and varied partners throughout the community. A full calendar

of events is posted on retire.org and most events are open to the public free of charge. Some of our favorites include:

April 20: Grand 50th Anniversary Celebration for the entire community with live music and fun

May TBD: Tovertafel demonstration – see our latest innovation in programs for seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia

Aug. 10: Our biggest and best Cheeseburger In Parrot-Dise fundraiser with proceeds advancing the legacy and innovation of the Kroontjes'

Sept.: Partnership with Montgomery Museum to showcase Warm Hearth's role in the greater community and economy for more than 50 years

Sept. 28: Heritage Festival featuring outdoor vendors, food and entertainment

TBD: An intimate audience with Conductor David Stuart Wiley, Music Director and Conductor of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra

TBD: Great Dutch Bake-Off where participants will compete to prepare a favorite Dutch dish on the clock and with a vague recipe and instructions

Warm Hearth Village

Contest

from page 1

attending was in the 50s," said Ann Roberts of the School of Teacher Education and Leadership (STEL), which oversees the event for the College of Education and Human Development.

"Last year, it was 153 students," Roberts said. "This year, it's over 200."

Indeed, even prior to 2020 – when the District 3 competition had to be held completely virtually – attendance generally averaged between 50 and 70 contestants, so this current spike represents historical growth, so much so that at the event's awards ceremony in the Bonnie Auditorium of the Hurlburt Student Center, university officials said adjustments would need to be made going forward.

"I have got to say that it looks like next year we will not be in this room because we will be in a bigger room," STEL Director Amanda Bozack told a capacity crowd, sparking applause.

The competitors spanned grades five through 12 and presented projects

across numerous formats – exhibits, performances, documentaries, papers and websites – with each addressing this year's theme: historic turning points.

Just as impressive as the spike in attendance, perhaps, was the sheer range of subjects and interests the young students chose to tackle – the attack on Pearl Harbor, Jane Goodall, the Italian Renaissance, Kristallnacht, the U.S.S. Monitor, the women's suffrage movement, the Loving v. Virginia court case, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Hurricane Katrina, the Treaty of Versailles and Martha Graham were just some of the dozens and dozens of research topics.

Participants who took third through first place will now advance to compete at the state level April 27-28 at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond, Virginia. The national phase of the competition will be held June 9-13 at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

Within District 3, one dozen local institutions were represented, including Blacksburg and Pulaski middle schools; Check, Critzer, Floyd, Indian Valley, Snowville and Willis elementary schools; Cave Spring High School; Blacksburg New School; North Cross School and St. John Neumann Academy.

During the awards ceremony, Virginia History Day Coordinator Sam Florer thanked the faculty organizers – including Moore, Bozack, Associate Professor of Social Studies and Special Education Darren Minarik, and more than 40 judges – as well as the students who spent weeks or even months preparing.

"It's a lot of work to do this, so no matter if you win or if you lose, you should be really proud of creating a project and being here and sharing your love of history," Florer told the crowd.

"Hopefully, you'll want to keep coming back and doing this year after year."

Afterward, Florer, who has been the

Virginia History Day coordinator since 2019, said he noticed another promising thread in 2024.

"A lot of the participants' teachers are former students at Radford," he said. "They went through the teacher licensure program at Radford, and so many of them were exposed to this program as students. Many were taught by Ann Roberts ... and so that has been a great pipeline for getting folks interested."

"Radford also always encourages their current pre-licensure students who are currently in that program to judge at the local contest, so I would say there were probably 10 to 15 of those Radford students who served as judges," Florer continued.

"That's another great strategy for getting future teachers interested in wanting to get their students involved, once they have a classroom of their own."

Neil Harvey for Radford University

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

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled for 5:30 P.M. April 16, 2024 on the proposed Tax Rates for Calendar Year 2024.

Interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present their views. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street. The City of Radford proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 31 percent.
2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$.64 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
3. Effective Rate Increase: The City of Radford proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$.69 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$.05 per \$100, or 6.25%

Legals - City of Radford

percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Radford will exceed last years by 10 percent.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for review in the City Manager's office, and on the City's website at www.radfordva.gov. BY THE ORDER OF RADFORD CITY COUNCIL

Legals - Montgomery County

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

PLAT-23-20-Glade Spring Crossing Major Subdivision Preliminary Plat Review for 176 lots on 45 acres at 1006 Glade Road (Tax Map Nos. 225-(A)-3,4 & 224-(A)-57) for Glade Spring Crossing, LLC (owner). This is the preliminary plat approval process for the

Legals - Montgomery County

Glade Spring Crossing major subdivision of 176 units on 45 acres at 1006 Glade Road. A rezoning request was approved for the property in May 2023 (RZN 22-0004/ORD 2007) that rezoned the property from RR-1 Rural Residential 1 to PR Planned Residential. As part of this process, the applicant has requested two variances to the Town of Blacksburg Subdivision Ordinance standards: Section 5-503 (e) Bikeways to permit landings of no greater than 5% grade, rather than 2% on the emergency access connection from Glade Spring Drive and Village Way South; and Section 5-901 Public Utility Easements to permit construction of a retaining wall on lots 169-175 within a public utility easements (PUE).

Persons affected by or interested in this major subdivision plat review may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission will take action. Copies of the request and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.



Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by Howard M. Thornton, Jr. and Gayle W. Thomton, Property Owners, and PCKK Partners, LLC, Applicant, to allow for a Contractors Equipment Storage Yard in the General Business District B-3 zoning district on property located at 520 and 540 Depot St. NE, identified as Tax Parcel 497-((A))-40; (Parcel ID 007903), and consisting of approximately of 2.409 acres. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Rezoning request by Johnny C. Martin, Jr. and Amelia F. Martin, Property Owners and Applicants, to rezone property identified as all of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-6, (Parcel ID 007453), and consisting of approximately of 1.595 acres located at 3345 Roanoke Street; and an approximate 5.955 acre portion of property located at 3301 Roanoke Street, identified as a portion of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-5C, (Parcel

Legals - Montgomery County

ID 090517) from Agricultural District (A) to General Business District (B-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. C. Conditional Use Permit request by Johnny C. Martin, Jr. and Amelia F. Martin, Property Owners and Applicants, to allow for an amendment of an existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the expansion of a Contractors Equipment Storage Yard on property located at 3345 Roanoke Street and a portion of property located at 3301 Roanoke Street, identified as all of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-6, (Parcel ID 007453), consisting of approximately of 1.595 acres, and a portion of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-5C, (Parcel ID 090517) consisting of approximately 5.955 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County, in accordance with Section 33.1-70.01 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Secondary Six-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/2025 through 2029/30 in Montgomery County and on the Secondary System Construction Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/25. Copies of the proposed Plan and Budget may be reviewed at the Christiansburg Residency Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation, located at 105 Cambria Street, Christiansburg, Virginia or at the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia. All projects in the Secondary Six-Year Plan that are eligible for federal funds will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which documents how Virginia will obligate federal transportation funds. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this hearing should contact the Virginia Department of Transportation at (540) 381-7201. Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Montgomery County Government Center at (540) 382-6954.

Classified Advertising Delivers

Pear trees from page 1

Callery pear. There are some areas along roads that are now 100 percent Callery pear trees," said Eric Wiseman, associate professor of urban forestry and arboriculture and Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

"They are also very hard to control. If you cut the stem back at ground level, it will still grow from the root, so all you've done is cut the plant back, not kill it," he said.

The Virginia Department of Forestry now offers an exchange program through which landowners can remove a Callery pear and receive a native tree replacement. Learn more about the exchange program.

Pear trees have widely used as ornamental landscape trees since the 1970s. The trees were initially seen as cost-effective, fast-growing, and easy-to-establish additions to the suburban landscape.

Unfortunately, pear trees produce fertile seeds that are readily spread by birds. These wild-growing seedlings are tolerant of harsh growing conditions and thrive in poor soil, which means they can pop up practically anywhere. These seedlings also inherit the genetics of their uncultivated ancestors, developing undesirable

characteristics such as sharp thorns.

What makes a species invasive?

Non-native species become invasive when they escape control and begin to cause harm to natural resources, economic activity, or humans.

Callery pears spread easily and can form dense thickets. These thickets leaf out early and outcompete native plant species growing around them, reducing biodiversity. The sharp thorns that grow on wild-growing Callery pear seedlings make them difficult — and painful — to manage.

Native plant biodiversity provides food and habitat for animals and insects, including native bee species, and contributes to the overall health of Virginia's natural communities.

Wiseman said "nonnative" does not necessarily mean "invasive," and some "nonnative" tree species make fine replacements, though he does recommend planting native species when possible.

A few native alternatives to Bradford or other Callery pear cultivars include the following:

- Flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*
- Serviceberry, *Amelanchier* spp.

- Green hawthorn, *Crataegus viridis*
- Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*
- White fringe tree, *Chionanthus virginicus*
- A few nonnative alternatives to Bradford or other Callery pear cultivars:

- Katsuratree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*
 - Paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*
 - Japanese snowbell, *Styrax japonicum*
 - Smoketree, *Cotinus coggygia*
- More information on woody plants in the landscape is available in the Virginia Cooperative Extension publication *Selecting Plants for Virginia Landscapes: Showy Flowering Shrubs*.

Interested in learning more about gardening? Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities — Virginia Tech and Virginia State University — to the people of the commonwealth. Contact your local Master Gardeners through your Extension office or learn more about gardening in Virginia and the Virginia Extension Master Gardener program.

Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech

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Musical from page 1



The cast rehearses a big number from "Bat Boy."

PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

"His overall character arc was certainly a mountain for me as an actor to tackle."

As one might expect, the town's residents receive *Bat Boy* in a variety of ways, from pity and curiosity to suspicion and outrage.

Zoe Keith plays one of the townspeople, Mrs. Taylor, whom she describes as "Mama bear times 400."

"She's kind of crazy," Keith says. "But she has her reasons. They're not great reasons, but she has her reasons for being crazy about her kids."

Keith says the play gives her a chance to take her emotionally driven character to exciting levels.

"I get to scream and hoot and holler. I have a fun lullaby I sing to my daughter, Ruthie, in the show,"

she explained as she smiled. "I just love it so much."

Keith also notes that besides the wild and often raucous nature of the musical, the play has substance. The primary characters have depth and the conflicts run well below the surface and into human nature.

"The main theme of *Bat Boy* is how we treat the abnormal. This creature comes into a town and the question is, what are they going to do? How will they react?"

Berg added that the play explores issues that are just as important, if not more so, today than when the play was first produced more than 25 years ago.

"In today's world, we see dividing lines everywhere," Berg explained.

"*Bat Boy* provides an opportunity to examine not just erasing the

lines, but also our temptations to scapegoat, shame or ignore others who may not look like us, act like us or share the same beliefs."

