

Radford Noon Rotary, district Rotary provide wheelchairs to people in need

Club member recently returned from distributing chairs in Ecuador

Heather Bell
Editor

Mary Alice Barksdale, of the Radford Noon Rotary Club, and two members of the Blacksburg Rotary Club recently returned from a trip to Ecuador to distribute life-changing wheelchairs.

“Rotary Districts 7570 and 7360 collaborated with the Wheelchair Foundation and Rotary Clubs in Guayaquil and Cuenca to provide 270 wheelchairs to those in need,” said Barksdale. “I’ve been profoundly impacted by my involvement in this project and feel that I no longer wish

to go on vacations to see parts of the country and the world that I haven’t seen simply for the pleasure of seeing them. I only want to go on “vacations” in which there is some type of giving back mission. Seeing places is great and I’ve seen much of the world. If I’m going to see more places, I want to see them in combination with helping others. I had no idea of the desperate need for wheelchairs worldwide before becoming involved.”

Barksdale explained Rotary Districts 7570 and 7610 collect the funding for half of one container of wheelchairs (about 265-270).

“We send the funds to the Wheelchair

Foundation, who matches what we have contributed,” she said. “The Wheelchair Foundation orders the container of wheelchairs to be made in China. The container is shipped directly to the country where the chairs will be distributed, so we avoid entry fees in the US and then the country we are going to.”

Barksdale said Rotary Clubs in the country they are visiting make the arrangements to collect and store the wheelchairs and members of those clubs identify people in the community who

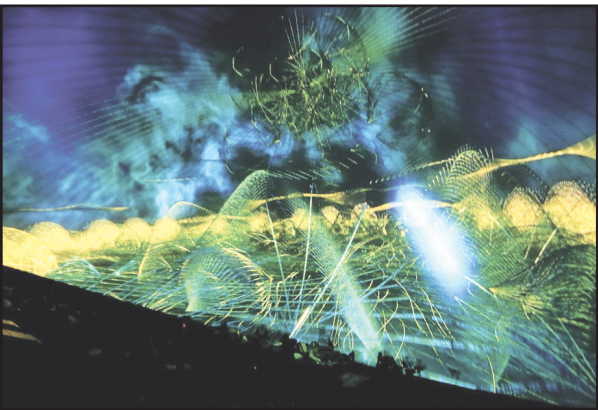


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY ALICE BARKSDALE

Mary Alice Barksdale, a member of the Radford Noon Rotary Club, along with other Rotary members, puts a smile on the face of one of the people who received a wheelchair.

See **Wheelchairs**, page 2

Mesmerica 360 coming to Radford University Planetarium



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MESMERICA

Mesmerica 360, a stunning sensory journey bringing together the music of award-winning composer James Hood with visually-hypnotic animated 3D art curated from artists around the world, is coming to the Radford University Planetarium next week.

RADFORD - Mesmerica 360, a stunning sensory journey bringing together the music of award-winning composer James Hood with visually-hypnotic animated 3D art curated from artists around the world, is coming to the Radford University Planetarium next week.

The show is now breaking all existing records for full-dome/planetarium music shows.

The show is a 360° light and sound projection spectacle creating

a family-friendly experience designed to transcend time and create an environment in which to relax while simultaneously captivating the senses. It’s a combination which has audiences coming to experience it time and again.

“The power of immersive music and art is like no other art form, it has the ability to create unique moods and brain states, and we’re so thrilled and honored to be able to showcase this full-dome

presentation in such wonderful venues as the planetariums,” said creator James Hood.

The show will be shown at the Radford University Planetarium July 12 and 13 at 5 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$20 at <https://tickets.mesmerica.com/radford/>.

Mesmerica is suitable for all ages six and above with a running time of approximately 60 minutes.

Mesmerica

SCHEV award helps support Pell-eligible Radford University undergrads

RADFORD - The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) has awarded a \$1.2 million grant to Radford University to establish a program designed to increase retention and graduation rates of Pell Grant-eligible and low-income undergraduate students at the university.

