

# News Journal

Saturday, April 6, 2024 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

## Radford University to host eclipse event

RADFORD - Radford University is gearing up to become the ultimate celestial hub as it prepares to host an extraordinary eclipse event on Monday, April 8.

Touted as "eclipse central" in the New River Valley, the event promises an exhilarating experience for astronomy enthusiasts of all ages on campus and from the community.

Organized by the Radford University Planetarium in collaboration with the Artis College of Science and Technology, the event will feature a lineup of eclipse-themed planetarium shows and engaging activities. Held at the Center for the Sciences and in Parking Lot C, attendees can immerse themselves in the wonders of the cosmos from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

To ensure everyone can safely witness

the celestial spectacle, over 1,000 solar viewing glasses will be available for distribution to event attendees. As the moon gracefully moves in front of the sun, Radford University observers will be treated to a mesmerizing display starting at 1:58 p.m., with the maximum eclipse in Radford, covering 87% of the sun, occurring at 3:15 p.m.

"This incredible astronomical event will remind us of how we fit into our dynamic and ever-changing three-dimensional solar system," said Rhett Herman, Ph.D., professor of physics and director of the Radford University Planetarium. "Unlike so many of our distant ancestors, who may have viewed these events with fear and worry, we can view it (safely, with solar glasses!) with simple wonder and awe for our universe."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

**Radford University is hosting an event for the solar eclipse this Monday, April 8.**

Join us on April 8 to marvel at the beauty of the eclipse and gain a newfound appreciation for the mysteries of the universe. Find more information about this event and other events at the

Planetarium <https://www.radford.edu/content/csats/home/ru-planetarium>.

*Justin Ward for Radford University*



**Information Technology Coordinator Duncan Hall with the award for Outstanding Young Adult Program for his VR Wednesday program.**

## Radford Public Library receives state awards

Radford Public Library was recently recognized on the state level for programs and services.

The library "is excited to receive recognition from the Virginia Public Library Directors Association (VPLDA) for programs and services," RPL recently announced. "Information Technology Coordinator Duncan [Hall] received the award for Outstanding Young Adult Program for his VR Wednesday program, a virtual reality program that teens and all ages have participated in. RPL also received an Outstanding Service Innovation for Saint Francis Facility Dog, Oliver, who interacts with patrons of all ages. Programs and services are directly supported by the whole library team."

*Staff report*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RPL

**RPL Saint Francis Facility Dog Oliver waits patiently for his recognition for Outstanding Service Innovation.**

## New mural offers gateway into downtown



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

**A new mural adorns the side of a commercial building on East Main St.**

RADFORD – A new mural on east Main Street offers a colorful gateway to the downtown area of the city.

"The City of Radford received a Community Vitality Grant through the State of Virginia to provide a mural in our downtown business district," the City of Radford announced. "The premise was a mural that would depict all the wonderful assets of Radford at the gateway of our downtown. Wonderful and talented artist, Andrew Williams,

did a fantastic job of capturing the essence of Radford. Welcome to our New River City!"

Williams is a multidisciplinary artist based in Southwest Virginia who has created several murals in the New River Valley and restored the vintage advertising murals at Carson's Courtyard in Radford.

*Staff report*



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK SHELDON

**The Queen's Cartoonists performing with a Warner Bros. classic.**

## Cartoons come alive with the Queen's Cartoonists

RADFORD - On Tuesday, April 9, Radford University's Performance Series will host one of the most unique and interesting acts to ever grace the Bondurant Auditorium stage.

The Queen's Cartoonists, a group of good-natured musicians/jokesters, plan to make kids out of their audience no matter what their age with a unique combination of large screen animation and live music.

It all started in 2014 when pianist and composer Joel Pierson

decided he wanted to bring jazz and classical music to people in a way that was exciting, enjoyable and experiential. He formed the Queen's Cartoonists

(a play on the fact that they all resided in Queens, New York), and set about creating a live music

See **Cartoons**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDSEY THOENG

**Pianist and composer Joel Pierson serves as musical director and head joke writer whether you like it or not.**

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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.

### NRCC offering free computer tune up

On Cyber Day anyone can bring their laptops, desktops, tablets and phones for a free tune up and virus scan. The NRCC Computer Club is hosting the event 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 133 & 134 Godbey Hall at NRCC in Dublin. Several students and Dr. David Filer, NRCC information systems technology professor, will be working on the systems at the event. Any Windows or Android device is welcome. The NRCC Computer Club focuses on the skills of repairing and creating computers for campus and community use. For more information about Cyber Day, contact Filer at dfiler@nr.edu or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4272.

### NRCC Family Fun Festival and Campus Cruise In

New River Community College's Campus Cruise In will be held 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in parking lot E at NRCC in Dublin. The Campus Cruise In will feature classic cars from regional car club members. The event is sponsored by the automotive technology department, is family-friendly, open to the public and free of charge. The Family Fun Festival and NRCC's Cyber Day event will also be going on during the Cruise In. The Family Fun Festival will include a variety of activities for adults and children.

## 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.

## Thursday, April 18:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## 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. For further questions, and to register, contact rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com.

# RCPD Lieutenant completes executive leadership school



Radford City Police Department Lieutenant Andrew Szerokman (right) recently graduated from the 54th session of the Professional Executive Leadership School. He is pictured with RCPD Chief Jerry Holdaway.

- Staff report

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RCPD

# Marketplace

THE FINCASTLE HERALD
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RADFORD News Journal