"*Bat Boy: The Musical*" will be performed on Radford's main campus in Preston Hall in the Bondurant Auditorium. On April 2, 4, 5 and 6, the show will start at 7:30 p.m. and there is a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, April 7.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children 12 and under, and free with a Radford University ID. They can be purchased at the door, at the theater box office in 245 Walker Hall, by calling 540-871-5289, or at <https://rutheatretickets.universitytickets.com>.

Sean Kotz for Radford University

CROSSWORD

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64					65					66		
67						68				69		

- CLUES ACROSS**

 1. Fishing hook end
 5. A jump forward
 9. Girl entering society
 12. Largest toad species
 13. Measure = 198 liters
 15. Jeff Bridges' brother
 16. Past participle of be
 17. SE Iraq seaport
 18. Paddles
 19. Biotechnology: ___onomics
 20. Perfectly
 22. Japanese sash
 25. Flower stalk
 26. Bosnian ethnic group
 28. Longest division of geological time
 29. Hoover's organization
 32. Thigh of a hog
 33. Fabric woven from flax
 35. Upper limb
 36. Basics
 37. Satisfies to excess

39. The cry made by sheep
 40. Go quickly
 41. Allied headquarters in WWII
 43. Paradoxical sleep
 44. Point midway between N and NE
 45. Refers to a female
 46. Tears down (archaic sp.)
 48. Increases motor speed
 49. Nocturnal winged mammal
 50. Integrated courses of studies
 54. Goat and camel hair fabric
 57. Papuan monetary unit
 58. Extreme or immoderate
 62. Free from danger
 64. Musician Clapton
 65. French young women
 66. Auricles
 67. Foot (Latin)
 68. Prefix for external

CLUES DOWN

 1. Founder of Babism
 2. "A Death in the Family" author
 3. One who feels regret
 4. Maine's Queen City
 5. Research workplace
 6. A division of geological time
 7. Paid media promos
 8. Abdominal cavity linings
 9. Apportion cards
 10. Ranking above a viscount
 11. Not idle
 14. Former SW German state
 15. Constrictor snake
 21. Pica printing unit
 23. Where wine ferments (abbr.)
 24. Egyptian goddess
 25. Boils vigorously
 26. Oral polio vaccine developer
 27. Master of ceremonies
 29. Fr. entomologist Jean Henri
 30. Scottish hillsides
 31. Islamic leader
 32. Bakker's downfall Jessica
 34. TV show and state capital
 38. A citizen of Belgrade
 42. Supervises flying
 45. Sebaceous gland secretion
 47. Conditions of balance
 48. Ancient Egyptian sun god
 50. Part of a stairway
 51. Time long past
 52. Hawaiian wreaths
 53. Resin-like shellac ingredient
 55. Semitic fertility god
 56. 60's hairstyle
 59. Honey Boo Boo's network
 60. Soak flax
 61. Volcanic mountain in Japan
 63. Point midway between E and SE

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OBITUARIES

Holbrook, Sr., Paul Edward

Paul Edward Holbrook, Sr., plumbing and heating business, and 86, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents Elmo and Scena Holbrook; brother, James Ray Holbrook; and sister, Hazel Sifford.

Survivors include his spouse of 66 years, Elise Holbrook; daughters, Debbie Puckett (Tim), Diana Jackson (Phil), and Betty Robertson (Greg); son, Paul "Bert" Holbrook (Tammy); sisters, Mary Holbrook, and Rhonda Holbrook; 12 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Paul was a veteran of the United States Navy. Upon leaving the military he started his own



you would always find Bert and Little Man by his side. His kindness and generosity touched the lives of many.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to Carilion Hospice for their exemplary care. Also, for his wonderful daughter-in-law, Tammy Holbrook, for all the love and care shown by her.

A private service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to the Newbern Fire Dept., PO Box 328, Newbern, VA 24126

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

Hubbard, Faye Harrell

Faye Harrell Hubbard, 87, of (Lovedia); sister-in-law, Sue Foster; Fairlawn, went to be with her Jesus Tuesday, Mar. 26, 2024.

She was born Feb. 15, 1937, in Pulaski County. She was in the care of Radford Health & Rehab. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emory M. and Ruth G. Harrell; infant son, Tommy Hubbard; daughter, Sandra Kaye Dalton; brothers, Robert, Clinton and Everett Harrell; and sisters, Reba Simpkins, Maxine Harrell, and Judy Taylor Saunders.

Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Robert McCoy Hubbard; sons, David L. and Lawrence E. Hubbard; granddaughter, Amanda Dalton; great granddaughter, Kadie Stump; sister, Wanda Washington; brother-in-law, Doug Hubbard



and many other relatives and friends.

She was a minister and devout christian who loved to tell you about the Lord. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

The family received friends Friday, Mar. 29, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral

Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Marcus Harrison officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Fairlawn Church of God.

The Hubbard 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.trinity-tyburg.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

REPUTATION

Read Psalms 3:1-8; 69:1-36

Whenever a Christian public figure sins, or any of God's people sins, unsaved people inevitably cry, "Hypocrite! I won't be a Christian if that's what they're like!" As the body of Christ, when one of us sins, we all share in the bad characterization. Because we represent Christ to the world, our good or bad reputation reflects on Him.

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the Lord Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel (Psalm 69:6).

David had sinned before God, and was deeply repentant. David's main concerns were not that his transgression be concealed or that his reputation be saved. One of his foremost prayers was that God's reputation and that of God's people would be protected from disgrace and shame. Perhaps this is one of the many reasons why David was called "a man after God's own heart."

Prayer for Today: Holy Spirit, please help me to remember that secret sins are not secret. Please help me to focus on giving You a good name before the world and my fellow believers.

