

RADFORD

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# News JOURNAL

Saturday, April 13, 2024 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

## Clouds fail to eclipse excitement over historic solar show

RADFORD - Cleanup in the scene shop can wait when there is a much bigger event taking center stage, high above the Earth.

"We were at work and thought, 'Wait, this could be way more interesting,'" said Angelina Capots, a sophomore theatre major from Fredericksburg, about the partial solar eclipse hanging over the Radford University campus.

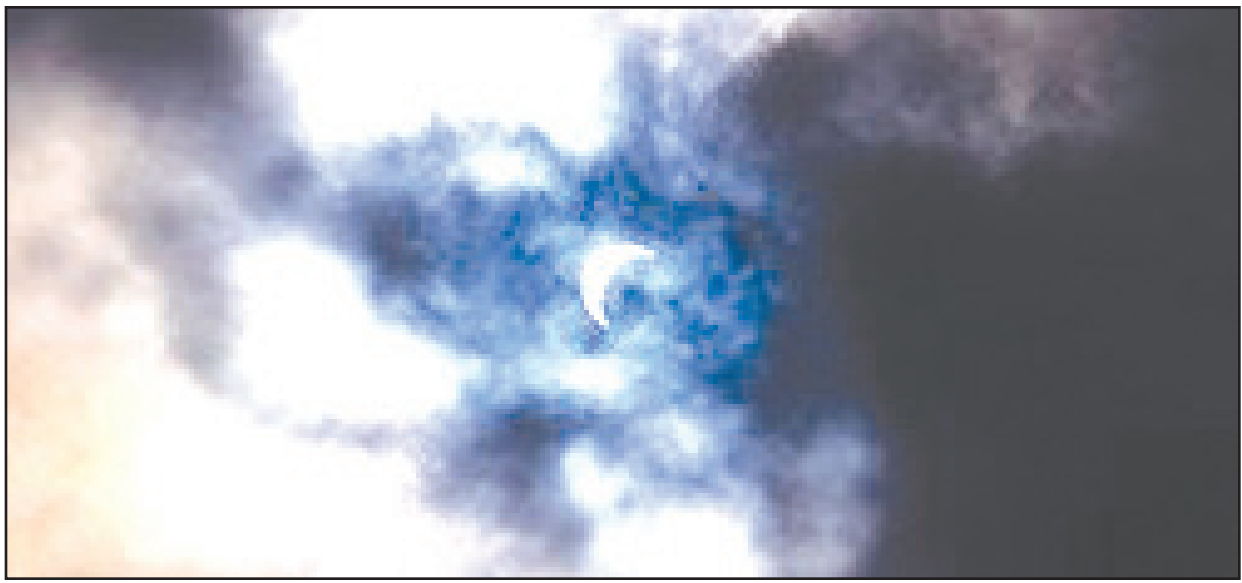
Capots and a group of theatre majors, along with their instructor Kate Burnham-Hull, had been tidying up from a recent musical on campus when they decided to take a break and scurry outside in the early afternoon on April 8 to join hundreds more Highlanders and community members gathered on the Artis Center for the Sciences patio and parking lot, all hoping to catch a glimpse of the rare solar occasion.

"We didn't want to miss out on that because it is such a cool event," Capots said.

Heavy cloud cover over a 64-degree day in Radford nearly spoiled the show.

"My weather app says the clouds may clear a little," a hopeful skywatcher said.

And they did clear somewhat. Three or four times



During breaks in the clouds, the eclipse could be seen in Radford.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

See **Eclipse**, page 8

**Eclipse watchers look to the sky at an event held by Radford University for Tuesday's eclipse.**



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

## Radford opens public comment period for Community Development Block Grant funds

RADFORD - The City of Radford is seeking public comment on the proposed draft of the 2024 Annual Action Plan for the City of Radford's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

"The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of the CDBG funds, and other funds allocated towards the implementation of objectives outlined in the city's Consolidated Plan," the City of Radford announced. "The Consolidated Plan identifies community needs and

proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. CDBG activities benefit low and moderate-income people by making improvements throughout the city, taking into consideration the public input received."

Funding for the 2024 fiscal year is estimated at \$231,683 for the CDBG program, including \$27,000 rolled over

See **Radford**, page 8

## City Council recognizes National Library Week 2024

RADFORD - The Radford City Council issued a proclamation in honor of National Library Week at its meeting Monday, April 8.

"Libraries provide the opportunity for everyone to pursue their passions and engage in lifelong learning, allowing them to live their best life and libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, or socio-economic status," the proclamation reads. "Libraries strive to

develop and maintain programs and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve and ensure equity of access for all and they adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, continually expanding their collections, services and partnerships."

"Libraries play a critical role in the economic vitality of communities by providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for job seekers, small businesses and entrepreneurs and are

accessible and inclusive places that promote a sense of local connection, advancing understanding, civic engagement, and shared community goals," the proclamation continues. "Libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all."

National Library Week is celebrated April 7-13, 2024.

Staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

**Radford Mayor David Horton (left) presents a city council proclamation in honor of National Library Week to Radford Public Library Director Elizabeth Sensabaugh, and staff members Morgan Esterhuizen and Scott Gardner.**

## Spotted lanternflies are about to reappear

The battle to beat the bug is back. Spotted lanternflies, which have overwintered in egg masses, are about to hatch and make their reappearance as nymphs in mid-to late April, said Virginia Tech entomologist Eric Day.

The spotted lanternfly is well-established up and down the East Coast and in Virginia," said Day, who manages the Insect Identification Lab in the

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Department of Entomology. "It's really a perfect invasive storm. We are moving from detecting and reporting it to managing it and reaching out to those who are potentially impacted."

As Virginia prepares to receive its unwelcome guests, Day offers several updates on the upcoming season and reminders on how to help contain the

spread.

Twelve Virginia counties and 10 cities are currently under quarantines, which means vehicles moving goods across city and county lines must be inspected by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the lanternfly and its eggs.

Day expects spotted

See **Lanternflies**, page 8



PHOTO BY THERESA DELLINGER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**The spotted lanternfly will emerge from its egg stage in mid- to late April to feed on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees, and vines.**

# Virginia Passenger Rail Authority hosts open house, public survey events

## Events scheduled for Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Radford

On Thursday, April 18, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRRA) will host a second open house to gather further input regarding the expansion of passenger rail service to the New River Valley through planning, design, and construction of rail infrastructure improvements.

The open house will be held from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center in Christiansburg.

During this second round of engagement, VPRRA

is asking community members to rank their preferred passenger rail site location via survey. The survey will go live on April 17 and will be available to fill out in person at the below events, as well as online on VPRRA's website. The survey will be available until May 17.

VPRRA will be present at the following events, and will have information and the survey available:

- April 17: Blacksburg Farmers Market (2 – 6 p.m.)
- April 18: Radford Public Library (10 – 12:30 p.m.)
- April 18: OPEN HOUSE Montgomery County

Government Center (4:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

April 20: Blacksburg Fork & Cork Festival (12:30 – 5:30 p.m.)

To access the survey, and for more information on the New River Valley passenger rail expansion, please visit the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's website at <https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/nrvproject/>.

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

# Celebrate Earth Day at one of Virginia's 42 state parks

In recognition of Earth Day, Virginia State Parks are hosting more than 50 events to celebrate and preserve the natural wonders of the commonwealth.

From educational programs to hands-on conservation efforts, the parks invite visitors of all ages to join in honoring our planet and taking action for a sustainable future.

"We believe that Earth Day is not just a day to celebrate, but it's also a day to act," said Virginia State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker. "Our goal is to empower individuals to make a positive impact on the environment, both within our parks and beyond. By coming together as a community, we can create lasting change for the betterment of our planet."

With a mission to conserve and protect Virginia's natural resources, Virginia State Parks have long been at the forefront of environmental stewardship. On Earth Day, they reaffirm their commitment to conservation through a range of engaging activities and initiatives.

From April 20 through April 28, visitors can participate in a variety of Earth Day service projects, including trail cleanups, invasive plant removal, seed and tree planting, and bird box building. Additionally, educational programs will be offered to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire visitors to take action in their communities.

There will be something for everyone this Earth Day at Virginia State Parks. To learn more, go to [virginiastateparks.gov/earthday](http://virginiastateparks.gov/earthday).

Locally, Claytor Lake State Park will host events Friday, April 26 at 1 p.m. – Saturday, April 27 at 8:30 p.m.

"Help us celebrate our planet with

some special Earth Day programming," Claytor Lake State Park announced. Friday, April 26, at 1 p.m., there will be a Tree Identification Hike at the Howe House.

"Join us for a scenic hike around the historical Howe house and learn how to identify some of our native trees," the park announced. The remainder of the events include:

Friday, April 26:

4 p.m. Claytor Crafts - Tree Cookies at the Interpretive Campfire Circle in Campground D. Create something special with natural materials found around the park.

7 p.m. Animal Invaders Campfire at the Interpretive Campfire Circle in Campground D. Have a s'more and relax by the campfire as we talk about invasive species, what they are, and how they spread.

Saturday, April 27:

2 p.m. Invasive Species Removal at the Interpretive Campfire Circle in Campground D. Help us control some of the invasive plant species at the park. Gloves are recommended for this program.