<h4 style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Auctions</h4> <p><b>Storage Auction at Tuckit In Storage</b></p> <p>Sale April 13, 2024 at 9am.</p> <p>3950 South Main St Blacksburg (540)953-4022</p> <p>Unit I 24- Amanda Powell Unit B 1-Tim Lytton Unit C 15 -Samantha Meyer Unit B 18- Tehya cummings Unit D 39- Beverly Handy Unit I 51- Tenneh Banya Unit C 9- James Sanders Unit F 25- Kristen Beavers Unit J 36- Laura Pery Unit B 25- Jessica Shelton-Riddle Unit B 32- Aimee Fisher Unit A 1 - Austin Davis Unit C 30- Angela Clark Unit J 90- Stephanie Lewis Unit B 5- Karen Sewell Unit I 55- Lee Naff Unit I 29- Lee Naff</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Legals - City of Radford</h4> <p>increase in the following Water, Waste Water and Electric rates and fees for Fiscal Year 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Water rates are programmed to increase from \$14.24 to \$16.24 for 2,000 gallons.</li> <li>Water Connection Fee is programmed to increase from \$1,300 to \$2,000.</li> <li>Electric Base Rates (Energy + Customer Charge) are programmed to increase from \$104.65 to \$107.97 for 1,000 kwh customer.</li> </ol> <p>Summary of rates only. Please see original schedules for terms and conditions.</p> <p>Residential: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$7.02 Energy Charge (all metered KWH) \$0.10095</p> <p>Sanctuary Worship Service Basic customer charge: (per month) \$7.02 Energy Charge (all metered KWH) \$0.10155</p> <p>Small General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$9.25 Energy Charge (all metered KWH) \$0.10464</p> <p>Medium General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$15.00 Demand Charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$4.45 Energy Charge (All metered KWH) \$0.08696</p> <p>Large General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$50.00 Demand charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$13.13 Reactive Demand Charge (all kVar of lagging reactive demand) \$0.4500 Energy Charge (All metered KWH) \$0.05699</p> <p>Large Power Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$275.00</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Legals - City of Radford</h4> <p>Demand charge: (All kW of billing demand) \$13.98 Reactive Demand Charge (all kVar of lagging reactive demand) \$0.9900 Energy Charge (All metered KWH) \$0.05520</p> <p>School &amp; City Services Basic Customer Charge: (per month) \$5.79 Energy Charge (all metered KWH) \$0.96690</p> <p>Outdoor Lighting (per month) 48 Watt Residential LED \$10.65 54 Watt Commercial LED \$12.50 160 Watt Commercial LED \$21.75</p> <p>Installation charge for metal pole for underground sodium lighting \$425.00</p> <p>Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (per kwh) \$0.0560870 Fuel Adjustment Charge (per kwh) \$0.003377</p> <p>Rate Tariffs for all customer classes are available for review on the City's website at www.radfordva.gov.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BY THE ORDER OF RADFORD CITY COUNCIL</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Legals - Montgomery County</h4> <p>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.</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Legals - Town of Blacksburg</h4> <p><b>New River Valley HOME Consortium and Town of Blacksburg</b></p> <p><b>2023 Annual Action Plan Notice of Public Comment Period</b></p> <p>HOME and Community Development Block Grant Programs</p> <p>In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg seek public comment on the proposed draft of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the New River Valley's HOME Program and the Town of Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.</p> <p>The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of HOME, CDBG, and other funds allocated towards the implementation of objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan, completed every 5 years, identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. HOME and CDBG activities benefit low and moderate income persons by making improvements throughout the New River Valley, taking into consideration the public input received. Funding for the 2024 fiscal year, based on last year's allocation, is expected to be \$554,576 for the CDBG program and \$634,440 for the HOME program.</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Legals - Town of Blacksburg</h4> <p>The proposed Housing and Community Development goals for 2024 are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support affordable housing</li> <li>Prevent and end homelessness</li> <li>Support non-homeless special needs</li> </ol> <p>All proposed activities' budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from estimated funding levels to match actual annual allocation amounts.</p> <p>Proposed use of 2024 CDBG funds (contingent on funding): Housing Resiliency Grant Program - \$50,000 New River Community Action - \$11,268 Women's Resource Center of the NRV - \$6,417 Live, Work, Eat, Grow - Blacksburg Community Gardens - \$14,421 Valley Interfaith Child Care Center - \$45,315 Affordable Housing Initiatives - \$316,240 Program Administration - \$110,915 CDBG TOTAL - \$554,576</p> <p>Proposed use of 2024 HOME funds (contingent on funding): HOME Administration - \$63,440 Community Housing Development Organization Operational Support - \$30,000 Community Housing Development Organization Projects - \$95,166 Affordable Homeownership Projects - \$423,084 Affordable Rental Projects - \$22,750 HOME Total - \$634,440</p> <p>The draft 2024 Annual Action Plan can be reviewed online on the Town's website at Blacksburg.gov/HUDDPlan. Hard copies are available at the Blacksburg Public Library lobby (200 Miller Street) on the community information display, or by</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Legals - Town of Blacksburg</h4> <p>contacting the Housing and Community Connections Office at 540-443-1615.</p> <p>Public comments and questions regarding the Annual Plan will be received in person on Monday, April 22 th from 4pm-5pm at the Town of Blacksburg Housing and Community Connections office at 303 Wilson Ave.</p> <p>Public comments and questions can be shared virtually via Zoom on Monday, April 22 th from 5pm-6pm. Please contact the Office of Housing and Community Connections for the Zoom link.</p> <p>Comments may also be shared via e-mail to: housing@blacksburg.gov, by phone at (540) 443-1615, or by mail to Housing and Community Connections, P.O. Box 90003, Blacksburg, VA 24062. Comments must be received</p>
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## BAG

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# Photographer wins both categories of photo contest

Charles Lynch of Christiansburg won both the photo challenge and the open category at the Radford Photo Club March meeting.

He won the Food Challenge with a photo of bottles of hot sauce taken at a Radford grill. "I liked the colors and the arrangement of the bottles with a beer bar background giving it a familiar sense of place," Lynch said.

He won the open category with a photo of a mountain valley landscape taken in West Virginia.

of the farmhouse suggested black and white conversion; and it was a keeper," he explained. "It is just a beautiful scene, which requires no justification at all."

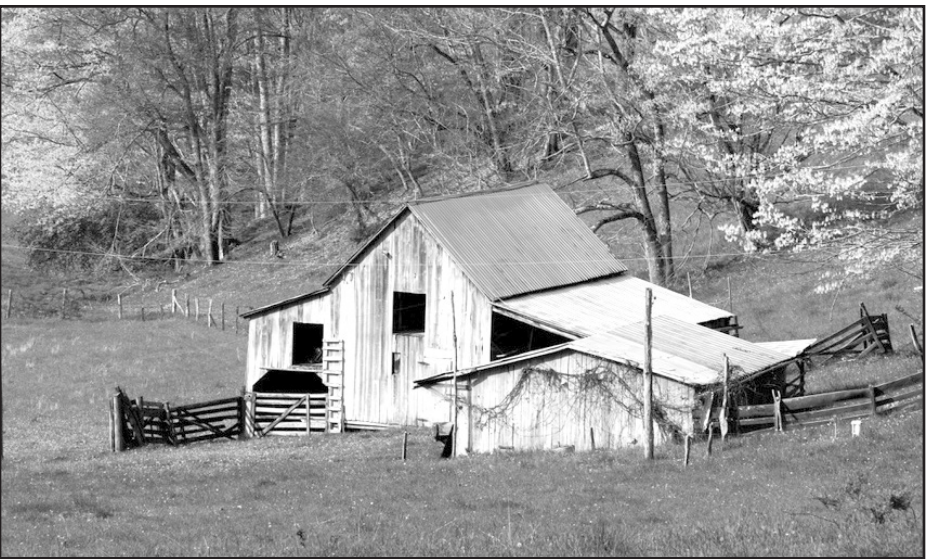
The March meeting began a new offering. At each meeting, one or two members will make brief presentations about famous photographers plus a photo in similar style of their own. In March, Michele Borgarelli of Blacksburg presented the works of Luigi Ghirri. Also at the meeting, works from the February meeting's four

stations – the library, a tiny diorama, a fancy cake, and a floral still life – were presented.

In April, the photo challenge is photography in the dark, using artificial light. There will also be walks to photograph early flowers during April, which will be publicized on the Radford Photo Club's Facebook page.

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

Radford Photo Club



PHOTOS BY CHARLES LYNCH

## RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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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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## Cartoons

from page 1

experience to accompany cartoons. "I was looking for a way to expose audiences to jazz and classical music, without alienating the more traditional, older concert going audience," Pierson explained. "One day I noticed that there was some overlap between the Golden Age of Jazz and the Golden Age of Animation, and bam!"

The Golden Age of Animation is certainly represented in their shows. The Queen's Cartoonists frequently feature some of the most recognizable cartoon characters in history like Betty Boop and Popeye.

But they also bring in new animation, often seen for the first time by their audience. In fact, some of the selections come from around the world, reflecting the international composition of the band.

While the band calls Queens their collective home, drummer Rossen Nedelchev hails from Bulgaria and woodwinds specialist Mark "Dingo" Phillips came from Australia.

Other rotating members of the band have homes in Japan, Finland, and Argentina. And Pierson has actually performed on all seven continents. That's right - including

Antarctica. With such a range of cartoons, there is variety in the music, requiring different strategies to match. Some of the music is a note-for-note reproduction of original cartoon scores while other pieces are written specifically for newer animation.

Classical music is mixed in as well, especially songs people are familiar with that fit the action on the screen.

And considering that many people attribute their first experience with classical music to the likes of Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd, it makes perfect sense.

"There's a lot of music in our concerts," Pierson said, "and it changes rapidly."

"Younger generations might not think they like jazz or classical music, but the combination of the animations and synchronicity of the experience are enjoyed by everyone."

But how do they pull it off? How can the musicians, who are not even looking at the screen most of the time, synchronize their contributions to the action playing out behind them?

The key is a click track.

Pierson and Nedelchev have earpieces. They can keep perfect time with the music this way and the rest of the band follows their lead.

But the music and cartoons are only part of the show.

The Queen's Cartoonists also bring comedy into the mix, performing stage tricks and musical feats that can feel like a vaudeville act.