Quicklook: Psalm 69:1-6

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

Obituaries from page 1

Martin, Doris Louise

Doris Louise Martin, 87, of son, Douglas Vinton, died Tuesday, Mar. 26, 2024.

She was born in Greenbrier County, W.Va. Feb. 25, 1937, to the late Marvin Clel and Hallie Dunbar Wilson. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Charles Gerald Martin, and brother, Carl Wilson.

She is survived by her daughter, Dianna Dailey;



Gerald Martin (Vicki); grandchildren, Megan Ivans (Charlie), Chad Dailey (Taylor), Josh Dailey (Andi), Brandon Martin (Shannon), Corey Martin (Morgan); 10 great-grandchildren; brothers, Wyatt Wilson, Dennis Wilson (Pat).

Funeral services will be held privately.

Blacksburg Radio Station, sang in nursing homes, and in churches.

Special thanks to all the staff members at Kroontje Health Care Center and Pastor Zane Cox and special friend Nina Surphin.

Visitation was held Thursday, Mar.

28, 2024 at Horne Funeral Home.

Funeral Services were held Friday, Mar. 29, 2024 in the Horne Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Zane Cox officiating. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

Weyburn, Florence Louise

Florence Louise Weyburn (née Franklin), born Aug. 29, 1941, died in Christ Mar. 20, 2024. Florence was the beloved wife of Donald Weyburn and a resident of Montgomery County. She was born in Leesburg, Va., the second child of C. Lee and Martha Franklin of Ashburn, younger sister of the late Isabelle Patterson. She is survived by her brother Raymond Franklin, by children Lee Alan Nestor of North Fork, Idaho, and Wanda Louise Friday of Blacksburg, granddaughters Kayleigh Renee Nestor Birmingham, Sage Gaia Boyer and Morel Solstice Boyer, and great-grandson Able Kingston Salamanca.

Florence retired in 2003 from

the FAA where she served as a contract technical editor, moving with her husband in 2005 from Falls Church to Blacksburg. Florence was a devoted member of McLean Presbyterian Church in McLean and, upon moving to Blacksburg, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. She lived for Christ and His Gospel and died in Christ and His promises.

A graveside service was held Friday, Mar. 29, 2024 in the Union Cemetery, Leesburg, Va. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.



Taylor, Bessie Likens

Bessie Likens Taylor, 87 went home to be with her Lord and Savior Mar. 25, 2024.

She was surrounded by her family. She is survived by her three sons, Carlos Taylor (Jean), Donald Taylor (Teresa), Jimmy Taylor (Monica); grandchildren, Zachary, Christopher, Aaron, Amy (Ronnie), Jordan, Hannah (Shawn), Stephanie; and great-



grandchildren, Alaina, Jesse, Evelyn Otilie, and Finnian.

Bessie enjoyed the simple pleasures in life. She was a devoted mother. Her priority was God in everything that she did. She was a faithful member of the Church of God of Prophecy in Radford. Bessie composed religious songs, played the guitar, sang on the

The need for women in STEM is greater than ever, says expert

Women make up only 35% of the workforce in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) - the greatest disparities occurring in engineering and computer sciences. Christina DiMarino, an engineering professor at Virginia Tech, said now is the time to flip the script and explained why it is so important that education for women and underrepresented groups about STEM fields starts early in life.

The problem: gender imbalance

DiMarino says the absence of women in the field is something she sees regularly, but also views it as a great opportunity for growing women leaders in STEM for the future.

"STEM career environments that have been cultivated by men over generations have struggled to adapt to be more inclusive for women and other underrepresented individuals," DiMarino said. "There have been

strong pushes for increasing diversity in STEM, but cultivating that representative community is going to take time."

The importance of diverse representation in STEM

"Engineers aim to address critical problems facing humanity and if the engineers themselves are not diverse, then it can be difficult for them to identify problems that other groups may face and come up with solutions that are suitable for these other groups," DiMarino said. "Having more diversity among engineers brings broader perspectives and experiences, and can result in more effective solutions."

What can be done to increase the number of women in STEM

DiMarino said it is important that women are provided equitable opportunities and resources as their peers in an academic setting as well as the engineering



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

workplace.

"Creating inclusive, welcoming, and supportive environments are critical to increasing and retaining the number of women in STEM fields. This empowers them to do great things," said DiMarino. "Mentors are helpful, but alone

are not enough. Having people in positions of influence that will advocate for women to be considered for high-visibility opportunities, promotions, or assignments is key in career advancement."

DiMarino said the best place to start is with the

youngest generations. "Introducing STEM fields and topics at a young age is critical to helping students better understand the vast opportunities," DiMarino said. "I also think that sharing the great accomplishments of diverse historical

and present-day figures in STEM is important because it shows that there are people that look like them and may come from similar backgrounds."

Margaret Ashburn for Virginia Tech

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Peer-to-peer payment scams

Many of us have used a peer-to-peer (P2P) payment app to split a bill or send money to a friend, and some people even use them for traditional shopping. However, there are inherent risks that exist on these payment apps that everyone should know about.

First and foremost, because they're as fast and convenient for criminals as they are for consumers, P2P apps — like Zelle, Venmo and Cash App — are favorite tools for modern-day scammers. It's

also important to know that, even though they may be associated with your bank account, no fraud protections exist on P2P apps. Once you press send it is virtually impossible to get your money back.