The goal of the four-year grant is to increase retention by 5% and six-year graduation rates for this population by the end of the 2027-28 academic year. To help carry out the program, Radford will use the grant funds to hire four student success advocates (SSAs).

Working within Radford’s Dean of Students office, advocates will be assigned to work with all of Radford’s Pell-eligible students and provide them with programming, advocacy, interventions and

resources to promote their efforts to remain enrolled at the university through graduation.

To do so, advocates will provide comprehensive support systems that assure academic success, student well-being, a sense of belonging and career preparedness.

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

"By receiving this exceptional SCHEV grant, Radford has a unique opportunity to positively impact our Pell-eligible student population," said interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Bruce Hayden '93, M.S. '95. "We are strategically positioned to provide student success advocates as dedicated resources and advocates for these students. The SSAs will help navigate pathways and connect

students to resources they may not be aware of. I firmly believe that the touchpoints between SSAs and their students will significantly contribute to achieving their graduation goals."

Employing student success measure s supports Radford's ongoing commitment to address the overall representation and success of low-income and Pell-eligible undergraduate students at the university. The program aligns with the Virginia Plan, the commonwealth's higher education strategic plan, by addressing university enrollment, retention and completion for Pell-eligible, low-income undergraduate students.

SCHEV is the Commonwealth of Virginia's coordinating body for higher education.

Radford University

Fireworks light up the sky for the Fourth of July



PHOTO BY HEATHER BELL

The City of Radford’s fireworks display on Thursday, July 4 capped off the daylong Spirit of America festival in Bisset Park, which featured live music, games, vendors, a dog show and more.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY/ CITY OF RADFORD

City of Radford, Radford University to host Radford Community Fest 2024

RADFORD - The City of Radford and Radford University are co-hosting a new street festival event downtown this August.

R a d f o r d Community Fest is set to take place Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024 on East Main Street, spanning from Third Avenue to Tyler Avenue, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Vendor spots are now available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Radford Community Fest 2024 is planned as a street festival with the portion of East Main Street closed to maximize the fun. The day will be filled with a wide array of activities and attractions. Attendees can look forward to numerous vendors, food trucks, a beer garden, live music, and street performers. The University's Fraternity and Sorority Life office will be hosting a Kid's Zone, which will include arts and crafts, bounce houses, and games, ensuring fun for the whole family. Best of all, there is no admission fee, making this a free event for all citizens, students, employees, family members, and visitors.

"The new Community Fest being launched this year is a wonderful way to help welcome our new student residents to Radford and to showcase our downtown district allowing them to get to know what if there

and for the businesses to get to meet them," said Radford Mayor David Horton. "This is an outstanding partnership between the city and the university for the benefit of all."

"Radford University is excited to partner with the City of Radford to co-host the inaugural Radford Community Fest," said Radford University President Bret Danilowicz. "This event will bring members of the university and city communities together with visitors and vendors throughout the New River Valley and beyond to celebrate our partnerships and enjoy a day of food, fun, and fellowship."

Vendor spots are available for a fee of \$50 for a 10x10 space, with a total of 70 spots offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Vendors are responsible for bringing their own tents, tables, and chairs. Designated vendor parking will be provided. Additionally, there is a discount code available for businesses within the City of Radford and on the university campus. Email studentlife@radford.edu to inquire about the discount code. Vendors can register for a booth at the University Ticket Hub: <https://radfordactivities.universitytickets.com/w/default.aspx>.

Radford University

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 10:

Blacksburg Farmers Market
At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 – 6 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Market Square Jam
Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The Jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Thursday, July 11:

Thursday night indoor concerts
Two indoor concerts will be offered, including one community sing event. Concerts will be held at the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St. SE.
"Shakespeare's Music," July 11 - A concert of music inspired by Shakespeare.
"A Treasury of English Music," July 25 - Music by Handel, Purcell, and others. This event is a community sing. Rehearsals began on July 1. Contact the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church to get involved.