Pierson says that in addition to acting as musical director, he also writes the jokes. And as they say in showbiz, the jokes are on the house.

"If you don't like them," Pierson adds, "complain to the drummer."

The Queen's Cartoonists get the antics started at 7:30 p.m. in the Bondurant Auditorium located in Preston Hall on Radford University's main campus.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$7.50 for children 12 and under, and free with a Radford University ID. For more information, visit [www.radford.edu/ups](http://www.radford.edu/ups).

- Radford University

**CROSSWORD**

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1965 PGA Champion David
  5. Pesetas (abbr.)
  9. So. Am. treeless grassland
  14. A fencing sword
  15. Do over, as of a house
  16. Confederate general Richard S.
  17. Seamen
  18. Honey bee genus
  19. City in central Poland on the Mleczna
  20. E. M. Forster novel
  23. Jenny \_\_, Swedish soprano
  24. Illumined
  25. Escargots
  28. Surgical clamp
  33. Maize
  34. Ngerulmud is the Republic's capital
  35. \_\_ Jima, WW II battlefield
  36. Master copies
  39. Jack of little fat
  41. Apple or lemon meringue
  42. Actress Zellwegger
  43. At this place
  44. Remunerations
  46. Removes writing
  48. Fit out a ship with sails, etc.
  49. Elinor \_\_, British novelist
  50. M. Ali's famous boast
  57. Damascus is the capital
  58. Worldly rather than spiritual
  59. Winglike structures
  60. Indicating silence
  61. Myanmar monetary unit
  62. 100 = 1 tala
  63. Translucent, greenish variety
  64. Impudence
  65. Netherlands river
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Denotes change of position
  2. So. Am. armadillo with 3 bands of bony plates
  3. About aviation
  4. Repairing worn shoes
  5. Decapods
  6. Having moderate heat
  7. Almost horizontal entrance to a mine
  8. Somali shilling (abbr.)
  9. Penetrable
  10. To be in store for
  11. People of ancient Media
  12. A way to work the soil
  13. Air-launched missile
  21. 1/1000 of an inch
  22. \_\_ Mater, one's school
  25. Old English poet or bard
  26. Persian wheel used to raise water
  27. Spirit in "The Tempest"
  28. Drag, cart or haul
  29. If not; otherwise
  30. Coverings for wheels
  31. Having cognizance
  32. Lugs
  34. Sheet of glass in a window
  37. Cause annoyance in
  38. Sound of a horse
  40. Apparition
  45. Military land forces
  46. Selects by votes
  47. A shag rug made in Sweden
  49. Anchovy pear tree
  50. 8th Jewish calendar month
  51. Blood clams genus
  52. Benevolent & Protective Order of
  53. Birthplace of Buddhism Both
  54. Ancient Greek City aka Velia
  55. Capital of Yemen
  56. Golf ball pegs
  57. Engine additive



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# Christiansburg Starbucks Roanoke St. location votes to unionize

CHRISTIANSBURG — Workers at the I-81 Roanoke St. Starbucks store have voted to join Starbucks Workers United – joining more than 410 stores and 10,000 workers who have unionized with Starbucks Workers United in the past three years.

“I’m really proud of my fellow partners for coming together to secure yet another amazing win for SBWU, and I look forward to a future that facilitates a similar and even stronger unity, not just for Starbucks but for workers all across America,” said Gwynn McCord, a shift supervisor at the Christiansburg Starbucks.

The location joins a nationwide movement of 10,000 baristas “joining together to win justice at work, including protections on core issues like respect,

living wages, racial and gender equity, and fair scheduling,” according to a statement released by Starbucks Workers United. “The historic organizing campaign hinges on peer-to-peer organizing led by workers, for workers - and has won election after election in stores nationwide. In February, unionized Starbucks workers reached an agreement with the company to begin discussions to reach a foundational framework for collective bargaining agreements for represented stores and partners.”

Since 2021, 419 Starbucks stores in 43 states and the District of Columbia have successfully unionized — more than any other company in the 21st century.

*Starbucks Workers United*

# Graceful, glamorous, hilarious: The Trockaderos are a must-see



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERTO RICCI

**With feathers falling, a dancer with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo performs in “Dying Swan.”**

With an inspired blend of dance and impeccable humor, the world-class, all-male comic dance troupe Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo makes its Southwest Virginia debut at the Moss Arts Center on Saturday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The evening includes the company’s signature performance from the world’s best-known ballet, “Swan Lake.”

The Trocks, as the performers are affectionately known, have established themselves as a major dance phenomenon. They present a playful, entertaining view of traditional, classical ballet in parody form and with men performing all of the roles — including those usually danced by women. Men dancing en pointe — heavy bodies delicately balancing on toes as swans, sylphs, water sprites, and romantic princesses — celebrate the spirit of dance as an art form, delighting and amusing audiences regardless of dance knowledge.

Founded in 1974 by a group of ballet enthusiasts, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo first performed in late-late shows in off-off Broadway lofts. The ensemble quickly garnered a major critical essay by Arlene Croce in the New Yorker, which, combined with reviews in the New York Times and the Village Voice,

established the company as an artistic and popular success.

By mid-1975, the Trocks’ inspired and loving knowledge of dance, impeccable comic approach, and the astounding fact that men can, indeed, dance en pointe without falling flat on their faces, was being noted beyond New York. Articles in popular publications, including a photo essay in Vogue magazine, made the Trocks nationally and internationally known. Since its beginnings, the company has appeared in over 30 countries and over 500 cities worldwide.

The original concept of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo has not changed. It is a company of professional male dancers performing the full range of the ballet and modern dance repertoire, including classical and original works in faithful renditions of the manners and conceits of those dance styles. The comedy is achieved by incorporating and exaggerating the foibles, accidents, and underlying incongruities of serious dance. The dancers have both a male and female persona with their own stage names — Holly Dey-Abroad, Tatiana Youbetyabootskaya, Mikhail Mudkin — spoofing the egos and oddities of international ballet divas.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Dr. Mark and

Connie Froggatt, Dr. Rosemary Blieszner and Dr. Stephen P. Gerus, and Ms. Mary Ann Walker and Dr. Kenneth J. Walker.

Related events

Enjoy a free screening of the 2021 film “Ballerina Boys,” co-presented by the School of Performing Arts and Pride Center at Virginia Tech for Pride Week 2024, on Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. in the Creativity and Innovation District living-learning community, Performance Room 150. From PBS’ “American Masters” documentary series, “Ballerina Boys” tells the story of the remarkable history of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo in the broader struggle for LGBTQ+ rights.

Radford University’s Department of Dance will host a repertory class for Radford and Virginia Tech students to learn excerpts of classical repertoire from a member of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo — first as performed by the world’s great ballet companies and then as the Trocks’ satirical versions.

Prior to the performance on April 13, a group of Virginia Tech students will observe how the Trocks transform from street looks to ballerinas in a backstage makeup demonstration.

*Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech*



Sassafras Bluegrass Band

PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

# NRCC Concert Series to hold free concert April 13

The music of Sassafras Bluegrass Band will be featured during New River Community College’s Concert Series event on Sat., April 13.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin. This event will also feature a “country fixin’ night” while supplies last, with the meal being sold for \$8.

Sassafras Bluegrass Band is based in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. The group is a bluegrass band who pays homage to the Bill Monroe and the Flatt & Scruggs era but also enjoys pushing the edge of progressive Newgrass music as well. Their repertoire also includes a range of musical styles including old time, country, folk, western swing and originals. The group includes Wes Tuttle on mandolin, fiddle and vocals; Gray Tuttle on banjo and vocals; Josh Scott on bass and vocals; and Randy Gambill on guitar and vocals.