4 p.m. Shoreline Cleanup at the Beach Building. Show your appreciation for the planet by helping us clean our shoreline. Gloves are recommended for this program.

7:30 p.m. Owl Prowl at the Interpretive Campfire Circle in Campground D. Join us for a short walk in the woods as we discuss the owls common to our park and attempt to call them in to join us.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

Christiansburg Town Council has approved the use of grant funds to install cameras for crime prevention.

# Christiansburg Town Council approves grant for cameras for HEAT program

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

CHRISTIANSBURG – Christiansburg Town Council voted 5-1 in approval of grant money received for the Christiansburg Police Department to be appropriated for the use of the installation of crime prevention cameras in the town at its April 9 meeting.

A second grant for

the Christiansburg Fire Department to be used in the purchasing of small equipment was also approved with a 6-0 vote.

The Virginia State Police grant called HEAT is to be used for the "installation of cameras to help resolve crime in the amount of \$12,500," the meeting agenda stated.

The Virginia Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) program provides funding to

municipalities in setting up a network of cameras that reduce or recover the number of vehicles stolen therefore reducing insurance premiums. The system also has been useful in gathering intelligence on other crimes involving abductions, shootings, hit-and-run incidents, and many other criminal activities. Additional information about the HEAT program is

See Cameras, page 8

# Music connects cultures, inspires climate action in 'Small Island, Big Song'

Featuring a roster of renowned first nation artists from across the Pacific and Indian Oceans, "Small Island, Big Song" combines music, spoken word, and incredible panoramic video of the artist's homelands, delivering a powerful and timely cultural message about the impact of the changing seas.

Culminating a series of 2023-24 Moss Arts Center season events curated to invite consideration of environmental

landscapes and the impact of climate change, the center presents the performance on Wednesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Drawing from a shared seafaring heritage to unite the Pacific and Indian oceans, this performance brings together some of the most prominent artists of Taiwan, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Papua New Guinea who have made a choice to maintain the cultural voice of

their people, to sing in the language, and to play the instruments of their land. These lineages mixed with their diverse contemporary styles — roots reggae, grunge, R&B, folk, and spoken word — establish a musical dialogue between cultures, drawing on their ancestry to confront contemporary issues with a hope-driven vision of the future.

Motivated by shared concern for the ocean, the "Small Island, Big Song"

co-founders — Taiwanese theatre producer BaoBao Chen and Australian music producer and filmmaker Tim Cole — quit their jobs after hearing the predicted effects of climate change to oceanic nations. Chen and Cole spent the following eight years recording and filming with over 100 artists on 16 island nations, layering up songs from

See Music, page 8

# LAND TRANSFERS

The following land transfers were recorded in the Radford City Courthouse in January. The names of only one seller and one buyer are listed; others may be involved in the transaction.

## Zero Dollar Considerations:

- Eunice Odell Marshall
- Shirley A Turner to Radford City, 20 Foot Electric Utility Easement
- William H Weddle Jr. to William H Weddle Jr., 10-(13)-SEC12-10-11-12

- Plans to Renaissance Development Inc., Lot Line Vacation and Relocation 12-(1)-31
- East Radford Development 1001 to The Visitors of Radford University, 5-(1)-80/010000084
- Plans to Cunningham Family Limited Partnership, 9-(4)-SEC2-6-16
- Salinda A Arthur to Salinda A Arthur Life Estate, 20-(2)-11
- Bill L Martin to Mitchell Lawrence Martin, Lot 17 Map of Highland Hills Inc.
- Sarah E Hill to Philip Devon Schall, Being All of Lot Number 10 and Part of Lot Number 11 in College Park
- Tiffany Lyn Dawson to Robert Edward Dawson, 1716 Downey Street 5-(10)-4
- Herbert Dean Scott
- City of Radford to K & J Properties Contracting, 18-(3)-SEC4-1-2
- Jerry L Mitchell to Jerry L Mitchell, Lots 26-27 Section 6 Plan D RLICO
- John E Miles to Ruth C Miles, 14-(8)-SEC10-12A
- Davis Mountain LLC to Tricia Ann Metzel, Sanitary Sewer Easement 26-(1)-4
- Plans to Tricia Ann Metzel, 20 Foot Wide Sanitary Sewer Easement 26-(1)-4
- Christina Nicole Hamblin to Christina Nicole Knapp
- HQ Investments LLC to Masterpeace LLC

## Monetary Considerations:

- William Zawadski to Griffin Bailey, Lot 2 Section 2 Phase 1 Winstream Timer Townhouses Unit Number 6, \$232,900
- Maureen O Reed to Elisabeth Bloomer, 020000412, \$180,000
- James B Trice to Andrew R Watson, 9-(7)-SEC13-27A-28A, \$448,000
- Hughes Investments LLC to Aaron Bolyard, 02-1846/, \$226,000
- City of Radford to K & J Properties Contracting, 12 Foot Wide Portion of 2nd Street & 15 Foot Wide Portion of Custis Street 18-(3)-SEC, \$6,165
- Kevin Scott Midkiff to Taylor Renee Spencer, 14-(7)-SEC18-6-7, \$178,000
- Steven E Harvey to Amy L Vanberschot, Lot 6 7-(7)-6-7A, \$569,000
- Scott W Seitz to Carolyn G Reese, Lot 109 College Park Townhouses Phase 4, \$277,900
- John E Miles to Urgo Properties3 LLC, New Lot A Section 10 Containing 0.139 Acre, \$82,700
- Rohit Sansoa to Siya Char LLC, 6-(8)-216A, \$750,000

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, April 13:

### Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club serving up hot biscuits topped with sausage gravy, or with "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. Club fundraiser to help serve community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. There will be sign-up information available for club's newest community initiative - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This is the last breakfast until October.

### Skipper cannon firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired twice on the Upper Quad of Virginia Tech's campus between 2 - 4 p.m. as Virginia Tech cadets return from the spring Caldwell March. The actual timing of the cannon's firing will depend on the length of the march, subject to weather and road conditions.

### Shred-A-Thon

The Town of Blacksburg will host a Shred-A-Thon, 9 a.m. - noon, at 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg. This free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please plan to bring documents in a box, tote, or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Please remain in your vehicle during drop-off. For more information, call the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540-443-1212.

## Sunday, April 14:

### Skipper cannon firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired once between 11:55 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. new the Tech Softball Park as part of the opening celebration for Virginia Tech Softball's Military Appreciation game.

## 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.

## Friday, April 19:

### Skipper cannon firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired once between 5 - 5:30 p.m. on the Drillfield during the opening ceremony for Relay for Life; Skipper will fire at the end of the national anthem. Relay For Life at Virginia Tech is a student-run yearlong fundraising initiative for the American Cancer Society focused on raising funds for critical research as well as lifesaving patient support programs.

## Saturday, April 20:

### NAACP Young Adults Meet and Greet

At the Christiansburg Library; 6 - 7 p.m. Geared toward 25- 50 years olds. Learn about the NAACP, meet people and learn about professional development and social opportunities. Giveaways and appetizers. For more information crashatowndsend@gmail.com.

### Arbor Day Celebration

Join Blacksburg Parks and Recreation as a volunteer, 9 a.m.- noon for an Arbor Day Celebration and plant a tree or two! Participants are encouraged to bring a shovel and gloves. This event will be held rain or shine at 615 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg.

### "Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species"

At the Lyric Theater; 2- 4 p.m. Town of Blacksburg, Fralin Life Sciences Institute Global Change Center at Virginia Tech and the Invasive Species Collaborative (ISC) at Virginia Tech will host a screening of the film "Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species" at the Lyric Theater. Film introduces concept of invasive species and explains how strategies can prevent the spread of harmful species. Following the screening, a panel of professionals will answer audience questions. Participants can also expect complimentary popcorn and drinks. To register, for questions or more information, contact Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Manager, Carol Davis at 540.443.1617.

## Monday, April 22:

### 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. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. 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 23:

### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

### Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

## Saturday, April 27:

### Children's Consignment Sale

The spring children's consignment sale will be held 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St SE. (note different location). Families can get great deals on seasonal kids' clothes

See Events, page 8



### Auctions

#### Storage Auction at Tuckit In Storage

Sale April 13, 2024 at 9am. 3950 South Main St Blacksburg (540)953-4022

- 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- Teneh Banyu
Unit C 9- James Sanders
Unit F 25- Kristen Beavers
Unit J 36- Laura Perry
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

### Legals - City of Radford

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

#### WASTE WATER, BASE ELECTIC RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Pursuant to Section 15.2-107 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. April 22, 2024 on the proposed Water, Waste Water and Electric Rates for Fiscal Year 2025.

Interest 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.

FURTHER, pursuant to Section 15.2-2209 of the Code of Virginia notice is given that the Council's intention to propose an increase in the following Water, Waste Water and Electric rates and fees for Fiscal Year 2025:

- 1.Waste Water rates are programmed to increase from \$14.24 to \$16.24 for 2,000 gallons.
2.Water Connection Fee is programmed to increase from \$1,300 to \$2,000.
3.Electric Base Rates

### Legals - City of Radford

(Energy + Customer Charge) are programmed to increase from \$104.65 to \$107.97 for 1,000 kwh customer. Summary of rates only. Please see original schedules for terms and conditions.