Saturday, July 13:

Fish Fry
Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July Fish Fry, 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults- \$12, children under 12- \$6, under 3-free, carry-outs- \$12. This month, the Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra will be playing. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at

Wheelchairs

from page 1

are most in need of new wheelchairs. "When we arrive, we pay our own hotels and meals, otherwise, we could not give out so many wheelchairs," she said. "The clubs in the target country really want representatives from the US clubs to come and be involved in distributions, in part because it makes the gift of a wheelchair more highly valued than an unknown giver from a US organization."

Barksdale said the day after their arrival, they begin traveling to locations and distributing the wheelchairs to the people that have been identified as needing them. She said the need is overwhelming.

"We have had hundreds of children brought in who have been carried every moment of their lives by parents and other family members, people who have lived their lives on crutches or with canes, people in modified strollers and office chairs, and some people arrive in wheelchairs that are decrepit, held together with duct tape," she said. "For about seven days, we travel to locations by bus and distribute wheelchairs."

This was Barksdale's second trip to distribute wheelchairs, and another may be planned for this fall.

"Last year, we were in Jamaica, this spring Ecuador, in the fall there will be a trip to Bolivia if enough funding is there," she said. "They are planned one at a time, always a collaboration between Rotarians in Districts 7570 and 7360, the Rotary Clubs in the country we will visit, and the Wheelchair Association."

Barksdale, who has been a Rotary Club member since 2009, was not the only New River Valley resident to go on the trip. Christy Brown and 90-year-old Walter Pirie, both members of the Blacksburg Rotary Club, also participated in the trip and have been involved with the effort for

the past two years.

Barksdale said she has a lot of personal reasons to help people receive the wheelchairs they need. "Grandmother Barksdale in Gary, West Virginia lost her right leg to bone cancer at age 16," said Barksdale. "She lived her life on crutches until she was finally able to get a wheelchair at age 65. Wheelchairs weren't affordable and weren't covered by health insurance programs for coal miners' families."

"Grandmother St. Clair spent much of her final 20 years in wheelchairs, living to age 96," she continued. "My mother had her right leg amputated and lived her final years in wheelchairs. She was lucky enough to get a rechargeable motorized one that my brother found on Craig's list. An electronic wheelchair wasn't covered for mom by Medicare."

Barksdale said he travels have also taken her to places where the need for wheelchairs is great.

"[I've had] many years of observing survivors of polio in Malawi, who spent their lives crawling because their legs couldn't support their trunks," she said. "I never saw a single wheelchair in Malawi. Many hospitals and clinics didn't have doctors available on a regular basis."

"Also, during a Fulbright Scholar opportunity in South Africa, I saw many people in the townships, including children, who were carried everywhere they went in their lives," she added. "These children didn't go to school because classrooms had 40 or more students with one teacher, and there was no one who could provide support for children who needed to be carried."

To make a donation to the effort, log on to <https://fundraise.wheelchairfoundation.org/give/504194/#!/donation/checkout>.

MrTaborRuritan.

Blacksburg Farmers Market
At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Radford Farmer's Market
Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Sunday, July 14:

Vintage Market
At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/.

Thursday, July 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 on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Seth Gravely will speak on the "29th Virginia Infantry Regiment". For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Monday, July 22:

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are normally held 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, July 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.

On-going:

Applications open for healthcare workshop for people with disabilities
Individuals with disabilities who live in Radford City and Floyd County can apply for a program presented by the New River Valley Disability Resource Center. "Improving Health Literacy Through Technology" is a program help people with disabilities gain better access to healthcare. Participants receive a free iPad after completing six weekly, one-hour workshops exploring how to use technology to take better control of health and social support needs. Workshops run Aug. 1 through Sept. 5. Applications available at www.nrfdc.org or by calling 540-266-1435 or email at outreach@nrfdc.org, and at the Radford and Floyd libraries. The application deadline is Fri., July 12.



The local Rotary districts provided 270 wheelchairs in their most recent distribution trip.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY ALICE BARKSDALE

Many of the recipients are getting their first-ever wheelchair through the project.