Sassafras Bluegrass Band members have performed at a long list of festivals and venues including Merlefest, Walnut Valley Festival, Riverhawk Music Festival, Songs of the Mountain, King Pup Syndicated Radio, Red White and Bluegrass Festival, Albino Skunk Festival, Plum Hollow Festival, Chomp & Stomp Festival, Mean Fiddler, Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival, Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival, High Mountain Bluegrass Festival, Pickin’ on the Plains, Rogersville Bluegrass Festival, Outer Banks Bluegrass Festival, Wickenburg

Bluegrass Festival, and many others. Collectively, they have shared the stage or studio with Doc Watson, Jack Lawrence, Charlie Waller, Josh Graves, John Cowan, Jim Lauderdale, Ronnie Bowman, Tony Rice, Russell Moore, Jim Buchanan, Allison Krauss, Tim O’Brien, Mark O’Connor, Laurie Lewis, Tony Furtado and many others.

Corporate sponsors of the music events include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc., Radford; CCKKY, LLC – Fazoli’s, Dublin; Deanie Hall – State Farm Agent, Dublin; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; King Tire Service, Pulaski; Lee’s Body Shop, Pearisburg; Martin’s Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgomery & Pulaski Counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

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

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

- NRCC

# Maple syrup producers provide sweet news for threatened birds

The summer mating season is looking to get a lot easier for the scarlet tanager, one of a number of migratory songbirds that use the forests of northeastern North America to find a mate.

In recent decades, the loss and degradation of bird habitats has led to a precipitous decline in bird populations. Now, a \$2 million grant awarded to the National Audubon Society’s Bird-Friendly Maple program, in partnership with College of Natural Resources and Environment Associate Professor Ashley Dayer, will look to improve bird habitats by encouraging maple syrup producers to incorporate forest management practices that allow other

trees and bushes to grow amid the sugar maples that are responsible for our sticky breakfast topping.

“The future of maple-dominated forests, birds, and other biodiversity and their ability to be resilient and adaptable to a changing climate relies on how private lands are managed,” said Dayer, who researches the interplay between wildlife conservation and human societies in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. “We aim to understand how to empower small forest landowners to get involved and ensure that benefiting birds benefits

See **Birds**, page 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSSEL SMITH, AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS, VIA VIRGINIA TECH

**The scarlet tanager is one of many migratory bird species that depend on diverse forest ecosystems for survival.**

Submit letters  
to the editor to  
[editor@ourvalley.org](mailto:editor@ourvalley.org)  
[www.radfordnewsjournal.com](http://www.radfordnewsjournal.com)

# OBITUARIES

## Beebe, Judy Kay Parnell

Judy Kay Parnell Beebe, 70, passed away Thursday, Mar. 28, 2024.

She retired from Radford University Housekeeping. Judy was preceded in death by her parents Harriet and Eliza Parnell; husband, Jeffrey Lynn Beebe; and brothers, Jackie and James Parnell.

Survivors include her daughter, Teresa Parnell; stepdaughter, Ericka Beebe; grandsons, Devontia Billings, Demico Parnell, and DeAndre Stewart; great grandchildren, Noah and Elliana



Billings; four step grandchildren; sisters, Cathy Quesenberry (Roger) and Joy Parnell; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with Pastor Frankie Coleman officiating.

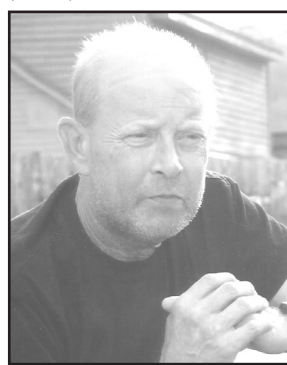
The Beebe family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Gautier, Timothy Allen

Timothy Allen Gautier, 54, of other relatives and special friends. Radford, passed away Monday, April 1, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David, Sr. and Phyllis Collins Gautier.

Survivors include his loving wife of 30 years, Melissa Cabell Gautier; children, Timothy "Bo" Gautier, Jr., Shannon Lynn Viers (Billy), Carole Beth Reed, and Katelyn Nicole Gautier; grandchildren, Jacob, Braylen, Jayce, Aiden, Kaysen, and Grayson; siblings, David Gautier, Jr. (Patty), Missy King, and Pam Gautier; niece, Kayla; nephews, Cody and Lucas; special little buddy and canine companion, Jax; and many



The family received friends Friday, April 5, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor T. Michael Bond officiating. Burial followed in Birchlawn Burial Park in Pearisburg. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the National Kidney Foundation, Attn: Gift Processing at National Kidney Foundation HQ, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY, 10016.

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

See Obituaries, page 7

## Fylpa, Jr., Douglas Donald

Douglas Donald Fylpa, Jr., 73, of Blacksburg, died Monday, April 1, 2024 at his home.

He was born in California Feb. 23, 1953 to the late Douglas Donald Fylpa, Sr. and Rosemary Osborne Cisney.

He is survived by his wife, Jerri Lynn Fylpa; son, Douglas Fylpa

III; stepdaughter, Jennifer Pettit; grandchildren, Alicia Keatts (Donald), Ragan Tawney, Lauren Goad, Aedon Wiley and Jase Wiley; great-grandchildren, Addy, Rylan, Rylee and Colton.

A private service will be at the family home.

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

**ANGLICAN CATHOLIC**  
**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, [www.stphilipsblacksburg.org](http://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](http://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](http://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-tycburg.org](http://www.trinity-tycburg.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](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](mailto: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](http://www.graceradford.org).

**LUTHERAN**

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

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

**SICK WITH SIN**  
**Read Psalms 37:1 through 38:22**

Every one of the world's billions of people will face injury and illness in life. No one can escape pain and suffering. When we hurt, we usually seek help. We bandage wounds, take medication, visit a physician—all in an effort to gain healing.

Why aren't we as eager to cure sin? Why don't we deal with it as we do other ailments? God provided a solution for sin: repent, confess, and forsake the sin. Yet we often ignore it or let it go until it looms full-blown and potentially life-threatening (Psalm 38:5,6).

I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin (Psalm 38:18).

The best time to address sin is when we first experience sin symptoms. It's best to remove a sliver before it gets infected, even though it may cause momentary discomfort. In the same way we should dig out any scrap of embedded sin before it leads to something worse.

Jesus is our Great Physician and the Bible our spiritual medicine chest. Our Divine Doctor prescribes daily doses as preventative treatment against sin.

Thought for Today: What remedy do you find today in God's Word?

Quicklook: Psalm 38:8-18

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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@stmclc.us](mailto:hope@stmclc.us); Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://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](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com).

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS**

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. [lchristopher695@comcast.net](mailto:lchristopher695@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 [pcfcradford@gmail.com](mailto:pcfcradford@gmail.com), Website [www.pcradford.org](http://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](http://www.stpaul-vaumc.org)

# Obituaries from page 6

## Moore, Patricia Burleson

Patricia Burleson Moore, Blacksburg, formerly of Lynchburg, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024.

Pat was born Feb. 11, 1935, in Logan, W.Va., daughter of the late Ruth Walker and Dane Bailey. She loved her West Virginia heritage, and the license plate of her car proudly read "MTN MAMA" in honor of the John Denver song "Take Me Home, Country Roads" which was a favorite of her Logan family. After graduating from Logan High School in 1953, she attended the University of Kentucky where she graduated with a BA in Home Economics in 1957.

While there she began her romance with her first husband, the late William "Bill" Calvin Burleson, and they married in 1957. After the tragic 1962 death of their first son, the late infant William Christopher, due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, they were blessed by a second son, David Charles, later in 1962, and a daughter, Kristi Lynn, in 1963. Many wonderful memories of great vacations, Virginia Tech ballgames, movie nights at the Lyric and Studio One, holidays and summers with family in Logan and Louisville, family game nights, cookouts on the back deck and all the good times were created through the years.

She began her career in the Montgomery County Public School system as a teacher's aide at Margaret Beeks Elementary in the late sixties. Later, she worked as an Earth Science teacher at Blacksburg High School from 1972-1998, a job that turned into a passionate love for all the glorious dynamics of our planet she enthusiastically shared with her students, family and friends.