The keys to staying safe when sending money this way is to avoid out of the blue requests for money and make sure you know the person on the other end. Think of P2P apps as cash. Before you hand over cash that you will never get back you

always want to know exactly who you are giving it to.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

AARP Virginia

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Witty, quirky, and irreverent, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain to bring an unforgettable evening

Witty, quirky, and irreverent, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain takes audiences on a roller coaster ride through musical genres, from Abba to ZZ Top, Tchaikovsky to Nirvana. Following a 2015 performance for a packed house, the ensemble returns to the Moss Arts Center for an unforgettable evening on Thursday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m.

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. Photo courtesy of Stefan Mager. Featuring only ukuleles and the voices of its performers,

the seven-person ensemble is best known for playing versions of famous rock songs and film themes, sometimes in amusing new ways. Performing for 30 years and counting, the orchestra is not only a British institution, but a worldwide phenomenon.

Whether it's soul, funk, classical, country, pop, rock, punk, or folk, in the hands of the Ukulele Orchestra, musical alchemy unites and transports the audience. There are no pianos, backing tracks, or banjos, no pitch shifters or electronic trickery — only an astonishing revelation of the rich palette of orchestration afforded by different sized ukuleles, vocal harmonies, and a bit of whistling.

Formed in 1985 as a bit of fun, the orchestra's first gig was an instant sell out, and the musicians have been performing ever since. By 1988 they had released an album,

appeared on BBC TV, played at the WOMAD festival, and recorded a BBC Radio 1 session.

The orchestra has given thousands of sold-out concerts across the world, recently performed sell-out shows at the Sydney Opera House, the Royal Albert Hall, and New York's Carnegie Hall.

The Ukulele Orchestra's music has been used in films, plays, and commercials, while film clips of its live concerts and TV appearances have been

watched millions of times online. Collaborators have included Madness, David Arnold, the British Film Institute, the Ministry of Sound, Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), and the Kaiser Chiefs.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Dr. Charles Y. Davis and Mrs. Carole C. Davis and Mr. Edwin H. Talley and Mrs. Melinda P. Talley.

Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech

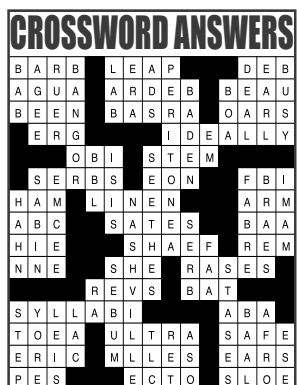


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEFAN MAGER

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

RADFORD SPORTS

Hoover, Millirons county players of the year

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Christiansburg High School is slowing putting together new winning ways including 12 games this past season.

Leading the charge was Katie Hoover, who averaged 16.7 points per game while hitting 34 three-pointers. For her effort, the Christiansburg junior is this year's All-County/All-City girls' basketball player of the year.

Nick Millirons was a reason Auburn appeared in another state championship game. For his effort, he is this year's All-County/All-City boys' player of the year. He averaged 16.1 points, 4.8 assists, and 4.4 rebounds per game. He shot 40.7 percent from behind the three-point line and was the Mt. Empire District and Region C player of the year. His father and coach Terry Millirons is the AC/AC coach of the year.

The rest of the All-County/All-City boys' group included:

Blacksburg's Wade Bland is a sharpshooter, which could not be left off the list. He averaged 15 points and seven rebounds per game, hitting 51 percent from the field including 37 percent from behind the arc.

Eastern Montgomery's Camden Sutphin was honored after being named as first team All-Pioneer District.

Radford's Luke Woodard put up 10 points per game this season with 3.3 rebounds.

Auburn Senior Forward Coahan Gordon was also honored after averaging 15 points and seven rebounds per game. He was first team All-Mt. Empire and Region



Katie Hoover

C while adding second team all-state.

Christiansburg High School was represented by Junior forward Kaleb Robinson who put in 15.2 points and seven rebounds per game. He was also named to the River Ridge District first-team.

Millirons was also named to the Class One first team announced late last week.

On the girls' side of the court, Hoover leads a group that could dominate a lot of high school teams.

Eastern Montgomery sophomore Carli Christian led



Nick Millirons

FILE PHOTOS

the team almost every game, averaging 17.8 points per game.

Blacksburg's Riley Price joined the group after being named to the first team 4D all-region team. Others on the list included: Radford's Kearson Carter and Eastern Montgomery's Macie Akers who connected on 65 of 200 shots this past season.

The girls' coach of the year is Christiansburg's Jacob Underwood. In his second year at the helm of the program, Underwood tallied double-figured wins.

Brooks moves on to UK, leaving VT in limbo

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Kenny Brooks made women's basketball relevant in Blacksburg, and in two years, he placed Virginia Tech in the national stage.

Now, he will take his talents to the University of Kentucky.

He just finished his eighth season on the Hokies bench. Boasting a 517-204 (.717) career record through 22 seasons as a head coach, Brooks has compiled five Colonial Athletic Association Tournament titles, four CAA regular-season titles, one ACC Tournament title, 10 NCAA Tournament appearances and one Final Four.

UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart welcomed Brooks on Tuesday to Lexington with lots of optimism.

"We are extremely excited to bring Kenny Brooks to the University of Kentucky,"

Barnhart said. "Kenny has a strong history of player development and championship performance at James Madison and Virginia Tech. When you combine his coaching excellence with his vision for this program and his passion to take us there, he is ideally suited to be head coach of the Wildcats."