Business REVIEW

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OBITUARIES

Shelor, Thelma J.

Thelma J. Shelor, 91, of Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg, passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus, Wednesday night, July 3, 2024.

Thelma was born Feb. 3, 1933, to the late Alvie H. and Hazel W. Jones. She was preceded in death by her husband Kelly Shelor, daughter, Kathy Shelor Bennett, and sisters, Barbara Jones and Bonnie Jones Linkous.

Left to cherish her memory are children Leah Tate (Jessie), Kelly Rex (Doris) Shelor, Dwight “Dickie” (Phyllis) Shelor, Micky Eugene “Gene” (Mary) Shelor, and Crystal Eckberg (Erik); nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren; sisters Maggie Alene Jones and Diana Jones; brother-in-law Rev. Buford Linkous; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and close



friends.

Thelma loved the Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, where she attended all her life and served in many capacities, including Sunday School teacher and Women’s Ministries Director for many years. She was also active in community volunteer programs and Red Hat Society. Thelma was a resident of Warm Hearth Village for 24 years where she also took active part in activities and surrounded herself with new friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to:

Women’s Ministry of Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, 894 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060; or Warm Hearth Foundation, send donations to the Village Center, 2387 Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff at Kroontje Health Care Center for their care and helpfulness during Thelma’s stay. We would also like to thank the Good Sam Hospice staff for their excellent care.

The family received friends Saturday, July 6, 2024, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive SW, Blacksburg, Virginia, 24060. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, July 7, 2024 in the Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church with the Rev. Richard Hall officiating. Interment followed in the Jennelle Cemetery.

Rakes, Janice Ann Rupe

Janice Ann Rupe Rakes, 78, of Shawsville, passed away peacefully in her home July 2, 2024 surrounded by her family. She was born in Radford Feb. 23, 1946. She was preceded in death by her parents Henry and Helen Rupe, brother Henry “June” Rupe, sister Diane Murdock, and daughter Kim “Kimmie” Rakes. She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, George W. “Bill” Rakes; sister Beatrice Linkous and brother Donald “Tony” Rupe; children Lisa Shepherd; Billy Rakes and Hope; Shawn Rakes and Kim; grandchildren Amber Perdue (Daniel), Josh Rakes (Chelsea), Megan Hopkins, and William Rakes; and great-grandchildren Paisley



and Piper Perdue, Steven and Macy Rakes, and John, Theo and Caroline Hopkins.

Janice was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother and she had a special place in her heart for children. She was always kind and would go out of her way to help anyone she could. She loved her family and gave everyone treasures she found just for them while thrifting. She

enjoyed finding beauty in nature especially with her flowers and her yard decorations. Janice carried her sense of humor until the end. She was quick to make you laugh, even without trying. She loved family celebrations, so there is no doubt that she is now celebrating in heaven walking the streets of gold!

Funeral services were conducted Friday, July 5, 2024 at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Mike Johnston officiating. Interment followed in the Sunset Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Open Door Baptist Church PO Box 2524 Christiansburg, VA 24068.

Treat, Dawn Carol Gridley

Dawn Carol Gridley Treat, 55, of Max Meadows, passed away Wednesday, July 3, 2024. She was preceded in death by her sister, Beth Lovingood.

Survivors include

her daughter, Hannah Riley Gridley; father and stepmother, Donald and Doris Gridley; mother and stepfather, Sharon and Walter Lane; former husband, Michael Treat; puppy, Ani; two nieces

and one great niece; and other relatives and friends.

Services will be private at a later date.

The Treat family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Wolfe, Jerry Alvin

Jerry Alvin Wolfe, 71, of Christiansburg, passed away Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe Franklin Wolfe and Maggie Owens Parrish; his brother, Donnie Wolfe; and his sister, Linda Smith.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Scottie Wolfe (Penny); daughter, Lisa Leftwich; fiancé, Lisa Linkous; grandchildren, Saige, Zeb, Chainey, Tryston, Nacoma, and Sara; great-grandchildren, Case,



Alizah, Adalyn, Caden, Ellington, and Axel Rafe; sister and brother-in-law, Juanita Cochran (Bob); special friends, Larry Knowles and

Frankie Burton; canine companion, Noodles; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and special friends.