After the death of her first husband, Bill, in 1995, she later began her second romance with the late Herbert R. Moore of Lynchburg, and they were married in 1998. They enjoyed traveling the world, going to shows in New York, dining, and spending holidays with family and friends until his death in 2019. She moved back to Blacksburg in 2019 to English Meadows.

She was preceded in death by her mother Ruth Walker, father Dane B. Bailey, husband William C. Burleson, second husband Herbert R. Moore and son Christopher. Left to cherish her memory are son David (Bonnie), daughter Kristi (David), grandchildren Justin and Kalli, great-grandson Avery, brother Charles W. Bailey (Frangee) and their family in Montana, close friends, Marolyn Parson, Beth Issac and Carolyn Rodenburg, as well as all of Herb's family.

There will be a private burial at Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg, followed by the family receiving friends at McCoy Funeral Home Saturday, April 13, 2 to 4 pm. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the staff of English Meadows, especially in Lavender Hills, and also the Medi Home Health and Hospice staff, all of whom took such good care of our mom and were so wonderful to our family. Also, to everyone around us who has given us so much support, thank you so much.

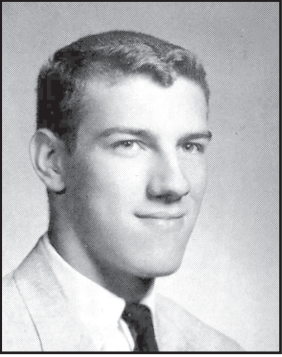
In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Medi Home Health and Hospice - Pulaski, VA or Teepea Snow Positive Approach to Care. Online messages to the family can be left at mccoymccoyfuneralhome.com.

## Stewart, Jr., Robert "Sonny" Thomas

Robert "Sonny" Thomas Stewart, Jr., 81, of Dublin, passed away Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Thomas, Sr. and Pearl Kesterson Stewart; his wives, Nancy Gardner Stewart and Janice Fleenor Stewart; and his sister, Josephine Sandy.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Rob and Jennifer Stewart; daughter, Lori Sharp; grandchildren, Will Stewart and Molly Stewart; great-granddaughter, Madeline Webber; sisters and brother-in-law, Betty and



B.F. Beasley, and Barbara Bond; brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Barbara Stewart; caregiver, Reba Crawford; and many other family members and friends.

Sonny enjoyed being in the presence of his friends whether it be playing golf or poker. He was a bright light (hence the nickname), and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Per his request, a private memorial service will be held at a later date.

The Stewart family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

## Wrenn, Virginia "Ginny"

Virginia "Ginny" Wrenn, 104, church. She passed away Saturday, March 30, 2024. She was born Sept. 10, 1919, in Radford to Lorne and Pearl Smith.

She grew up in west Radford where her father worked for the Lynchburg foundry. Ginny attended Kuhn Barnett Elementary and Radford High School where she graduated in 1937. She was probably the last remaining member of that class.

Ginny went to work for Burlington Mills in Radford where she met her husband, Bob. They were married in 1939 and shortly thereafter Bob's employer moved them to Fayetteville, N.C. Their two children were born there. They lived in Fayetteville during WWII and returned to Radford in 1950. Ginny worked at several places in Radford. In the early 60's she went to work for Poly Scientific (now Moog) in Blacksburg and stayed there until Bob's poor health forced her to retire in 1981.

Ginny has been a member of Central Methodist Church in Radford for most of her adult life and was likely their oldest living member. While active, she held a number of administrative positions in the



church. She was a member of the Radford Garden Club, AARP, and other senior citizen organizations.

She had a number of hobbies which included knitting, doll making, etching, basket weaving, cooking and organizing family reunions.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Smith; sisters and brothers-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Jones, Rev. and Mrs. C. Walter Martin, and infant sister, Ruth; her husband who passed in 1982, Robert W. "Bob" Wrenn; son-in-law, W.P. "Bill" Brewer; and her daughter-in-law, Alice Price Wrenn.

Ginny is survived by her son, Robert E. "Buck" Wrenn; daughter, Jennie Brewer; five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

A visitation was held Friday, April 5, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

The family would like to thank the Staff at Highland Ridge Rehab Center and Wythe Hospice for the care they provided.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
**Christina Keller, D.N.P., executive director of the center, Wendy Downey, D.N.P., interim dean of the College of Nursing, and President Bret Danilowicz.**

# Clinical Simulation Center named in honor of Jo Ann Bingham

Radford University's new College of Nursing has another new reason to celebrate. The university announced Friday, March 22, the naming of the Jo Ann Bingham Clinical Simulation Center in memory of a remarkable local business owner and philanthropist.

The center's two locations, at Radford University's Cook Hall in Radford, Virginia, and in the Roanoke Higher Education Center (RHEC) in Roanoke, Virginia, will share the new name.

A packed room of members from the College of Nursing faculty, university supporters, administration and Board of Visitors members attended the naming ceremony at the RHEC.

"Jo Ann's life was devoted to supporting others," said Penny Helms White, vice president for university advancement. "Her legacy is now permanent both here in Roanoke and on our main campus in Radford, and we hope it provides inspiration for how others can leave a lasting impact."

Bingham's estate gift, a testament to her abiding interest in healthcare and education, will provide sustained support for the Clinical Simulation Center's mission.

Wendy Downey,

interim dean of the College of Nursing, expressed gratitude for Bingham's generosity, emphasizing its profound impact on nursing education. "The generous gift from the Jo Ann Bingham trust will help provide the highest quality clinical simulation experiences for College of Nursing students for years to come," Downey said.

Bret Danilowicz, president of Radford University, underscored the significance of this dedication in the context of the university's commitment to community welfare and excellence in nursing education.

A packed room of members from the College of Nursing faculty, university supporters, administration and Board of Visitors members attended the naming ceremony at the RHEC.

"Today's dedication of the Jo Ann Bingham Clinical Simulation Center is an amplification of Radford University's commitment to caring for our communities, and a testament to the power of philanthropy," Danilowicz said.

The simulation center locations serve as hubs for simulated healthcare environments. They equip students and educators with the

necessary resources to cultivate competence and compassion in clinical practice.

Danilowicz hailed the center's role in preparing nursing students for the challenges of their future careers, noting its alignment with Radford University's longstanding tradition of excellence in nursing education. "With this generous contribution, Radford nurses will have what they need to be competent and caring professionals," Danilowicz said.

Born in 1936 on a farm in Bland County, Virginia, Jo Ann Bingham's journey epitomized the American dream. Before embarking on her successful career in real estate, she worked with C & P Telephone, showcasing her dedication to service and community from the outset. Her entrepreneurial spirit led her to establish Mountain View Realty, a business that would serve Radford and its neighboring regions.

Through Bingham's enduring legacy, future generations of nursing students will continue to benefit from unmatched educational experiences, ensuring their readiness to serve and heal communities.

*Justin Ward for Radford University*

## Birds from page 5

their bottom line too."

The project is funded through a new program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service that supports emerging markets to foster forest resilience. Participating maple syrup producers will commit to dedicating at least one-fourth of their land to the growing of alternative tree species and also will allow for diverse growth of understory and midstory plants and shrubs, critical resources for bird species that call the forests of North America home.

Maple producers who participate in this technique will be able to label their maple products "bird-friendly," a designation that researchers hope will lead to market benefits

for owners of the sugar shacks that are currently producing our favorite pancake topping.

"Virginia Tech will play a key role in the project, evaluating landowner needs and addressing barriers to increased engagement," said Dayer, an affiliated faculty member of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute, the Global Change Center, and the Center for Coastal Studies. "We will also develop and implement message testing with potential consumers of bird-friendly maple syrup to explore how to grow interest in this product."

For Dayer, this research aligns with previous work she has done in helping to develop certification for bird-friendly coffee, which encourages tropical

farmers to grow and harvest coffee under the canopies of mature trees, a critical need for both tropical and migratory bird species.