Residential: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$7.02 Energy Charge all metered (kWH) \$0.10095

Sanctuary Worship Service Basic customer charge: (per month) \$7.02 Energy Charge (all metered (kWH) \$0.10155

Small General Service: Basic customer charge: (per month) \$9.25 Energy Charge (all metered (kWH) \$0.10464

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

Large General Service: Basic custoemr 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

Large Power Service: Basic custoemr charge: (per month) \$275.00 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

School & City Services Basic Customer Charge: (per month) \$5.79 Energy Charge (all metered (kWH) \$0.96690

Outdoor Lighting (per month) 48 Watt Residential LED \$10.65 54 Watt Commercial LED \$12.50 160 Watt Commercial LED \$21.75

### Legals - City of Radford

Installation charge for metal pole for underground sodium lighting \$425.00

Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (per kwh) \$0.0560870 Fuel Adjustment Charge (per kwh) \$0.003377

Rate Tariffs for all customer classes are available for review on the City's website at www.radfordva.gov.

BY THE ORDER OF RADFORD CITY COUNCIL

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

#### TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning: A. Conditional Use Permit request by Howard M. Thornton, Jr. and Gayle W. Thornton, 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

### Legals - Montgomery County

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 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.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### hearing for Monday, April 22, 2024, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the intent to adopt a resolution amending the FY 2023-2024 budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget not to exceed \$7 million by appropriating funds to various County Capital Improvement Plan Projects.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Angela M. Hill County Administrator

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INVITING BIDS ON AN

#### ORDINANCE PROPOSING TO GRANT A NON-EXCLUSIVE LEASE OF ATTACHMENT LOCATIONS AND GROUND SPACE AT THE WATER TANK SITE LOCATED AT 110 RIDGEWOOD LANE IN THE CITY OF RADFORD FOR CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS PURPOSES

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1800, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on April 22, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at 10 Robertson Street to receive public comment on an ordinance proposing to grant a non-exclusive lease of attachment locations and ground space at the water tank site located at 110 Ridgewood Lane in the City of Radford for cellular telecommunications purposes. A copy of the full text of the ordinance, including the terms of the

### Legals - Montgomery County

proposed lease agreement, may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603.

In addition, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2100 et seq., bids are hereby invited for the lease proposed to be granted under the ordinance. All bids must be in writing and submitted to the Office of the City Clerk at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 or at Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov. ALL BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 22, 2024 AT 12:00 P.M. Bids will be opened and read aloud during public session at Council's regular meeting on April 22, 2024 at 7 PM. After the reading of the bids, Council will proceed with consideration of the proposed ordinance and lease. Council reserves the right reject any and all bids and to defer action until a subsequent meeting.

#### TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The Town of Christiansburg Virginia as a recipient of block grant funding is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prepare and adopt a multiyear Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans to solicit citizen views on proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program activities contained in these documents. The proposed plan is for the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan to provide information on the program and the goals for the upcoming year. Based on last year's allocation, the estimated amount the Town may receive is approximately \$130,000.

Activities proposed include the East Main Street sidewalk project located in the Town's qualifying low to moderate income census

### Legals - Montgomery County

tract block group and a town-wide income-qualified emergency home repair program.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION Draft copies of the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan are available for review. Copies can be obtained from the Christiansburg Town Manager's Office, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, the Christiansburg branch library at 125 Shelton Street or on the Town's website at www.christiansburg.org. The 30-day comment period will run through Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

PUBLIC MEETINGS Two Public Meetings with Town staff to discuss and receive comment on the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM and Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the Admin Conference Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia. An electronic (Zoom) option is available for both meetings. Please contact staff for further information.

PUBLIC HEARING A Public Hearing for the adoption of the FY 2024 Annual Action Plan at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

Provide any questions, comments, or suggestions by mailing the Town Manager's Office, Town of Christiansburg, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029, by e-mailing awarren@christiansburg.org or by phone at (540) 382-6120 x 1130.

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# Despite hype, cicada double-brood emergence won't affect Virginia, Virginia Tech expert says

Don't panic: Although there's been recent media hype about a rare cicada double-brood emerging this spring, most parts of Virginia will not see any periodical cicadas.

Starting in late April, Virginians living south of Caroline and east of the Interstate 95 corridor should begin looking for the emergence of Brood XIX, a population of 13-year periodical cicadas produced from eggs laid in 2011. Virginians living along the North Carolina

border, especially those in Brunswick County, should also be on the lookout.

"We are at the very edge of the range of Brood XIX. This makes it difficult to predict exactly where Brood XIX cicadas will emerge," said Doug Pfeiffer, professor and Extension specialist in the Department of Entomology. "Urban development also affects where we will see cicadas. These insects need trees — hosts longed-lived enough to support multiple

generations of 13-year life cycles. Urban development can do away with local cicada populations."

Brood XIX cicadas will live briefly, mating and laying eggs. After a few weeks, the adults will die and their bodies will provide a pulse of nutrients to our ecosystems.

Although they are noisy and numerous, cicadas are harmless to humans and pets. They can damage young woody trees and shrubs when they lay eggs and recent research has indicated that adult cicadas feed on plant sap, but cicadas are generally not a concern for home gardeners.

Here's what you need to know:

Most Virginians will not see periodical cicadas in 2024.

There are annual cicadas that emerge every year. Annual cicadas have black-green coloring, while periodical cicadas have black-red-orange coloring.

Cicadas are harmless to people and pets.

Adult cicadas do not damage your plants, but young woody plants can be damaged by the egg-laying process.



PHOTO BY ERIC DAY FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**Periodical cicadas can cause damage to woody stems when they lay eggs, but they are generally not a concern for home gardeners.**

Periodical cicadas evolved to avoid predators "Cicadas are really fascinating," said Pfeiffer. "They have evolved this strategy of emerging all at once in order to overwhelm predators, a defense strategy called predator satiation."

"Periodical cicadas emerge after either 13 or 17 years, both prime numbers," said Pfeiffer. "That is an adaptation to avoid predators who might develop a converging lifecycle and emerge to eat them."

After cicadas lay their eggs in pencil-diameter woody stems, they will die. A forest floor may be covered in millions of cicada bodies, which will enrich the soil for a number of years. This year's Brood XIX eggs will hatch into tiny

cicada nymphs, which will burrow into the soil, where they will spend the next 13 years feeding on the water and nutrients transported through the vascular system in plant roots.

A periodical cicada outbreak can sometimes seem staggeringly large, and cicadas can cause economic damage for fruit growers.

"Cicadas can come in and overwhelm an orchard quickly," said Pfeiffer. "If you have young trees, bushes, or vines in an area predicted to see an outbreak, you can consider protecting them with bird netting."

Cicadas do not bite and are safe for people, including children, to handle and explore. There are multiple species of periodical cicadas in an

emergence. Brood XIX includes four species, each of which has a slightly different appearance and auditory call.

Periodical cicadas exist only in North America. In exchange for a few weeks of minor inconvenience, they offer us an opportunity to appreciate the commonwealth's diversity of native species.

But what about the double-brood?

Although Virginia will only experience the emergence of Brood XIX, a brood of 17-year cicadas called Brood XII also will emerge in 2024. This brood lives in parts of Southern Illinois — not in Virginia — and there is little geographic overlap between these two broods.

*Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech*

## RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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

Radford News Journal (USPS 387-780) is published twice a week for \$46 a year in the City of Radford, \$55 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$59 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

# Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library enhances digital news archive with Montgomery County newspapers

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is now offering an expanded set of digitized newspaper content available on their Digital News Archive.

Over 150,000 new pages of content from the News Messenger/ Montgomery News Messenger have been added to the Archive.

The new digitized content is available to anyone with an Internet connection and adds to the library's existing Floyd County newspaper collection online. Over 100 years of Floyd Press, and 50 years of Montgomery News Messenger/News Messenger can be searched, viewed, and saved as images.

Digitization of the Montgomery County newspaper content has been made possible by the generous

support of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Foundation. Floyd County digitization was supported by donations from the Floyd County Library Building Fund, Inc.

"We have these resources available on microfilm for library visitors," said Library Director Karim Khan, "but we hope that many more users can use the online resource to learn about this history of the New River Valley and the people who lived here."

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library's Digital News Archive is available from the library's homepage at [www.mfml.org](http://www.mfml.org).

*Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library*

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| 67 |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Type of footwear
  - 5. Studies a lot all at once
  - 10. Adventure story
  - 14. Hundred thousand
  - 15. Former U.S. Vice President
  - 16. Ruler
  - 17. Indian city
  - 18. Similar
  - 19. Ship as cargo
  - 20. Volcanic craters
  - 22. Boxing's "GOAT"
  - 23. Bullfighting maneuvers
  - 24. London soccer team
  - 27. Score perfectly
  - 30. No (Scottish)
  - 31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)
  - 32. Woman (French)
  - 35. Unwanted attic "decor"
  - 37. Peter Griffin's daughter
  - 38. Broad, shallow crater
  - 39. Large instruments
  - 40. Low bank or reef
  - 41. ... and Venzetti
  - 42. Oil group
  - 43. Father
  - 44. Aggressive men
  - 45. Pairs well with green
  - 46. Travelers need it
  - 47. Digital audiotape
  - 48. Midway between northeast and east
  - 49. Chemistry descriptor
  - 52. S. China seaport
  - 55. Sound unit
  - 56. Heavy cavalry sword
  - 60. Thick piece of something
  - 61. Spa town in Austria
  - 63. Boyfriend
  - 64. Norse personification of old age
  - 65. Type of box
  - 66. Tie together
  - 67. Fiber from the coconut
  - 68. Chicago mayor
  - 69. Old English letters
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Type of sauce
  - 2. Pattern of notes
  - 3. Plant with long seedpods
  - 4. Map out
  - 5. Numbers cruncher
  - 6. Make a mental connection
  - 7. Italian tenor
  - 8. N. America's highest mountain peak
  - 9. Witness
  - 10. Arabic given name
  - 11. Music awards
  - 12. "The Immoralist" author
  - 13. Area units
  - 21. Units of loudness
  - 23. Political action committee
  - 25. Bar bill
  - 26. Witch
  - 27. A theatrical performer
  - 28. 2-door car
  - 29. ... and flowed
  - 32. Papier-..., art medium
  - 33. City in Georgia
  - 34. Irregular
  - 36. College sports conference
  - 37. Angry
  - 38. Partner to cheese
  - 40. S. American mammal
  - 41. Self-immolation by fire rituals
  - 43. Split pulses
  - 44. Disfigure
  - 46. Cow noise
  - 47. Erase
  - 49. Chadic language
  - 50. Reward for doing well
  - 51. Paid TV
  - 52. Millisecond
  - 53. Other
  - 54. Colombian city
  - 57. Necklace part
  - 58. Every one of two or more people
  - 59. Regrets
  - 61. They come after "A"
  - 62. Horse noise

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# Virginia Tech Board of Visitors sets tuition and fees

*Faculty members honored as Alumni Distinguished Professors*

At its quarterly meeting held Tuesday, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors set tuition and fees for the 2024-25 academic year.

Board members voted to set tuition for resident undergraduate students and mandatory fees at \$15,950 annually for next year. Complete information on 2024-25 tuition and fees can be found on the Virginia Tech News website.

In his remarks to the board, President Tim Sands noted the responsible and effective use of artificial intelligence (AI) will remain a primary topic of interest for university leadership for the foreseeable future. The university has initiated the process of appointing and charging an AI Working Group, and Virginia Tech has been engaged with the Virginia Council of Presidents, the governor's office and national organizations in developing initial guidelines and identifying opportunities for education and investment.

Sands also commented on the rapidly changing landscape of college athletics and noted that the university continues its work to position itself for the strongest possible future in athletics given the many factors beyond the university's control.

In other news, in remarks made during the Finance and Resource Management Committee on Monday, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Amy Sebring acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Vice President for Finance Ken Miller, who has given almost 36 years of service to Virginia Tech. She also provided the board with updates on several current issues including the potential for leveraging AI in university operations and the reinvestment exercise that campus leaders have been working as part of a multiyear process of optimizing the use of current resources.

Sebring also updated the committee on the status of two vice president searches: Simon Allen will begin on May 6 as the university's next vice president for finance and CFO and on-campus interviews with candidates for the vice president of campus planning, infrastructure, and facilities position will begin later this month.

Also on Monday, Senior Vice

President for Advancement Charlie Phlegar updated board members that, for the third consecutive year, alumni giving participation remained at 22 percent, a historic achievement among public universities in the United States. Phlegar also noted that the university has surpassed the original Boundless Impact capital campaign of \$1.5 billion goal and that he expects the revised goal of \$1.872 billion will be achieved two years before the campaign's conclusion.

In remarks at the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee, Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke provided an update on the Northern Virginia Steering Committee chaired by Julie Ross, the Paul and Dorothea Torgersen Dean of Engineering. The committee was charged to review and assess the instructional, research, and outreach activities in the area with a special emphasis on those activities that leverage opportunities afforded by operating in the nation's capital. Clarke noted significant progress has been made and anticipates a detailed report at the next board meeting.

Clarke also noted that the searches to replace Maj. Gen. Randal D. Fullhart, the retiring commandant of the Corps of Cadets and Alan Grant, dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, are progressing and finalists will be visiting campus before the end of the semester. He thanked them for their many years of dedicated service to the college and university.

Clarke also provided a brief enrollment management update. With a record number of applications received this year, as of April 7, freshman enrollment is very close to target — about 100 fewer acceptances than last year to date, which had the same target of 7,085. He also noted a decline in acceptances from traditionally underserved students, including underrepresented minorities, first generation, Pell, and veterans, and delays in Institutional Student Information Records resulting from changes to the FASFA application process has complicated admissions modelling as well as timing of financial aid packages.



PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

## Students walk on the Blacksburg campus amid spring blooms

The board announced the selection of the two student representatives for the 2024-25 academic year. Leslie Orellana, a senior majoring in real estate in the Pamplin College of Business and building construction in the College of Engineering, will be the undergraduate student representative. William Poland, a master's degree candidate in electrical engineering in the College of Engineering, will be the graduate and professional student representative.

Each will serve a one-year term beginning July 1. A story introducing the new student representatives to the community will be published later this month in Virginia Tech News.

The board also honored three faculty members — Anthony Kwame Harrison, the Edward S. Diggs Professor in Humanities with a joint appointment in Africana Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; Raman Kumar, the R.V. and A.F. Oliver Professor of Investment Management in the Pamplin College of Business; and Patricia Raun, professor of theater arts at the School of Performing Arts in the College of Architecture, Arts, and

Design — as Alumni Distinguished Professors. The professorship is a preeminent faculty appointment recognizing those who demonstrate extraordinary accomplishments and academic citizenship through substantive scholarly contributions across all three of Virginia Tech's core mission areas of teaching, research or creative activity, and engagement.

In addition, resolutions appointing 11 faculty members to endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships; 36 individuals to emerita or emeritus status; and 84 faculty research leaves were approved by the board.

Individual stories on the new Alumni Distinguished Professors, the professorship and fellowship appointments, and emerita/emeritus honors will be published in Virginia Tech News.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will be June 10-11 in Blacksburg. More information on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors may be found online.

Mark Owczarski for Virginia Tech

## Bamberg Symphony to deliver a masterful performance of works by Brahms, Schumann, and Wagner



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIAN LENHARD

### Maestro Jakub Hrusa (standing) leads the Bamberg Symphony during an onstage performance.

With a musical lineage stretching back to the 18th and 19th centuries — to Mahler and Mozart — Germany's Bamberg Symphony is a favorite around the world. The premier ensemble makes its Virginia debut at the Moss Arts Center on Friday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. with an evocative program featuring works by Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann, and Richard Wagner.

Conductor Jakub Hruša, a middle-aged white man with sandy brown hair, extends his arms out wide as he conducts the Bamberg Symphony during a live performance. All the string players watch him and their bows are raised in the air above their instruments. Maestro Jakub Hruša (standing) leads the Bamberg Symphony during an onstage performance. Photo courtesy of Marian Lenhard. The program is inspired by New Yorker music critic and Pulitzer Prize finalist Alex Ross' recent book "Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music," which explores Wagner's complicated, many-sided legacy and his colossal influence on music, art, and culture. Maestro Jakub Hruša — renowned for his partnership with Bamberg Symphony as well as for his guest-conducting with orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and Chicago Symphony — leads a beautiful program that features Wagner's "Lohengrin" Prelude I and "Tannhäuser" Overture.

In addition to Wagner, the program features work from his German contemporaries, Brahms and Schumann. Accompanied virtuoso pianist Hélène Grimaud joins the orchestra for Schumann's dazzling "Piano Concerto in A minor."

The Bamberg Symphony is the only world-renowned orchestra that is not based in a major metropolis. The orchestra is known for its characteristically dark, somber, and warm sound, sharing the musical echo of its hometown with the world since 1946. With almost 7,500 concerts in over 500 cities and 64 countries, the symphony has become a cultural ambassador for Bavaria and the whole of Germany.

Bamberg Symphony revisits its historic roots more than 75 years after it was founded, with Czech-born Hruša as its fifth chief conductor, leading the orchestra since September 2016. He also serves as principal guest conductor of both the Czech Philharmonic and the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. He appears frequently as a guest with the world's greatest orchestras, including the Berlin, Vienna, Munich, and New York philharmonics; the Bavarian Radio, NHK, Chicago, and Boston symphonies; the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Lucerne Festival, Royal Concertgebouw, Mahler Chamber, and the Cleveland orchestras; the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France; Dresden Staatskapelle; Orchestre de Paris; and Tonhalle Orchester Zürich.

Renaissance woman Grimaud is a deeply passionate and committed musical artist whose pianistic accomplishments play a central role in her life. Grimaud has received many prestigious awards for her work, including the Cannes Classical Recording of the Year, Choc du Monde de la Musique, Diapason d'or, Grand Prix du Disque, Record Academy Prize (Tokyo), Midem Classic Award, and the Echo Klassik Award. For her latest album,

See **Symphony**, page 7



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF H2OKIE AQUATICS

## Public hearing set for H2okies Aquatics land lease request in Christiansburg

**Lori Graham**

*Contributing writer*

CHRISTIANSBURG - A public hearing has been set for April 23, 2024 for a proposal request to lease land in Christiansburg by H2okies Aquatics.