"I am thrilled to be named the head coach of the Kentucky women's basketball program," Brooks said. "From the Big Blue Nation and the stunning landscape of the Bluegrass State to the UK Athletics brand and getting to compete in the Southeastern Conference, my family and I are excited about this new chapter in our lives. I want to thank Virginia Tech for the most joyful journey of my coaching career, and to the University of Kentucky and UK Athletics administration for this new opportunity. I don't plan

on wasting any time building a positive atmosphere, winning environment and a persistent program that Big Blue Nation can be proud of."

All of this took the Hokie faithful by surprise, especially as the Lady Hokies were playing their second round NCAA game against Baylor.

Virginia Tech Athletic Director Whit Babcock said the university hired Kenny in 2016 with the intent of revitalizing the school's women's basketball program, which he did.

"Needless to say, Kenny, his staff and student-athletes created a culture of excellence on and off the court. He was an incredible mentor to the young women in our women's basketball program and a terrific representative of our department and university. We wish Kenny and his family well in this next chapter of his career.

"I remain confident in the trajectory of our women's

basketball program and when combined with our resources, specifically NIL, that the future of our women's basketball program is bright."

Brooks received a three-year contract extension in late-July 2023 following the Hokies' Final Four run. According to Virginia Tech Athletics, the extension, which was set to expire in March 2029, included "a six-year deal totaling \$6.4 million, as well as other enhancements made to support staff salaries, assistant coach salary pool, postseason bonuses and operating budget."

Early reports say Brooks will be the third-highest paid coach in the Southeastern Conference, only behind LSU's Kim Mulkey at \$3.15 million annually and South Carolina's Dawn Staley at \$3.1 million.

During a video conference on Wednesday, Babcock said Tech's resources were good enough to get to the Final Four and be one quarter away from playing

for a national championship. But that is where the financial limitations came in.

"I guess Kentucky's budget may be \$30- or \$40-million more than ours. Yeah, they can push some more into it."

"I don't think it's an automatic path to the Final Four or maybe Kentucky would've been there previously on the women's side. But it does make things easier. And if Kenny was looking for a challenge at the highest level and you can have those resources, certainly it helps," Babcock said.

The Tech AD has been successful in bringing winning coaches in several sports across the spectrum, and he hopes to bring another proven winner to Blacksburg. This includes, according to Babcock, a hunger and a fire to compete in today's athletic environment.

Virginia Tech will begin an immediate national search for the Hokies' next women's basketball head coach.

Blacksburg, Tech alum should be at top of coaching search



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Virginia Tech has begun a national search for a new women's basketball coach, and a couple of names are being circulated in the New River with one being very familiar.

Brittany Anderson is both a Blacksburg and Virginia Tech alum, who joined Illinois last year after three seasons on the Stanford University staff.

While she does not have the head coaching experience, Hokie fans would hope for, she is an excellent candidate.

Stanford went 92-12 (.885) in Anderson's three seasons on The Farm, boasting the second-most wins and third-best winning percentage of any school in the nation during that span. The Cardinal won three straight Pac-12 regular season titles along with the 2021 and 2022 tournament championships and went 50-5 vs. Pac-12 foes in the regular season with Anderson on the staff. Under her guidance, Haley Jones (2022) and Kiana Williams (2021) earned All-America accolades, while Anna Wilson was named the 2021 Pac-12 Co-Defensive Player of the Year. Jones and Lexie Hull were both picked No. 6 in the WNBA Draft in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

A 2007 graduate of Virginia Tech, Anderson has spent time coaching in both the high school and AAU ranks, as well as collegiately at Radford and her alma mater in Blacksburg, Va.

She joined the college ranks in 2013,

serving as an assistant at Radford and aiding in the resurgence of its program, including a trip to the WNIT in 2015. Upon returning to her alma mater, Anderson helped Virginia Tech to four straight postseason appearances, highlighted by a run to the WNIT Championship game in 2018.

Playing for the Hokies from 2003-07, Anderson led Virginia Tech to four straight postseason appearances, including three trips to the NCAA Tournament and one to the WNIT. She shot 44.6 percent from the floor for her career and averaged 10.2 points per game as a senior.

Upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in apparel design and merchandise management, Anderson served as the corporate recruiter for M.C. Dean, Inc. in Dulles, Va., from 2008-13. During that time frame, Anderson also coached girls' basketball at Potomac Falls High School in Potomac Falls, Va., and in the AAU ranks.

Looking through the current NCAA women's basketball brackets, several other coaches are rising to the top of the bowl of cereal.

Holy Cross was 21-7, before losing to Iowa in the first round of the Big Dance. Maureen Magarity just finished her fourth season as the head women's basketball coach at the College of the Holy Cross in 2023-24.

Magarity is the seventh coach in program history and arrived on Mount St. James after spending 10 years as head coach at the University of New Hampshire. While at Holy Cross, Magarity has coached the Crusaders to a 72-41 (.637) record and a 45-23 (.662) mark in Patriot League play through four campaigns.

In just four seasons, Magarity has restored the storied tradition of the Holy Cross women's basketball program. She has guided the Crusaders to back-to-back Patriot League Tournament Championships (2023, 2024) and appearances in the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament (2023, 2024) including a First Four 72-45 victory against UT Martin in 2024. Holy Cross also has recorded three consecutive 20 win seasons under Magarity's tenure while in 2022-23, the Crusaders recorded the second most wins (24) in a single season in program history and in 2023-24, the Crusaders set the program record for wins at home in the Hart Center Arena (15).

UT-Martin finished second in their conference this year and received a Big Dance invite. Kevin McMillan is in his 15th year at the helm of the Skyhawk program as the school's all-time wins leader with 281 career victories.