A memorial service was held Friday, July 5, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 in memory of Jerry.

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

Worthington, Jo Ann

Jo Ann Worthington, 83, of Radford, passed away Friday, July 5, 2024. She was born December 21, 1940. Jo Ann is now in heaven walking with angels, with her beautiful smile and sweet giggles.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, William Worthington, who passed away June 17, 2024. She was also preceded in death by her brother, John Justice and two sisters, Ada and Shirley.

Survivors include her son, Billy Worthington and daughter-in-law Kathy Worthington; daughter, Kennette Jones; son, Jeff McPeake; daughter, Tammy Dye;



four grandchildren, Kory Jones, Carlie McPeake, Shaelyn Harmon, and Wyatt Harmon; one great granddaughter, Brielle Jones; and Peekaboo, her beloved cat.

Jo Ann Worthington (Jodie) worked at Kmart in Fairlawn for 30 years. She was so proud of all of her customer service

awards and employee of the month awards. She loved all her customers. She loved to fish and could shoot a rifle better than most men. Jodie was a very hard worker and supported her family. She enjoyed being able to be home with her granddaughter, Carlie, and watching her grow up.

Services were held at the church she loved so much, River City Christian Church, 1301 West Main St. Radford VA, 24141, on Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

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

Paralyzed Veterans of America Kicks Off Annual Food City / Richard Petty fundraiser

In-Store donation drive through July 30, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Paralyzed Veterans of America – the nation’s premier nonprofit of choice for disabled Veterans, their families, and caregivers – today launched its annual in-store checkout campaign with long-time partner Food City and seven-time NASCAR champion Richard Petty. The promotion helps PVA ensure disabled veterans receive the benefits they earned, the specialized health care they need, the meaningful careers they want, and more. Since 2011, Food City has raised nearly \$3.69 million dollars, with last year’s campaign raising nearly half a million dollars for PVA.

“Partners, like Food City, are essential to PVA as they allow us to better serve and empower veterans with spinal cord injuries and diseases, like MS and ALS,” said U.S. Army Veteran and PVA national president Robert Thomas. “We are eternally grateful to them and their generous customers, as well as our long-time supporter Richard Petty for the invaluable role they play in helping our veterans regain their independence and live fulfilling lives.”

This year’s in-store donation drive will run at Food City’s supermarket chain

stores from July 3, 2024, through July 30, 2024. Customers can select \$1, \$3, or \$5 donations at Food City checkouts and their gift amount will be added to their total grocery bill. Food City will also offer customers an opportunity to donate as part of a charity round-up feature on their registers at checkout.

“As a long-time PVA supporter, I have had the privilege of seeing the impact that their partnership with Food City has had on so many veterans,” said Petty. “There’s no better way to celebrate the holiday than giving back to those who have given so much.”

“We are thankful to our dedicated team of associates and loyal customers for making this campaign a success year after year,” said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer. “Together, we have been able to support PVA and make our communities stronger. We look forward to working alongside PVA and Richard Petty again this year.”

To learn more about the Food City/PVA partnership and this month’s activation visit FoodCity.com.

Food City

Virginia Tech scientist awarded grant to study debilitating neurological disorder



PHOTO BY CLAYTON METZ FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Meike van der Heijden’s lab at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC studies dystonia, a neurological disorder that causes debilitating involuntary muscle contractions. She received a grant from the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation to further her investigation.

Neuroscientist Meike van der Heijden, assistant professor at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, has been awarded a grant to explore the brain mechanisms behind dystonia, a debilitating but understudied neurological disorder.

Van der Heijden received the two-year, \$190,000 award from the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation.