Council member Johana Hicks requested additional information about the upcoming public hearing during the consent agenda session of the Tuesday, April 9 Christiansburg Town Council meeting.

"Two things that I want to make sure they have for next meeting is, first of all, are we going to have a rental income from them and second of all, if we were to allow for that to happen what will happen with the current contracts and any future things as the usage of the Aquatic Center for this following year," Hicks said. "Is that going to change the amount of money that we get each year?"

"I wouldn't think so simply because it is not a lease for operation of services," said Mayor Michael Barber. "This is a lease for the group to build a building on the ground, for the land."

"I had our town attorney take a look at the agreement as they proposed, and he sort of cleaned it up a little bit," said Christiansburg Town Manager Randy

Wingfield. "The way he's drafted it is that basically they would pay a rental income, although we would forgive basically or refund the income based on them staying a nonprofit status. That's more or less in keeping with the way they drafted it, although that's completely at town council's discretion as to how you would want it drafted."

Hicks commented she would like the council to consider how this might work for other nonprofits as well.

"This can open the door for many other organizations to do the same and how are we going to be able to tell them no," Hicks said. "That's just something for us to think about for the next couple weeks."

New River Valley Agency on Aging Executive Director Tina King also addressed council and community members during the meeting. King thanked the council for providing support to the agency through meeting financial needs, providing excellent board members and many other ways of assisting their group in meeting with the community's needs.

"The Agency on Aging has been around since 1975 and we're one of 25 area Agencies on Aging

in the state of Virginia," said King. "We serve the whole New River Valley, which are the counties of Giles, Floyd, Montgomery, Pulaski, towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pulaski, and the City of Radford."

The core goals for the agency are to support, educate, and advocate for New River Valley residents. These core goals are established through programs and volunteer work, donations, supplies, and funds for seniors and their pets, King said.

"My husband and I've been in elder care for 30+ years now and when I first got involved in that I actually did some of that volunteering," Council member Kim Bowman said. "It was quite alarming some of the situations that you would go into, but I've also worked with your ombudsman, and I cannot say enough good things about Janet Brennan. She has been an ally and a friend over the years and she's doing outstanding work as are you for seniors in the New River Valley."

The New River Valley Agency on Aging is located at 44 Third Street NW, Pulaski, and can be reached by phone at 540-980-7720. Additional information may be found on their website (www.nrva.org).

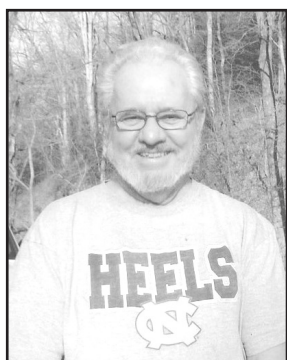
# OBITUARIES

## Harrell, Kenneth Ralph

Kenneth Ralph Harrell, 82, of wife of 55 years, Carolyn Graham Snowville, passed away Monday, April 8, 2024.

He was a proud U.S. Marine, serving from 1961 until 1965. Kenneth retired from the United States Postal Service where he worked as a clerk. He was a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Radford, the Snowville Ruritan Club and the Pulaski County High School Band Boosters, as well as a huge influence on the creation of the Snowville/Hiwassee Recreation Department. Kenneth was well known for his barbeque and his strong sense of community through volunteerism. He had a love for the UNC Tarheel sports, coaching recreation sports, gardening, bird watching, baking desserts and Elvis. He was preceded in death by his parents, George Washington and Ethel Rodgers Harrell; and his sister, Rachel Harrell Pearson.

He is survived by his loving



sons and daughters-in-law, Paul Harrell (Luciana), and James Harrell (Kellie); four grandchildren; one step grandchild; two great-grandchildren; brothers and sister-in-law, George Harrell (Ora Lee), and John Harrell (Brenda); sisters, Edna Skinner and Carolyn Flora; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Kenneth always had a joke at the ready, ready to share. His sense of humor will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The family will receive friends 10 - 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. with Pastor Mike Coleman officiating. Burial with full military honors will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery in

Dublin.

The family would like to thank Intrepid Hospice, Amy Bain, the Snowville Ruritan Club, Judy Thornton, Debbie Rabideau, and many other friends in the Snowville community for the love and support

they have shown to the family and the care provided to Kenneth.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Snowville Ruritan Club, 4867 Lead Mine Road, Hiwassee, VA, 24347.

## Ratcliffe, Essie Irene Wade

Essie Irene Wade Ratcliffe, 105, back and received her high school diploma, a Graduate of Biblical Studies, and a Doctorate Degree in Biblical Studies.

Survivors include two special nieces, Barbara Farmer (Dallas) of Riner, and Bessie McCormick (Howard) of Dublin; nephew, Denton Reed of Dublin; and she was a special aunt to many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Commonwealth Senior Living Radford and Medi-Hospice for the

Essie was born in Floyd County March 26, 1919, to the late Charlie Lee Wade and Leona Harriet Dulaney Wade. She was the widow of the late Rev. Paul E. Ratcliffe. She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Carrie Phillips, Ola Cox, Velma Reed, and India Goad; and brother, Denver Wade.

Essie was a member of the West Radford Church of God since 1964. She worked at Kenrose and the box factory until about 70 years of age. After retirement, she then went



See Obituaries, page 7

### 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.sttfc.org for mid-week masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

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

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

### LUTHERAN

**Christ Lutheran Church**, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### GOODBYE TO GUILT

Read Psalms 101:1-8; 103:1-22

Do you feel guilty long after a situation has been resolved? Do you continue to mentally kick yourself for rash words uttered in anger? Do errors you could have avoided keep you awake at night?

Such lingering self-reproach is unhealthy. When you realize you've made a mistake, take the necessary steps to correct it; then let it go. Focusing on past problems will not lead to a productive future.

If you have repented of sin and confessed it to the Lord, do not doubt God has forgiven you. His Word makes that emphatically clear.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:12).

God totally wipes clean our forgiven past. He not only removes the guilt of our sin, but the punishment we deserve. Because Jesus died for our sins, we can live eternally. He set us free from sin and guilt.

Guilt exposes the wrong committed. A forgiven sinner has no reason for guilt to remain (1 John 1:9). If you struggle with guilt, ask God to help you find release.

Thought for Today: Let guilt guide you to God. He has the solution.

Quicklook: Psalm 103:1-12

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

& 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. Celebrate Word and Sacrament as we worship with varied liturgy, hymns and music. Join our inclusive community in person or online Sundays at 10:00 am (youtube.com/@OSLCcburg), followed by refreshments and fellowship. Ministries include Bible study, choir, food ministry, and crafters. Little Free Pantry and Library available 24-7 by the parking lot. Parent's Morning Out offers faith-based activities and play for children 16 month - 5 years select weekdays. Wheelchair accessible. Learn how you may contribute to our ministries at www.oslc-cburg.org. 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.cen-

tralmethodistchurch.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: StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA. All are welcome. Website: www.stpaulvaumc.org

# Veterans Resource Fair at NRCC

New River Community College will host a Veterans Resource Fair Wednesday, April 17 at NRCC in Dublin. The event will be held in the Student Lounge in Martin Hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. NRCC's Veterans Services aim to get helpful information out in person to veterans in the community along with the college's veteran students and military families. Organizations and agencies available at the event will include the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Veterans Benefits, VA Healthcare, VA Community Engagement, the Virginia

Department of Veterans Services, Disabled American Veterans, Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Together with Veterans, Veterans Upward Bound, New River Valley Community Services, Office of Veterans Services at Virginia Tech, healthcare providers, and employment services.

For more information about the Veterans Resource Fair, contact Ryan Adams at radams@nr.edu or (540) 674-3693.

*New River Community College*



PHOTO BY MAX ESTERHUIZEN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**Therese Osborn and Mary Frazier do a yoga pose in front of a fountain in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center.**

# Virginia Tech researchers work to make yoga accessible to everyone

From the downward dog to the reverse warrior, yoga's popularity has blossomed recently, partly because of its accessibility to a wide range of people at a variety of skill levels.

With benefits ranging from physical to mental to social and spiritual, yoga offers an approach to holistic well-being. Virginia Tech researchers are working on ways to broaden its appeal even further.

"The historical underrepresentation in yoga makes this the perfect thing to study in regard to equitable translation of health evidence," said Mary Frazier, who is pursuing her Ph.D. in the Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Graduate Program and is the graduate student lead on the project. "So many people think yoga isn't for them and that's largely because of how it's often portrayed. We want to find ways to reach the groups that don't think yoga is for them – because it could be."

The underrepresentation of people from rural areas in yoga practices highlights significant accessibility and awareness issues, often due to a lack of local resources and classes that could introduce and nurture an inclusive yoga culture, the researchers said.

Additionally, according to the research team, prevailing narratives around body image within the yoga community can deter many from participating, as the physical component of yoga is easier to capture 'on screen' (e.g., photo or video), but the imagery often lacks representation of the diversity of human bodies.

"These challenges underscore the need for a more inclusive approach to yoga, one that embraces and promotes diversity in all forms, from geographical background to body shape, ensuring that the benefits of yoga are accessible to all," said Samantha Harden, an associate professor in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise and a Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist.