Overall, the Skyhawks have won 10 Ohio Valley Conference titles during his 15 seasons at UT Martin – including six regular season titles and four tournament crowns. The Skyhawks reached the postseason in six consecutive seasons and 10 campaigns overall while reaching the NCAA Tournament in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2024 along with earning a bid to the Women's NIT in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020 (canceled) and 2021. Additionally, the program has recorded eight 20-win seasons in the past 13 years with the Skyhawks posting a 281-193 record under McMillan, including a 189-70 mark in conference play. His 281 victories rank as the third-highest win total in OVC history, as he accounts for four OVC Coach of the Year awards.

West Virginia also took their lumps

against Iowa in the current tourney but showed a lot of promise. Mark Kellogg is the sixth winningest active Division I women's basketball coach in the country by winning percentage and brings a 445-120 (.788) career record to Morgantown. He has spent the last eight seasons (2015-23) at Stephen F. Austin where he compiled a 195-55 (.780) mark with seven consecutive seasons of 23 wins or more.

Kellogg's list of accomplishments at Stephen F. Austin is endless. He led the Ladyjacks to six straight postseason appearances, two regular season conference championships and two tournament championships along with Southland and then WAC Conference Coach of the Year honors. In the past six years, Stephen F. Austin has been the second winningest women's basketball program in the state of Texas, and Kellogg has guided SFA to its highest NET and RPI rankings in school history.

In the last five postseasons not affected by COVID, the Ladyjacks appeared in two NCAA tournaments and three WNITs. At SFA, his Southland and WAC conference mark was 120-22 (.845) and his overall career conference mark stands at 274-57 (.828) in 18 previous seasons as a head coach.

Prior to Stephen F. Austin, Kellogg spent two seasons at West Texas A&M where he compiled a 62-6 record and led the Lady Buffs to a Division II runner-up finish in 2014 and an Elite Eight appearance in 2015. His teams won the regular season and tournament championship of the Lone Star Conference in both seasons, and finished No. 2 and No. 6 in the final WBCA

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RADFORD SPORTS

Blacksburg girls down Radford



Radford's Reagan Bryant is pressured by Blacksburg's Braelynn Butler during a Monday night match.



Radford's Gabby Castillo and Blacksburg's Ginny Crawford race to the ball during a Monday night match on the Bobcats' home field. Behind goals by Kallan Malabad, Addison McSorley, and Claire Langlains, the Blacksburg girls soccer team came away with a 3-0 road win over Radford on Monday night.



Radford senior keeper Hollybrook Cline makes a save against Blacksburg.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

VIRGINIA TECH SPRING FOOTBALL PREVIEW: OFFENSE

Riding a slew of momentum heading into the 2024 season, Virginia Tech football turns its attention to spring ball for the upcoming campaign.

The Hokies return the majority of their offensive production from a season ago, with plenty of firepower sprinkled across the board. Let's take a quick glance at what Tech could look like on that side of the ball.

Quarterbacks

It's hard to talk about the success that Tech had in 2023 without mentioning incumbent starting quarterback Kyron Drones.

The Baylor transfer took over as the Hokies' starting signal-caller three games into the 2023 campaign, with the redshirt junior changing the direction of Tech's season in a big-time way.

Drones threw for 2,085 yards with 17 touchdowns in his first year at the helm, also taking off for 818 yards and five scores on the ground.

At 6-foot-2, 234 pounds, Drones' dual-threat ability changes Tech's dynamic on the offensive side of the ball, with the Pearland, Texas, native having sights set on another big year in 2024.

Tech also brings back the duo of Pop Watson and Dylan Wittke to serve in an understudy role. Watson saw action in two games a season ago, while Wittke still awaits his turn in the quarterback room.

Running Backs

It's no secret that the Hokies were prepared to welcome back starting running back Bhayshul Tuten with open arms after making the decision to return in 2024.

The 2023 All-ACC Third Team running back rushed for a team-high 863 yards a season ago, finding the endzone 10 times, averaging an impressive five yards per carry.

Tuten also served as one of the top kick returners in the country last season, finishing the year as one of only five FBS players to return two-plus kicks

for touchdowns. Tuten also tallied 1,633 all-purpose yards, helping showcase how dynamic he can be when handling the rock in a multitude of ways.

You can't forget about redshirt junior Malachi Thomas as well. The Hartwell, Georgia native complimented Tuten nicely, scampering for 381 yards on 81 attempts a year ago, averaging 4.6 yards per carry and scoring twice during his time on the field.

Beyond that, redshirt freshmen Jeremiah Coney and Tralon Mitchell are waiting their turn to get a crack. Coney carried the ball 11 times for 32 yards a season ago, while Mitchell eyes his collegiate debut.

Wide Receivers

Wide receivers coach Fontel Mines returns his most experienced and productive group yet heading into the 2024 campaign.

The Hokies have the luxury of returning their top four targets from a year ago, with Ali Jennings, Da'Quan Felton, Jaylin Lane and Stephen Gosnell all coming back for another go-around.

Jennings, a former standout receiver under Mines at Old Dominion, played in just two games before suffering a season-ending injury in his first year as a Hokie, hauling in two scores in his Tech debut. The former First Team All-Sun Belt selection caught 54 passes for 959 yards and nine touchdowns back in 2022, showing off his potential as he approaches his 6th collegiate season.

On the other end, Felton came into his own after coming over from Norfolk State. The 6-foot-5, 213-pounder brought in 38 catches for a team-high 667 yards in 2023, scoring eight times and displaying what a weapon he can be even after moving up to the Power Five ranks.