Dayer said that getting buy-in from the forest landowners producing coffee or maple syrup is critical for conservation efforts like this initiative.

"As we've learned from other contexts, listening to landowners is the foundation of a successful private lands conservation project," said Dayer. "Developing projects with them ensures that our work will have lasting benefits for people, habitats, and birds."

*Krista Timney for Virginia Tech*

CROSSWORD ANSWERS															
M	A	A	R	P	T	A	S	P	A	M	P	A			
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# Atlantic Union Bankshares Corp. completes acquisition of American National Bankshares Inc.

Atlantic Union Bankshares Corporation announced Monday it has completed its merger with American National Bankshares Inc. effective April 1, 2024.

This transaction strengthens Atlantic Union's presence in Central, Western and Southern Virginia and provides a meaningful entry into North Carolina's Piedmont Triad region and Raleigh.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, American National shareholders will receive 1.35 shares of Atlantic Union common stock in exchange for each share of American National common stock, with cash paid in lieu of fractional shares. Based on the closing price of Atlantic Union common stock of \$35.31 on Thursday,

March 28, 2024, the aggregate transaction value was approximately \$507 million.

"We are excited to have the American National team officially join Atlantic Union Bank," said John C. Asbury, president and CEO of Atlantic Union. "Together, our banks have more than 200 years of experience serving the needs of local communities throughout the mid-Atlantic region. We look forward to bringing new products and services to American National's clients, and we believe this transaction will help enable us to deliver sustainable long-term shareholder value."

In accordance with the merger agreement, Nancy

Howell Agee and Joel R. Shepherd have been appointed to the Boards of Directors of Atlantic Union and Atlantic Union Bank.

Subsequent to the closing, on a pro forma basis as of December 31, 2023 before merger-related adjustments, Atlantic Union had \$24.3 billion in total assets, \$19.4 billion in total deposits and \$17.9 billion in total loans held for investment. American National's subsidiary bank, American National Bank and Trust Company, was merged into Atlantic Union Bank, effective April 1, 2024.

*Atlantic Union Bankshares Corporation*

## Leaves of three, let it be? Maybe not anymore

We've all heard the classic saying "leaves of three, let it be," which means don't touch the poison ivy.

Poison ivy leaves. Illustration by Tim Skiles for Virginia Tech. But just how accurate is that timeless phrase? While this specific mnemonic device exists to deter people from touching poison ivy, it turns out there are also many harmless three-leaf native plants. How is one to tell the difference between itchy poison ivy and those harmless three-leaf native plants?

Unfortunately, accurate poison ivy identification is quite challenging because poison ivy does not hold true to form.

Virginia Tech researchers found that poison ivy leaves show a lot of variability that likely confounds accurate poison ivy plant identification and significantly undermines a longstanding poison ivy avoidance strategy. Therefore, there is an ongoing need to develop preventive medical procedures to prevent poison ivy rash that do

not depend on plant identification.

"Based on the research, poison ivy had enormous amounts of leaf variation," said John Jelesko, associate professor in the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences. "There was no clear poison ivy look. It was quite astonishing, especially since the data set included poison ivy plants from all over the geographic United States."

The researchers used approximately 2,000 poison ivy photos submitted to iNaturalist.org to compare leaf shape variability across the United States. The research was funded through a U.S. Department of Agriculture Hatch Grant administered by the Virginia Agriculture Experiment Station and published recently in the journal *Plants People Planet*.

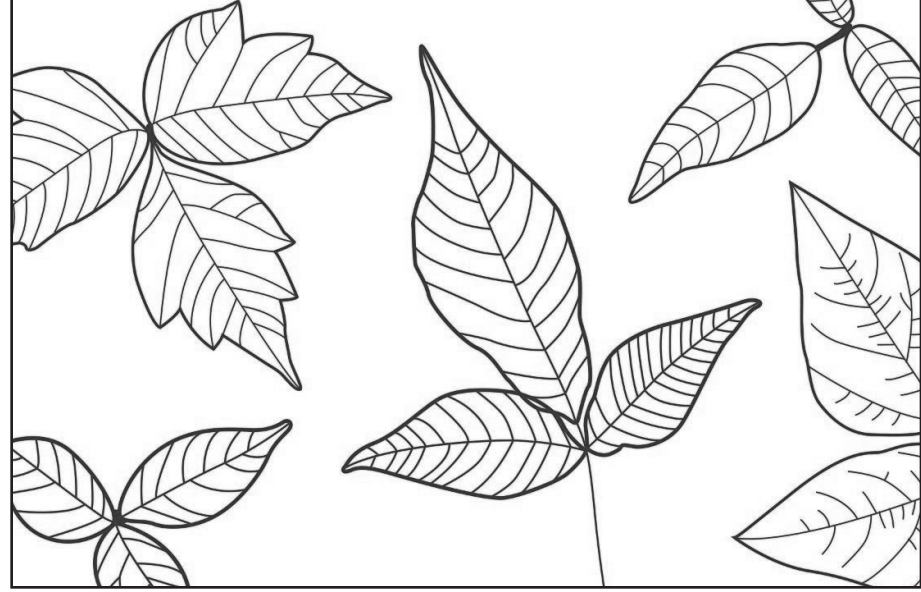
The research began during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when there was a rash of poison ivy diagnoses from people exploring the outdoors. A project such as this was also a fantastic way for undergraduates to

continue research projects during the pandemic.

Kyla Thompson, Noah Magerkorth, Elizabeth Verteramo, and Hannah Becker, former undergraduates in the department within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as well as Joy G. Flowers from the College of Science also worked on the project. Jyotishka Datta, assistant professor in the Department of Statistics, and Jordan Metzgar, Herbarium curator in biological sciences, also helped make the study possible.

The records from iNaturalist for poison ivy and American hog peanut, a three-leaflet plant commonly confused with poison ivy, were analyzed for seven attributes related to the shape of their compound leaves. These attributes were used to calculate a total leaf complexity score.

It was found that the average and the range of the total leaf complexity scores for poison ivy were significantly higher than those for American



Poison ivy leaves

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM SKILES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

hog peanut, which had minimal variability. Further analyses confirmed that the spread of poison ivy's leaf shape variability was much greater compared to American hog peanut. Additionally, a specific poison ivy specimen, characterized by often producing palmate penta-leaflet compound leaves, was examined.

The total leaf complexity of poison ivy showed a high degree of variation across its native range in North America. Despite this variability, there was a noticeable, but small, trend of increasing total leaf complexity in poison ivy from east to west. More serrated edges

might appear on the leaves further west.

Poison ivy plants with five leaves were also identified in the study. Just to make things even more confusing: the five-leaflet poison ivy plants came in two orientations: pinnate and palmate compound leaves. The palmate, or palm-like, five-leaflet poison ivy specimen was found to be significantly correlated with a random, multipart process in the development of its leaflets. Geographic clusters were not seen.

"Whatever this [variable leaf shape] phenomenon is, it is widespread and inherent to the plant," Jelesko said. "Our ultimate recommendation

is that avoidance by identification is not going to work well because the basic step of identification is problematic at best."

What could help with poison ivy plant identification? Training an artificial intelligence model to account for the large variability of leaf shape, Jelesko said.

He added that if you can't identify poison ivy, the next best way to avoid it is by wearing protective clothing and by cleaning any potentially exposed area thoroughly with soap and water.

*Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech*

## 'Hidden in Plain Sight' exhibit shines a light on the history of slavery in Charleston

The sweeping porches, immaculate grounds, and luxurious spaces of historic mansions and plantations in Charleston, South Carolina, are popular backdrops for modern weddings and vacations.

But behind this beauty and romanticized history of plantation life hides the fact that Charleston, once the wealthiest city in the 13 American colonies, was built on the profits from trading enslaved people and from the cotton, indigo, and rice enslaved workers produced.