To help bridge this gap, the research team made up of Harden; Frazier; Brad Frick, a master's degree student in the School of Communication; and Therese Osborn, an undergraduate student in public health, as well as Rachel Kaplan, Cassidy Powers, and Kayla Markley, all students in human nutrition, foods, and exercise, created a messaging survey to identify terms and tactics that resonate with the historically underrepresented groups.

The development of a survey aimed at

identifying effective tactics and messaging to engage historically underrepresented groups in yoga represents a strategic approach to fostering inclusivity within the practice. Through a collaboration with University Libraries, this research project can leverage advanced data visualization tools and expertise, transforming raw survey data into compelling, easy-to-understand insights that highlight opportunities for outreach and community engagement.

"This partnership not only amplifies the survey's impact through sophisticated analysis but also ensures that the findings are accessible and actionable for stakeholders aiming to create a more inclusive yoga community," said Harden, who is also affiliated with the Fralin Biomedical Institute.

"It's going to be interesting to see and transform the raw survey data into insightful and meaningful visualizations," said Michael Stamper, a University Libraries data visualization designer. "Once we can see the stories within that data, we can begin to take notice of and address them."

The research project also gave Frazier valuable experience as a graduate student.

"This project has been instrumental in advancing my Ph.D. journey, providing a solid foundation for my dissertation on the importance of inclusivity in wellness spaces and highlighting the transformative potential of yoga when it truly embraces diversity in all its forms," Frazier said. "The research into the underrepresentation of individuals from rural areas in yoga practices has illuminated critical gaps in accessibility and awareness, underscoring the urgent need for community-based interventions and inclusive programming."

Osborn, a sophomore, was "nervous" when she first joined the lab — it's the same nervousness that keeps people out of studios: the unknown. She now acknowledges that the experience has equipped her with valuable skills, preparing her for the workforce.

"Dr. Harden, Frazier, Megan Pullin, and the rest of the lab have been so welcoming and encouraging," Osborn said. "Not only has the lab allowed me to apply what I have learned in my classes, but it has also taught me new things entirely, that help me to feel prepared for the future. This project has taught me how to build a successful survey and analyze qualitative data."

*Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech*

# A day in Wharton history...



IMAGE COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

RADFORD – On its Instagram account, Glencoe Mansion details the history of the Wharton family each Tuesday.

The Wharton family, including Civil War General Gabriel Wharton and his wife, Nannie Radford Wharton, built and lived in Glencoe Mansion.

"Join us each week as we highlight the Wharton letters by learning what Gabe and Nannie were

doing and thinking on this day in the 1860s," Glencoe posted Tuesday. "On April 9, 1865, Gen. Wharton was in Lynchburg, waiting on Gen. Robert E. Lee. Lee had plans to make a 'junction with rallying forces from the southwest.' This never came to pass. On this day in 1865, Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the Civil War.

Wharton was granted a "leave of absence" a few days later, sending him and his fellow officers home."

To read more about Gabe Wharton's experiences in the Civil War, visit Glencoe to get a copy of "The Wharton's War." It is available at our Gift Shop, open Wednesday to Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 1-4.

*Staff report*

# Obituaries

from page 1

loving care given to Essie.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main St., Radford, Virginia 24141.

The family received friends Friday, April 12, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Danny Newman

## Wade, Jr., William H.

William H. Wade, Jr. (Bill) Mitchell (Jeff), Abi Lester (Darrell), and Ernestine Weeks. Also, nieces by marriage: Aldene Bradley (Jay) and Anette Lloyd (Mark). Special friends left to cherish his memory are Sandy and David Price, Wanda and Cam Chalmers, Sandra Smith, and Pastor John and Carrie Hopkins. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Beulah and Howard Wade and his sister, Mae Wade Bayse.



Bill was born in Vicker, Va. March 21, 1933. As a young adult, he

worked with his father, constructing homes in Blacksburg, VA. He went on to serve his country in the Army Engineering Aviation Battalion in Korea. While in service, he attended the ETA Jima Specialist School in Japan. Upon returning from overseas, he received his AAS degree in Architectural Drafting from New River Community College in 1975. Bill held various positions throughout his career, including Project Engineer at Hubbell Lighting and serving as Project Manager for the Horton Center for the Virginia Tech Foundation. He was a faithful attendee of Blacksburg First Wesleyan Church since he was a child, enjoying assisting with sound equipment for services as a young adult.

Bill and Lois were married Feb. 10, 1962, in Roanoke. They began many travels and have been to 48 states, as well as Canada. In their later years, Bill and Lois served as primary caregivers to many dear family members. Bill was a wonderful and dedicated supporter of Lois in her love for nursing home ministry. Bill greatly enjoyed spending time on the enclosed porch, enjoying the sun,

beautiful views, and watching the deer from his home, despite his struggle with dementia and his eventual stay in Kroontje Health Care Center.

A note of special thanks to Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, Dr. Schano, Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and Christiansburg Rescue Squad. Also, to the three main caregivers: Fredene Poff, Anette Lloyd, and Darrell Lester. Thanks to McCoy Funeral Home, following his passing, Bill was able to make his final trip through Vicker, VA, followed by his wife, Lois, his cousin, Fredene, and his niece, Anette.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to Blacksburg First Wesleyan Church Outreach Project, a project begun by Bill and Lois to help others: Blacksburg First Wesleyan, 1406 Giles Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Visitation was Friday, April 12, 2024, at McCoy Funeral Home, followed by a short service in the mausoleum at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg, VA, with Pastor John Hopkins officiating, assisted by Reverend David Bayse.

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# Symphony

from page 1

she has explored Silvestrov's vocal music.

This performance is supported in part by Minnis and Louise Ridenour and David and Judie Reemsnyder.

Tickets for the performance are \$40-

\$85 for general audience and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

*Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech*

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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# Music from page 1

island to island. Outcomes include two award-winning albums, a feature film, an impact program, and two world-touring productions.

Toured to 15 countries across four continents, over 170,000 people have seen “Small Island, Big Song” live since its premiere at SXSW 2018. Encores often spontaneously erupt into a shared celebration, with instruments, voices, and dancing bodies rising from the seats.

Support for “Small Island, Big Song” is provided by the Charles and Dorothy Lambert Endowment for the Arts.

This engagement of is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets for the performance are \$20-\$55 for general audience and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center’s box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

The performance will be held in the center’s Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre,

located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall. Convenient parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street and in downtown Blacksburg. Find more parking details online.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact Jamie Wiggert at least 10 days prior to the event at 540-231-5300 or email wiggertj@vt.edu during regular business hours.

*Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech*



PHOTO COURTESY OF GELÉE LAI

**An Indigenous woman dances onstage during a live production of “Small Island, Big Song.”**

# Camera from page 2

available at www.heatreward.com. Local resident Patrick Melander addressed the council concerning the police department grant.

“I think that’s a slippery slope into, you know, more and more surveillance,” Melander said. “I don’t even know if Christiansburg already has a bunch of cameras set up...but if we don’t, and this is the start of that, I would highly be against it.”

Melander said that he recommended changing the wording and not using the money for cameras.

Additional funds of \$7,500 were also received by the town from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Local Emergency Management Program Grants. The Christiansburg Fire Department will utilize this money for

small equipment expenses. A public hearing is not required for the budget amendments because the total amount of \$20,000 is less than 1% of the total approved budget, the agenda stated.

Christiansburg Police Chief Chris Ramsey provided comments and clarification on the camera usage for the town.

“I will have a little bit more information next meeting when I present just about what the police department is doing in general,” Ramsey said. “This money would be used to purchase flock cameras...but those are stationary license plate readers, and it puts you in a network with a company that manages the data, holds all the video. At present, Montgomery County, Blacksburg,

Virginia Tech, Roanoke County, Pulaski, Roanoke City, there are jurisdictions all over the place that are using this network.”

Ramsey also clarified that the cameras do not provide constant surveillance for the police department.

The cameras will allow for crime units and police departments to respond to alerts for specific vehicle’s license plates that are identified through the camera network. Ramsey said that this system has already been useful in the immediate area with responding to Amber Alerts and in events like the shooting of two journalists in Roanoke County on Aug. 26, 2015 (www.nytimes.com).

A 5-1 vote in approval of the police department grant appropriation of funds was carried, with Councilwoman Kim

Bowman voting against the budget amendment.

In another action by the council, members voted unanimously to approve a resolution declaring April 14-20, 2024, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Also at the April 9, many announcements for activities happening in Christiansburg were shared by Town Manager Randy Wingfield.

A Leaf Giveaway is happening at the Public Works Complex at 250 Scattergood Drive, April 12 and 13.

April 15-26 will mark the Spring Clean-up for the Town of Christiansburg this year.

Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Center will be holding a spring kickoff festival on Saturday April 20, 6-9 p.m.

# Events from page 2

and shoes, toys, books, baby gear, sports equipment, maternity clothing and more. Many items are like-new (some even brand-new). Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. but you will want to shop early for the best selection! Cash or checks only. No card or electronic payments. There is space for new consignors. For more information, email bumckidsale@aol.com.

## On-going: Radford Noon Rotary Club’s Field of Honor

Field of Honor will be installed on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion prior to Memorial Day until the Fourth of July. 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. To register, contact rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com.