Lane also had a smooth transition to the Power Five level after transferring in from Middle Tennessee. The fifth-year senior caught a team-leading 41 passes for 538 yards and six touchdowns in his inaugural season in the maroon and orange.

Gosnell comes back for another year after catching 22 passes and three touchdowns a season ago, with the always dangerous Tucker Holloway, Xavion Turner-Bradshaw and Ayden Greene also returning to the fold.

The Hokies possess an additional quartet looking for a chance, with Taky Heath, Chance Fitzgerald, Keylen Adams and Chanz Wiggins hoping to play a role.

Tight Ends

Sixth-year senior Nick Gallo returns to the tight ends room after being sidelined for the entire 2023 season with a knee injury. The Richboro, Pennsylvania native has been one of the staples of the group for quite some time, ranking second on the team in receptions in 2022, hauling in 30 catches for 256 yards as one of Tech's top weapons in the passing game.

The Hokies also bring back the likes of redshirt sophomores Benji Gosnell and Harrison St. Germain for 2024, with Gosnell having caught 12 passes for 137 yards and a touchdown season ago, while St. Germain finished with two catches and a score in a limited role.

Redshirt freshmen Zeke Wimbush and Ja'Ricous Hairston could also be a factor, as both seek to make their collegiate debuts.

Offensive Line

Offensive line coach Ron Crook is set to bring everyone back in his second year in town.

Brothers Kaden and Braelin Moore, Parker Clements, Xavier Chaplin, Bob Schick and Brody Meadows all return to the starting rotation, while Tech adds the likes of Georgia State transfer Montavious Cunningham to the mix after a successful stint in the Group of Five ranks at Georgia State.

Johnny Garrett returns as well and should provide depth up front, while the duo of Layth Ghannan and Hannes Hammer are expected to compete to get on the field.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Sidelines

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national rankings.

Indiana is into the Sweet 16 and was slated to play unbeaten South Carolina and is 26-5 on the season. Teri Marie Moren is the team's current head and was the head coach at Indianapolis from 2000-2007 and at Indiana State from 2010-2014. She became the head coach of the Indiana Hoosiers women's basketball team in 2014.

Moren's teams have acquired many championships and accolades. Her Hoosiers won the 2018 Women's National Invitation Tournament and in 2023 she became the winningest coach in program history. As an assistant coach, Moren won a gold medal at the 2022 FIBA Under-18 Women's Americas Championship. She was named the 2023 AP College Basketball Coach of the year and has twice been the Big Ten's Women's Basketball Coach of the Year.

10-seeded University of Richmond women's basketball team ended its historic 2023-24 campaign at the hands of No. 7 Duke in the NCAA Tournament First Round, ending the year at 29-6. Aaron Roussell just finished his fifth season at Richmond and has 19 years of head coaching experience to match a career winning

percentage of .686 with an overall record of 377-173.

In 2022-23, Roussell led the Spiders to a record-breaking season, including a record-breaking victory over Longwood on Dec. 11, 2022, where the Spiders saw a 119-55 score line. The 119-point output marked a new women's basketball program record of points scored at the Robins Center, eclipsing the 115-point total against American, scored on Jan. 28, 2000.

Roussell had seven highly successful seasons at Bucknell, including a 102-30 (.773) mark over the final four years. He led Bucknell to six-straight winning seasons and four-straight years of 22 wins or more. The Bison's 102 wins from 2015-19 are the most in a four-year span in the history of the Patriot League and they also posted a 64-8 (.889) league record in that period.

During that time, Bucknell advanced to the postseason four-straight years with a pair of NCAA Tournament and WNIT appearances. Roussell guided Bucknell to a program-record 12-game winning streak in 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and a program-record 29-game home winning streak. His Bison teams posted a 84-20 (.807) record on their home court during his

seven-year tenure as head coach.

Roussell logged the most victories and highest winning percentage of any women's basketball coach in Chicago's 48-year history. He guided the Maroons to the only three University Athletic Association outright championships in program history. Two of those came in his last two seasons, both on perfect 14-0 league records. Roussell's Chicago teams made four NCAA Division III Tournament appearances and advanced to three Sweet Sixteen appearances and one Elite Eight showing.

Lindsay Edmonds led Rice to another NCAA tournament and is one of the leaders out of the barn for the job in Blacksburg.

In just her second season as head coach, the 2022-23 Owls had a historic season finishing with a 23-9 (13-7 C-USA) record. Rice had the best start in program history at 9-0 featuring back-to-back wins over Power 5 opponents at Texas A&M and against TCU. The Owls also earned their first postseason appearance and win under Edmonds in the 2023 WNIT against BYU.

In total, Rice defeated four current/future Power 5 schools on the season (Texas A&M, TCU, Houston, BYU).

She served as an assistant coach at N.C. State from 2013-18, adding Recruiting Coordinator duties in 2018, before being elevated to associate head coach prior to the start of the 2019-20 campaign.

Prior to her move to NC State, Edmonds was an assistant coach at James Madison University from 2009-13. In her four seasons with the Dukes (as an assistant to some coach named Kenny Brooks), the team won two Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) championships, played in two NCAA Tournaments and made two WNIT appearances, and her first collegiate coaching stop came at her alma mater, Appalachian State, from 2007-09.

Edmonds (then Lindsay Smith) was a four-year starter and 1,000 point scorer at Appalachian State. She holds the school record for career three-pointers (177) and was a team co-captain in her final two seasons. She led the Mountaineers in assists during her junior and senior years.

Brooks apparently mentioned her name as he exited the door.

Tech Athletic Director Whit Babcock has done a great job in the past to find the diamond in the rough. One more time.