“It’s a troubling condition that interferes with daily life, but we have hope that we can help those patients,” said Van der Heijden, who is also assistant professor in Virginia Tech’s School of Neuroscience in the College of Science. “On top of that, if we understand better how dystonia works, we will understand better how the brain works and contribute to knowledge of related movement disorders.”

As many as 250,000 people in the United States have dystonia, according to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, making it the third most common movement disorder in the U.S. behind essential tremor and Parkinson’s disease.

Dystonia has no single genetic or other diagnostic marker, so it’s identified by its presentation.

The disorder generally involves excessive and involuntary muscle contractions in any region of the body that contort the body into abnormal positions. It can also involve repetitive body movements that might look like tremors. Dystonia is sometimes

misdiagnosed as muscle cramps, orthopedic conditions such as scoliosis, a tic, or essential tremor.

Patients with generalized dystonia are often bedridden, Van der Heijden said. Few effective therapies exist.

Because it presents in a variety of ways and lacks strong genetic models, it’s a challenge to study dystonia, Van der Heijden said.

Her investigation focuses on the cerebellum, an area at the base of the brain that’s important for movement. Growing evidence suggests this region is central to dystonia.

Van der Heijden and her lab are interested in electrical signals involving a certain cell type in the cerebellum and how those signals correspond to movement disorders.

“We first found that there are different signal patterns, and now we want to know, where do those patterns come from?” she said.

The cells could be an important target for therapies because they are near enough to the surface of the brain to be reached by noninvasive measures such as transcranial magnetic stimulation, which uses magnetic pulses to stimulate nerve cells in the brain.

“If we first know how those patterns arise,” Van der Heijden said, “then we can start thinking about how we can normalize them. We can think about new and less invasive therapies.”

Virginia Tech

OPINION

Coach Curtis Campbell left lasting impression in short time at CHS

Many of us who attended Christiansburg High in the mid to late 1960’s had the privilege of being taught or coached, or both, by Curtis Campbell. Coach Campbell, like most of the coaches at CHS of that era, had been hired out of Emory & Henry College by my father. He had been a star football and baseball player for the Wasps and was inducted into the E & H Sports Hall of Fame in 1980.

I have previously written about the “Emory & Henry Mafia” at CHS - Buddy Earp, Omar Ross, Ken Stickley, Joe Rusek, and other Emory alums who were brought into the Montgomery County school system by my dad during this time, either while he was serving as principal at CHS or as county superintendent. He was unabashed in his affection for his alma mater, and it showed in his hiring decisions. Unfortunately, Coach Campbell was only in our county for a few years before relocating to Wytheville, where he went on to a distinguished career as a teacher and administrator. Wytheville’s gain was Christiansburg’s loss. I doubt he will even remember me, but my memories of his time at CHS are plentiful and endearing.

As is my ilk, I thought it would be fun to reflect on Coach Campbell and his “too short of a time” as a Blue Demon. I hope it will rekindle warm memories in the hearts of some of my classmates and contemporaries and maybe for others paint a small picture of the influence that coaches and teachers can have on the lives of their wards. While the time with coaches and teachers is short, the impact can last a lifetime.

Curt came to CHS in the fall of 1964, as assistant varsity football coach under Omar Ross and as a physical education and Latin teacher. One of the great incongruities of life to me has always been that this big, physical man, a star offensive tackle in college, was a Latin teacher! I didn’t personally have him for that subject, but rather I had the lovely Priscilla Fleshman, who came to CHS a couple of years later. But I did have Coach Campbell for three years of P.E. class, and as a football coach when he was generous enough to dress a bunch of my jayvee teammates and me for varsity games at the end of our ninth and tenth grade seasons.