# Lanternflies from page 1

lanternflies to spread to more counties, but how many will appear and where is anyone’s guess. He notes that some areas of Virginia that were initially infested have reported fewer sightings.

“Winchester saw lower numbers last year,” he said. “Eventually, native predators start to find them delicious. Also, the spotted lanternfly gets a fungal disease that takes them out. It’s possible that some natural enemies are helping to cull them.”

Industries including agriculture, forestry, logging,

trucking, and construction are the most heavily impacted by the spotted lanternfly, which can damage trees and crops and hitch rides to new locations on machinery and equipment.

The bug threatens crops such as grapes, peaches, and hops along with about 70 tree species, including pines, walnuts, maples, and oaks. Its preferred host is another invasive species called the tree of heaven.

For homeowners, the spotted lanternfly is mostly a nuisance. From November through April, when spotted lanternflies are in their egg stage, Day recommends

checking your property for egg masses and destroying them. If you see nymphs or adults, kill them on sight.

Also, be sure to check cars, trailers, or other equipment for the pests before moving them to another location to avoid inadvertently spreading them. Outdoor items such as grills, fencing, kids’ playhouses, and patio furniture also can be easy locations for egg masses to hide.

Virginia Cooperative Extension’s recent publication Homeowner Suggestions for Managing Spotted Lanternfly offers more helpful tips for

managing the pests. If you find spotted lanternflies in a new area of infestation for Virginia, report it to your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office or online.

In addition to quarantines, education, and outreach, Extension has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to share the best practices for spotted lanternfly management and treatment with homeowners, businesses, and agricultural producers. Both offer an online

Spotted Lanternfly Training course that is required in order to obtain a permit to move regulated materials out of a quarantine area. Since August 2022, more than 450 people have completed the training.

For up-to-date information, visit Virginia Cooperative Extension’s extensive library of online resources on the spotted lanternfly, covering topics from identification and control to quarantines and trainings.

*Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech*

# Radford from page 1

from prior year allocations. The proposed Housing and Community Development goals for 2024 are to support affordable housing, prevent and end homelessness and support non-homeless special needs.

Proposed use of 2024 CDBG funds includes:  
Emergency Home Repair - \$40,000  
Beautification - \$23,300  
Façade Program - \$10,000  
Public Facility Water/Sewer imp - \$100,532  
New River Community Action - \$7,900  
Women’s Resource Center of the NRV - \$7,900  
Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread - \$7,900  
Bobcat Backpack Program - \$4,000

August Kids - \$3,000  
Program Administration - \$27,151  
CDBG TOTAL - \$231,683  
The draft 2024 Annual Action Plan can be reviewed on the City’s website at <https://www.radfordva.gov/>.  
Radford City Community Development office is soliciting comments on the City’s housing and community development needs for a 30-day comment period beginning April 13, 2024, and ending May 13, 2024.

A public comment meeting will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, at 10 Robertson St., Radford.

Comments may also be given via e-mail to: Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov, by phone at (540) 267-3188 or by mail to Community Development, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. Comments must be received by 5 p.m. May 13, 2024.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 267-3188.

Staff report

# Eclipse from page 1

throughout the afternoon, the clouds scattered apart briefly, and the sun and moon played peek-a-boo with those starring up from below.

One of the times was at near-peak solar coverage. At 3:10 p.m., umbraphiles-for-a-day slid over the eyes of their university-provided solar glasses, lifted their heads skyward and uttered a collective and loud “ooooooh!” at the awe-inspiring event.

“I was blown away, to be honest. I was speechless,” Jasmine Graham, a sophomore from Richmond, Virginia, said moments later.

As the eclipse reached its pinnacle, which was about 87% in Radford, views through the solar glasses displayed a dark circle with a bright orange sliver of the sun peeking out to its left.

Physics major Bryce Pappas, of

Roanoke, caught a few eclipse glimpses of the moon-blocked sun with a large telescope equipped with a solar lens. “I loved it. I loved it,” he said. “It’s really amazing.”

Graphic design major Trey Terry felt the same. “Wow, it’s amazing,” he said as he stood beside Graham. “I can’t even put it into words.”

Graham witnessed the 2017 partial solar eclipse at her grandmother’s house, viewing it through a shoebox lens. She doesn’t remember much about it, which is one reason she came out for the campus event.

“This is so cool,” she said, glasses in hand, waiting for one more chance to see the eclipse. “When you look around, you see everybody’s outside, and everybody is looking up to the sky. Everyone seems to be having a good time.”

There was more to the event than sky gazing. The event, organized by the Radford University Planetarium in collaboration with the Artis College of Science and Technology, offered an exceptional lineup of engaging eclipse-themed activities in the Center for Sciences lobby. There were crafts and even cookies placed in moon-and-sun eclipse formations. The planetarium offered shows every 30 minutes, and the Museum of the Earth Sciences opened for visitors to explore the wonders of the Earth.

More than 1,200 solar glasses were issued; 1,000 of those came from the Planetarium and about 200 more from physics majors Kaleb Martin and Daquez Branch through their ambassador designation with the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and NASA.

Kolten Turner enjoyed his time inside the Center for the Sciences just as much as he did outside. So much so, the nine-year-old already can see Radford in his future “because it has a lot of technology,” he said, standing with his family outside with rain sprinkling the dispersing crowd as the main attraction waned. “It can teach me a lot of things, and it has cool things inside, like the planetarium.”

The main attraction, however, remained the sun and the moon ... and the clouds, which threw more shade on the event than everyone had hoped.

But that was OK with Terry. “It was just amazing to see,” said the junior from Newport News. “This just feels like a moment in history.”

*Chad Osborne for Radford University*



# RADFORD SPORTS



This season, Hokies are set up for continuity in kicking units.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

## Spring Football Preview: Special Teams

Having already taken a look at what Virginia Tech looks like on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball, there's still plenty to break down with special teams before the 2024 campaign.

The Hokies bring back some familiar faces, with lots to like about the group as a whole. Let's take a quick glance at what Tech could look like on that side of the ball.

### Placekicker

There's no doubt that special teams coordinator Stu Holt has to feel good about the kicker position heading into the upcoming season.

Tech returns incumbent starter John Love to the fold following a successful redshirt freshman season in the maroon and orange. The Spartanburg, South Carolina, native went 22-of-24 on field goal attempts in 2023, connecting on 91.7% of his kicks, which was good for sixth in the country.

Love also knocked through all 47 of his extra-point tries, solidifying himself as one of the better kickers in the country.

Kyle Lowe also comes back for the

Hokies this upcoming year. The redshirt junior proved to be key in handling kickoff duties a season ago, booting 54 kicks through the end zone for touchbacks, good for 71% of the time, and helping the team recover 2-of-3 attempted onside kicks.

### Punter

Three-year starter Peter Moore is back for his fifth year with the program in 2024, while redshirt junior Nick Veltsistas and redshirt sophomore Bryce LaFollette add some depth as well.

Moore, a former All-ACC honoree and Ray Guy Award Watch List member, punted the ball 60 times — with no blocks — for 2,588 yards a season ago, averaging a solid 43.13 yards per kick and placing the ball inside the 20-yard line 17 times in his redshirt junior campaign.

### Long Snapper

It's hard to ignore the long snapper position when looking at the success of a special teams unit as a whole.

Gone is fifth-year man Justin Pollock,

who helped steer the ship at the position the past few years, but back is redshirt sophomore Christian Epling, who snapped on field goals a year ago.

Redshirt senior Griffin Armstrong is also back for another season in the long snapping corps, while Tech welcomed in Massachusetts transfer Tate Kendall this spring as well.

### Kick Returner

The return of Bhayshul Tuten allows the Hokies to maintain a dynamic presence in the return game for 2024. Tuten ran two kickoffs back for touchdowns a season ago, becoming one of five players nationally to house multiple returns for scores.

Standing at 5-foot-11, 209 pounds, Tuten averaged close to 29 yards a return — good for fifth in the country — and went for 550 yards on 19 attempts over the course of the campaign.

That's not without mentioning Malachi Thomas there to help out as well. The Hartwell, Georgia, product assisted Tuten on kicks a year ago, taking it out on five separate occasions that

went for 81 yards.

### Punt Returner

There's certainly no shortage of talent when it comes to what Tech can trot out onto the field to return kicks this upcoming season.

Junior Tucker Holloway is back for another season after taking the reins for the majority of the past two years. The Andrews, North Carolina, native returned 20 punts for 258 yards in 2023, averaging almost 13 yards per attempt — the seventh-highest in the country.

That's not to say standout receiver Jaylin Lane couldn't play a role either. The second-year member of the maroon and orange had five opportunities to return punts a year ago and served as the primary punt returner during his Middle Tennessee days back in 2022.

Overall, the depth and talent across each special teams unit will provide opportunities for student-athletes to make an impact and work their way onto the field during game day.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

## What to expect from VT's Spring game



### From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Hokie fans can catch a glimpse of the new and improved Virginia Tech football team later today, Saturday, April 13, during the annual Spring Game.

The Hokies are coming off a 7-6 campaign in 2023 during Head Coach Brent Pry's second season, winning six of their last nine games, including the Military Bowl, 41-20 over Tulane.

It was Tech's first bowl win since 2016 and Pry's first win over a ranked team as head coach.