The exhibit "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Politics of Memorialization of Slavery in Charleston, S.C.," on the second floor of Newman Library, shines a light on the history of slavery in Charleston. The interactive exhibit, based on research by Laura Zanotti, political science professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and Zuleka Woods, graduate research assistant for the Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement

Studies, examines themes in the memorialization and representations of slavery in Charleston's public spaces including Southern charm and nostalgia, Southern charm and violence, and enslaved narratives.

"This project started as a result of a casual conversation with my Ph.D. student Zuleka Woods," said Zanotti. "We had both independently visited Charleston as tourists, and we both were puzzled by how the memory of slavery is almost absent in the streets of historic Charleston and by how plantations are still marketed as wedding venues. We decided to dig deeper."

With the support from Dean Emeritus Jerry Niles of Virginia Tech's College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and the college's Juneteenth Scholars Program, Woods and Zanotti spent four days visiting mansions, museums, and plantations in Charleston — much like a tourist would but with a different lens.

"Because this research started as the result of our discomfort about how the story of slavery is told, or not told, in public spaces, we felt that its findings should first and foremost be an intervention in public memory," said Zanotti. "Also, we felt that our message needed to be documented through pictures, showing the contrast between the beauty of the mansions and the luxurious lifestyles of their owners, and the toiling and sufferings of those who made that lifestyle possible."

Woods and Zanotti partnered with Scott Fralin, University Libraries' exhibit curator and learning environments librarian, to shape the research into a free standing visually and intellectually striking exhibit.

"I knew it was an important story that should be told, but it took a while to process and synthesize the raw data they collected on their research trip," said Fralin. "The researchers and I had many meetings where we talked about the content and how to best tell the story they were trying to present. I made suggestions on how to shape it into a story more suitable for an exhibit format, and they patiently explained their arguments and reasoning to me. In the end, we had a set of text and photos that at the same time presented their research well and told a story that works as an exhibit."

For exhibit viewers, it can be a much easier way to learn about a complicated or difficult subject.

"The visual nature of an exhibit draws people in and helps reinforce the researcher's points in a way not possible in a paper or article," said Fralin. "In an exhibit, the text is concise and to the point, working with visual and physical elements to make a point via a holistic experience. Being in a purposefully designed space can be more memorable and impactful to visitors than reading a paper."

"By sharing our findings in a visual exhibit, we essentially could share our experience in a play-by-play fashion," said Woods. "The visual exhibit brings people into the field with us and along the way as we collected the information for this project. Although we still plan

to continue to share the findings from this project in other ways, the visual exhibit is by far the most inclusive and engaging for many audiences."

According to Zanotti, the work aims to make an impact on public memories that contribute to national identity and to shift narratives about race, racism, and the making of America that has been clouded by a selective memorialization process.

Woods said being able to share it in a public space like Newman Library is important.

"The university plays a key role in the development and education of the community," said Woods. "Newman Library is the heart of research in and around Virginia Tech. The exhibit's purpose is to start a discussion surrounding the representation of slavery in public spaces and more broadly the politics of memory. Newman Library is an ideal location for not only housing these discussions but also continuing to provide resources to the Virginia Tech community to engage in these discussions."

Community members can visit the exhibit in Newman Library during library hours through the summer. Zanotti, Woods, and Fralin also built an online exhibit featuring the research.

Zanotti and Woods hope to conduct similar research in other locations in the American South.

"We hope to be able to attract more funding to expand our research on public memory to different locations in the South," said Zanotti. "Maybe Savannah will be next?"

*Ann Brown for Virginia Tech*



PHOTO BY JACK MICALLEF FOR VIRGINIA TECH

The "Hidden in Plain Sight" exhibit will be on the second floor of Newman Library through summer.

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Motor Mile speedway announces new owners

**Marty Gordon**  
*Contributing writer*

Motor Mile Speedway, located near Radford on U.S. 11, has new owners. As of Wednesday, the track's ownership (the Shelor car dealership in Christiansburg) has given the local entity, Pulaski County, the deed to both it and the nearby Calfee Park in Pulaski.

County administrator Jonathan Sweet called it one of the largest private donations to a local government in all of Virginia. He was emotional in speaking to the crowd of local leaders and media, saying it was great day for both the county and local sports fans in keeping the facility open for future sporting events.

"Being a part of this historic moment for Pulaski County and helping carry on the traditions and extend the legacies of two of the most iconic assets in all of the New River Valley is one of the highest honors I have experienced in my professional career", said Sweet. "This further demonstrates the commitment and care the ownership of the Shelor Motor Mile has for this community and the confidence they have in the leadership of Pulaski County to entrust us with

these famed community assets."

The Wednesday morning announcement took place in the speedway's VIP tower.

Members of the county's board of supervisors were present and voted to accept the donation. The exact details are still in the works, and any future development has not been decided.

The 157-acre facility has a long, rich history in the area dating to 1952. It has changed ownership four times in the past 20 years.

Last year, the county announced a name change to the facility, becoming known as the Pulaski County Motorsports Park. The names the facility had formerly been known as included Pulaski County Speedway, New River Valley Speedway, then Motor Mile Speedway.

Five years ago, the speedway and adjacent dragway was listed for sale at \$1.4 million. The exact real estate value is not currently public but could be near that early amount of more.

Three years ago, the track reopened with NASCAR races under the management of the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience.

But in November parent company of Calfee Park Baseball and the Pulaski

River Turtles announced it would be resuming management. The ownership said after leasing Motor Mile Speedway & Dragway to Rusty Wallace Racing Experience, Motor Mile will resume management of the venue for the 2024 season. In the same breath, the ownership said there would be NASCAR-sanctioned nor a full schedule of racing in the near future.

Current plans include several special events such as the always-popular Monster Truck, Nights of Destruction and JJ DA BOSS Tours. Other types of events such as concerts and live-action events are being considered.

Under the new arrangement announced on Wednesday, the Motor Mile group would continue to hold events at least for the next three years with revenue of any events going directly to the county and its future endeavors.

Motor Mile spokesperson Melissa Epperly said the Motor Mile sports management team will continue to be involved in the operation of the venue and are working on infrastructure improvements, as they begin planning for their fall schedule of events and even expanding for special



FILE PHOTO

The Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway, near Radford, has some new life with the donation of the facility, along with Calfee Park, to Pulaski County.

events in 2025, The morning announcement would be followed up with an afternoon one, which added to the donation. The Shelor ownership group is also turning over Calfee Park to the county. Again, they plan to continue operation for at least the next three years of the Appalachian Summer League's the River Turtles.

Calfee was built in 1935 and has been the home for several minor league baseball teams since them. Motor Mile took over the park and its surrounding parcels in 2015.

Epperly said fans should not worry as it will remain home to the River Turtles.

Calfee Park was built as a Works Progress

Administration project, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was named after the mayor of Pulaski in 1935, Ernest W. Calfee. The Park was voted the best rookie-level ballpark in America in 2019 and 2020 by a fan vote in Ballpark Digest's annual Best of the Ballparks competition.

After the Shelor/Motor Mile purchase in 2015, over nine million dollars in renovations were completed at the park.