Quarterback Kyron Drones was named Military Bowl MVP after rushing for a Military Bowl record and Virginia Tech bowl record 176 yards.

Drones and nearly the entire offense return in 2024, along with several key contributors on defense. Up to 20 starters in 2023 will have the opportunity to make an impact and provide continuity in all three phases.

The question for onlookers is what we will see when the Hokies take the field for the end of Spring workouts. There are concerns over who will be QB2, will the team have depth at running back and who will stand out in a very crowded receiver room.

On defense, many new faces have slid into spots on the line and what can a couple of transfers bring to the table at linebacker.

The coaching staff will also be centerstage after a slow start on both sides of the ball this past season.

Pry said the format for the game will be four quarters.

"Yeah, we're going to continue with what we've done. We're going to play four quarters. Right now, the first quarter, our plan is to be 15 minutes; in the second quarter, 12 minutes, true clock, both quarters. Then, in the third and fourth quarters, twelve minutes of running clock. Sometimes injuries and other things can affect that, but that's the plan right now," Pry said.

The second-year coach hopes to make the game more competitive while exploring talent.

"I do, and that's one of the reasons we're going to continue with the plan to make it competitive. I don't know if that was the right thing to do last year for that reason. But I do think we're in a better place from a depth standpoint on both fronts. Really across the team to play competitively for four quarters, with the team split, which is, you know, if we can go do that, that's a good sign," Pry said.

The real question is what fans should expect from the field.

Linebacker Jaden Keller told reporters earlier this week that are plenty of excitement around the Spring game.

"Oh, man, that's the best thing I can wait for. After the season ends, all you can wait for is for that first game back. So, we're doing all this hard work, all this hitting, all this stuff. But really, the main goal is to get back in there. So just prepare every day until I come back," he said.

If you're keeping a report card, the defense needs to show an increased "killer instinct". Pry's expertise has been touted as this side of the ball, and now is the time for them to show some improvement.

Meanwhile, Kyron Drones has been

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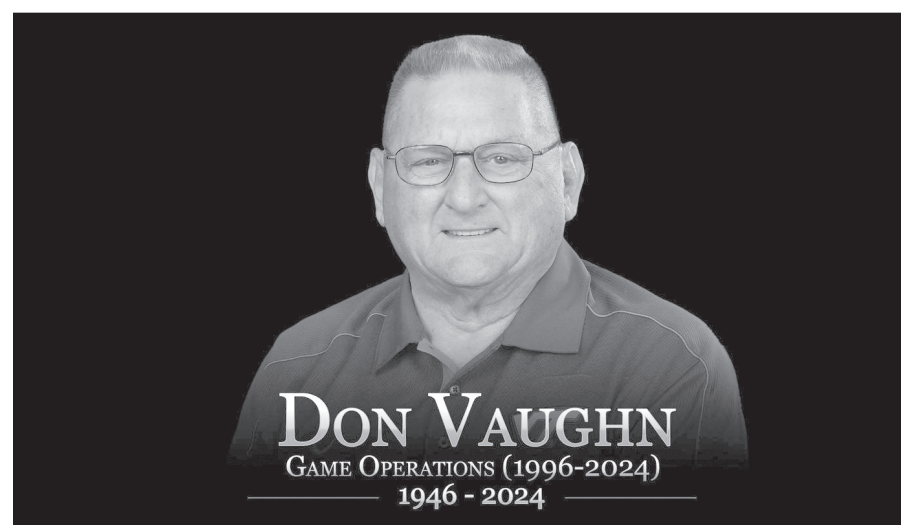


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

## In Memoriam:

## Remembering Don Vaughn

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to a cherished member of our Virginia Tech Athletics family, Don Vaughn.

His passing has left a void that cannot be filled, as his presence touched the lives of many in profound ways. Don Vaughn, a beloved colleague, friend, and mentor, passed away Monday afternoon.

Don's contributions extended far beyond his professional endeavors. For nearly 30 years, he demonstrated unparalleled dedication, passion, and expertise as part of our game operations team. His commitment to excellence was evident in every project he undertook, inspiring those around him to strive for greatness. Don's

legacy will continue to shape our athletics department for years to come.

Beyond his professional achievements, Don was known for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering support for others. He had a rare gift for making everyone feel valued and heard, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him. Whether offering words of encouragement or lending a helping hand, Don's compassion knew no bounds.

Those who were fortunate enough to call Don a friend knew him as someone who brought joy and laughter wherever he went. His infectious smile and sense of humor could brighten even the darkest of days.

Don's passing leaves

behind a profound sense of loss, but his memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. As we mourn his absence, let us also celebrate the remarkable life he lived and the countless lives he touched along the way. Though he may be gone, his spirit will continue to inspire us to live with purpose, kindness, and compassion.

In honoring Don's memory, let us strive to emulate the qualities that made him so beloved—a dedication to excellence, a commitment to kindness, and a genuine love for others.

Rest in peace, "Hokie Don." You will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

*Virginia Tech Athletics*

# RADFORD SPORTS

## Blacksburg girls lose a close one



Blacksburg's Karlyle Gresham races ahead of Virginia Episcopal School's Frances Fenton to start the Blacksburg offense. Blacksburg would fall to Virginia Episcopal School (Lynchburg) by the score of 17-18.



Blacksburg's Charis Krouscas reacts after scoring a second quarter goal to help spark a comeback against Virginia Episcopal School on Monday night.



Blacksburg's Azalee Chasea collects a loose ball and converts it to a Blacksburg score to gain a second half lead against Virginia Episcopal School.



Blacksburg's Hayli Williams scores in the waning minutes against Virginia Episcopal School (Lynchburg), but it would not be enough as the Bruins lose a close game, 17-18.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Radford Bobcats narrowly defeated by Glenvar

On Tuesday night the Radford Bobcats opened district play against the Glenvar Highlanders.

Radford and Glenvar traded leads three times in a game played under the lights due to a rain delay. The Highlanders took the lead for good in

the bottom of the fourth inning when Hannah Street singled, scoring two runs. The Bobcats collected 12 hits on the day with Kira Rollins and Addie Saunders going three for four from the plate with Rollins driving in four of the five Radford

runs on the day. Quinn Burton and Ariel Sutphin also collected multiple hits for the Bobcats and Saunders, Rollins and Ella Cox each doubled during the game. Quinn Burton took the loss for the Bobcats, spreading out seven hits over six innings and striking out seven. For Glenvar, Hannah Street went two for four and picked up the save. Teubert collected the win going six innings giving up 12 hits and five runs. The final score was 6-5, Glenvar.

Sam Burton



Kira Rollins, up at bat, was responsible for four out of five runs for Radford.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BURTON

### THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is developing its 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP provides an annual schedule of activities, lists planning tasks and studies, and identifies funding sources. A draft plan is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Montgomery and Pulaski County offices. It is also available on the MPO website:

www.nrvmpo.org

Deadline for written comments: 5:00 PM April 17, 2024

Oral comments will also be taken at the MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM on May 2, 2024 at the Montgomery County Government Center.

Comments can also address transit projects for which Federal operating and capital assistance will be sought under 49 USC Section 5303, as well as other transportation modes.

The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: brughjd@montgomerycountya.gov or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.



## Tickets available for ACC baseball tourney

Single-session tickets for the 2024 Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball Tournament, scheduled for May 21-26, at Truist Field in Charlotte, N.C., are now on sale.

In addition to single-session tickets, all-session passes and weekend passes are on sale for the ACC Baseball Championship. All-session passes begin at \$170 for field box and \$225 for club seats. Weekend passes begin at \$50 for outfield seats, \$60 for field box and \$80 for club seats. All full ticket books include

admission to each of the 15 tournament games, including the championship game on Sunday. Tickets are priced as follows:

Tues. - Fri. (Fri. day games only): Club - \$22; Field Box - \$17

Fri. night, Sat. and Sun.: Club - \$27; Field Box - \$22; Outfield - \$17; and Standing Room Only - \$12

All-Session Books: Club - \$225; Field Box - \$170

Weekend Pass (Fri. night, Sat. and Sun.): Club - \$80; Field Box

- \$60; Outfield - \$50

Fans will have the opportunity to purchase two outfield tickets to the games on Tues., May 21 for just \$22. On Thurs., fans can snag a Bojangles Four-Pack, which includes four tickets and a Bojangles gift card for just \$54.

Additional promotions will take place throughout the entirety of the ACC Championship.

Atlantic Coast Conference

## Spring game

from page 9

given the key to the convertible, and he must show a leadership role from the QB1 position. This is even more important this off season as there is real no quarterback battle for him to deal with. Instead, the second level is the key as Drones must avoid injury or else. The "or else," who is his backup? Expect Dylan Wittke and Pop Watson to see lots of action during this spring

game.

The Hokies must also set the foundation for a better running game. This will help take the pressure off of Drones and enable him to shine in his second season in Blacksburg.

The overall expectations must remain guarded at least for the near future. Long-term, we simply don't know how this coaching staff will handle a very talented roster.

The future schedule is setup to allow for this development and should give fans a taste of winning for the first time in four years.

Kickoff for the Spring game is set for 3 p.m. ET in Lane Stadium and as always is free admission. The Hokies open the 2024 season on Aug. 31 at Vanderbilt with their home opener against Marshall on Sept. 7.