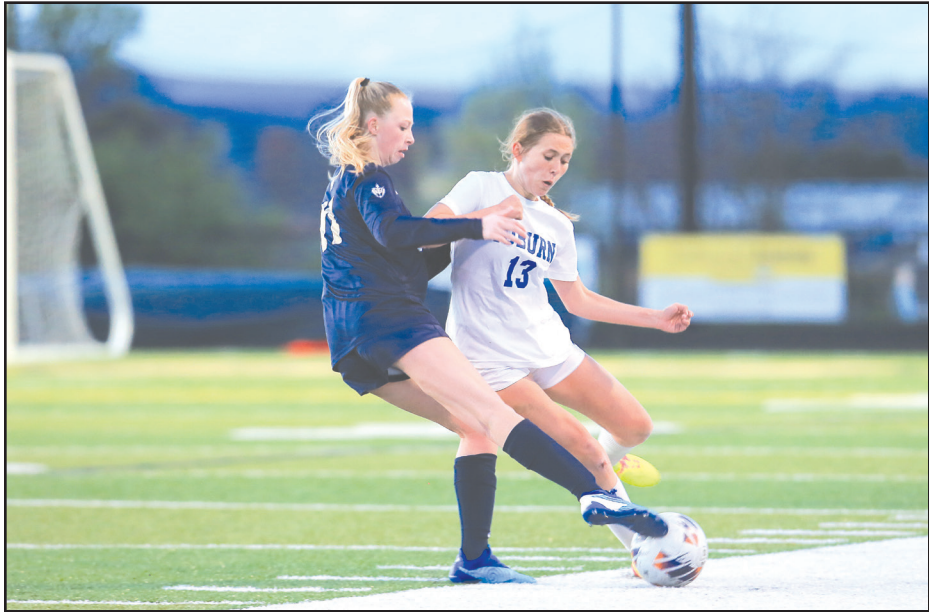
The River Turtles followed the Pulaski Yankees and have played at the park for the past three years. The team is slated to start its 2024

season on June 7.

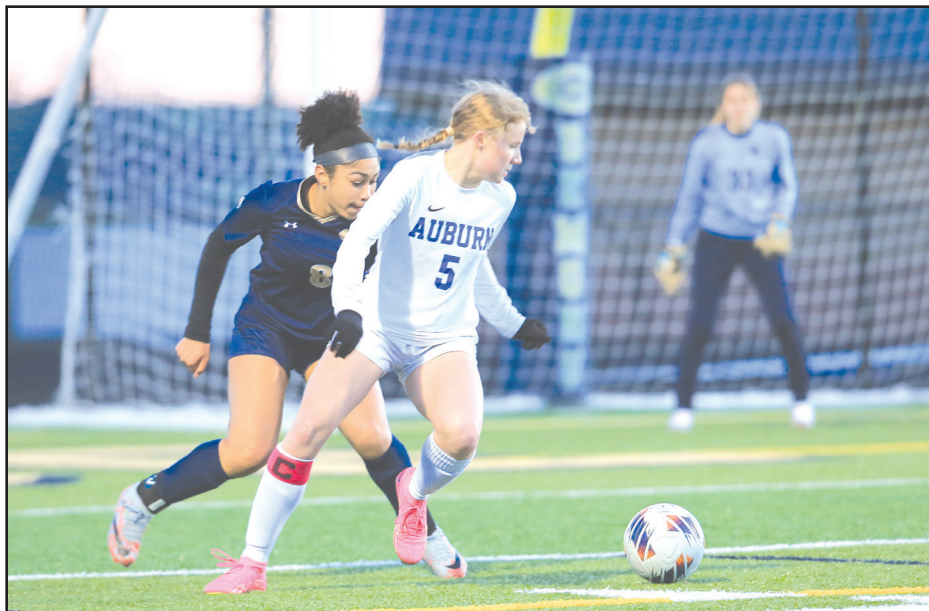
The Appalachian League is now a collegiate summer baseball league that operates in Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. Designed for rising freshmen and sophomores using wooden bats, its season runs from June through August. The league is part of Major League Baseball and USA Baseball's Prospect Development Pipeline.

Sweet said the county will have three years to work to work alongside the Motor Mile family and their affiliates and learn the industry and really understand the operations.

## Christiansburg girls win over Auburn



Lyla Thurman (right) sweeps out ball possession and Auburn's Brooklyn Mikowicz (left) shifts direction to defend.



Jasmyn Charlton (left, behind) defends for the Blue Demons as the Eagles Stacy Lewis (right, front) prepares to make a shot on goal. Christiansburg had goals by Casey Rathburn and Ava Landers.



Auburn's midfielder Katie Light isolates possession for Auburn to send it back up to the forwards.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

## Kitley, Amoore on Wooden All-American team

Virginia Tech Women's Basketball players Georgia Amoore and Elizabeth Kitley have been named to the 2024 John R. Wooden Award presented by Principal All American Team.

The Wooden Award All American Team is comprised of 10 student-athletes who were the top vote-getters in the quest to earn college basketball's most prestigious honor. The 10-player team, alphabetically, consists of: Amoore (Virginia Tech), Cameron Brink (Stanford), Paige Bueckers (Connecticut), Kamilla Cardoso (South Carolina), Caitlin Clark (Iowa), Aaliyah Edwards (Connecticut), Hannah Hidalgo (Notre Dame), Kitley (Virginia Tech), Angel Reese (LSU), and JuJu Watkins (USC).

The five finalists for the 2024 John R. Wooden Award presented by Principal Women's Player of the Year are: Cameron Brink, Paige Bueckers, Caitlin Clark, Hannah Hidalgo, and JuJu Watkins. All five players have been invited to Los Angeles for the 48th annual presentation of the John R. Wooden

Award presented by Principal Gala.

Kitley was named the ACC's Player of the Year for the third consecutive season earlier this month, becoming the third woman in ACC history to win the award in three consecutive seasons, joining Alana Beard (Duke) and Alyssa Thomas (Maryland). The Summerfield, North Carolina native ranks first in the conference in scoring (22.79), second in field goal percentage (55.6%), first in rebounds (11.38), second in blocks (2.07), first in double-doubles (19) and first in 30-point games with eight.

She won ACC Player of the Week six times, the most of any athlete, including a stretch of four consecutive weeks in February. The six POW honors ties Beard for the most in any single season in conference history.

With her Player of the Year Award comes a fourth first team All-ACC nod, just the second player in conference history to accomplish the feat (Duke's Elizabeth Williams). Kitley was

also recognized as an All-Defensive Team member for the third consecutive season.

Nationally, Kitley is fifth in points per game and sixth in rebounds per game.

She has claimed the top spot in several categories in the Virginia Tech annals this season including starts, minutes played, double figure games, 30-point games and rebounds, which is also an ACC watermark.

In terms of single-season achievements, the 2023-24 season has seen Kitley produce the highest scoring average in program history, score the most field goals and come within six points of the record for single season scoring.

Additionally, she was named the Kay Yow Scholar Athlete of the Year for the third time this season.

Amoore was fifth in the conference in scoring (18.81), second in 3's per game (2.66), third in assist to turnover ratio (1.98) and led the ACC in assists (7.29) earning her first team All-ACC honors for the second

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Blacksburg boys win in tennis



Blacksburg's Larry Wang reaches for a backhand return in a win at number two singles against Salem's Alan Burr on Tuesday.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Youngmin Kim slides forward to hit a forehand return in a loss at number one singles against Salem's Drew Perez. Blacksburg would take the team win 7-2 on the afternoon.



Blacksburg's Simon Pratt recorded several tough saves in a 1-0 win over Salem on Tuesday night. He would finish with six saves in the contest as Blacksburg moves to 5-0 on the season.

## Blacksburg boys down Salem in soccer



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Simon Pratt recorded several tough saves in a 1-0 win over Salem on Tuesday night. He would finish with six saves in the contest as Blacksburg moves to 5-0 on the season.

## Team from page 9

consecutive season.

The Australia native owns two 30-point games, 14 20-point games and recorded nine double-doubles, a figure that was fifth in the conference. She was the only athlete to record more than five 10-assist games in the ACC.

Her 39-point performance on the final day of the regular season, was the highest scoring single-game output in conference play this season.

Amoore, who was named one of five finalists for

the Nancy Lieberman Award, is fourth nationally in assists per game.

The senior became the program's all-time leader in assists this season and has also climbed to second in 3's and third in scoring. This season, she has produced the third-highest single-season total of assists and the seventh-most 3's.

The pair were also recognized by the USBWA, with Kitley earning second team honors and Amoore collecting third team accolades.

Kitley was also named a Sporting News first teamer.

The duo also both earned a spot on an AP All-America Team (Kitley second, Amoore third), marking the first time that two Hokies had done so in the same season.

Virginia Tech Athletics

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