Now for some memories. I remember Coach Campbell walking through the locker room while we dressed for two-a-days in August, yelling, “boys, the ‘hummaditty (humidity) is gonna be high today, get your salt tablets (yeah, that’s what they gave us), make



Evans “Buddy” King

Columnist

sure you get your O2” (he had trouble pronouncing oxygen); jokingly calling me a hillbilly when I put my football socks under my regular socks (like you wear in baseball, the opposite of how football socks are worn) the first time I dressed for a varsity game; going crazy at the referees in the game that same night when a bad spot on fourth down cost us a chance to beat Narrows (I happened to be standing beside Coach when he jumped five feet in the air and screamed); winning four or five straight at the end of his second season, after we lost our first five, but perhaps becoming too close to a great returning class the next season. Curt was only a few years older than the stars on that team and ultimately they were probably too close in age for him to have the control over them that was needed. Poignant memory.

I especially remember phys. ed the spring of my freshman year when Curt had decided to install a new offense the next fall (from the Wing T to the I if you’re curious). He pulled Tony Price and me and another couple of football guys from class and took us on the field to develop his playbook, leaving the other P.E. teacher to handle the remaining 70 or so boys in the gym. Instead of a football, Curt brought a silver milk pitcher to use for handoffs. He said that made the offseason practice “legal.” I was very excited by all of this of course and one night at the dinner table I told my father (then superintendent) all about it, even the milk pitcher part, and how that “didn’t violate the rules.” I remember my dad sighed, rolled his eyes, and said not to mention it to him again.

Despite being a football coach in an era when practices were like Marine basic training, and the most a coach would say to an injured player was “walk it out,” Curt had a lighthearted and deeply caring side. Two instances stand out.

First, my classmate, the aforementioned Tony Price, was a standout athlete and his potential shone through in eighth and ninth grade, but he was also shy, and Coach Campbell focused encouragement and attention on him during the softball games we played in P.E. class. In Curt speak, Tony’s name evolved from Tony to Anthony to Andy to Andrew to Drew. Many of us called him Drew through school. Tony went on to be an excellent athlete and leader at CHS.

Another great example of Curt’s caring nature was Billy Childress. Billy was a young mailman in town when he was struck by a car and suffered serious brain damage. What I think they now call a “closed head injury.” Billy recovered but was never the same. He had two things in life that sustained him - Christiansburg High sports and Virginia Tech sports. He rarely missed a football or basketball game at either school and was the bane of many a referee’s existence. When Billy clapped his hands you could hear it in the next county and when

he chewed out a referee you could hear him in West Virginia.

After he became head coach, Curt decided to make Billy “official” - he gave him a clipboard and put him on the sideline to chart plays. Billy’s job was to walk alongside Coach Campbell or his assistant Milton Gross (another great coach and educator, my position coach) with the backup quarterback and put down on paper what play had been run and how many yards had been gained (or lost). Billy was in seventh heaven - I think he loved the Blue Demons even more than his Hokies. As I recall, Curt even took Billy to preseason camp with the team one year when our boosters rented a church camp for us.

Unfortunately, as I also recall, Billy’s temper, which could be almost uncontrollable because of his head injury, sometimes would get the best of him and he would throw his clipboard and scream at the referees. After he got an unsportsmanlike penalty or two, Curt had to send him back to the bleachers. If you have seen the movie Radio, you know Billy’s story with Coach Campbell.

One final “Coach Campbell story,” told many times by my dad. Perhaps Curt’s first summer in town, maybe his second, a lot of the male coaches and teachers met up one hot Saturday morning to help erect a press box at the football field. The group probably consisted of Coach Ross and Coach Earp and my father and agriculture teacher Billy Stanger and two other great members of the CHS family, Dick Ballengee and Wayne Booth. And Coach Campbell of course. This was a simpler time, and these guys enjoyed each other’s company and the press box project presented a great opportunity to be together and tell stories and help the community.

Holes four to six feet deep were drilled and heavy pipe, probably 40 feet in length, was delivered, ready to be dropped into the holes to be the support for the press box. The only thing missing was the backhoe which was to pick up the pipes and drop them in the holes.

The backhoe was a no-show and eventually someone said that completion of the project would just have to be postponed. Coach Campbell, probably 20 years younger than most in attendance, and fresh off his time as an all-star offensive tackle in college, said something to the effect that he thought he could pick up the pipes and put them in place. My dad said Curt wasn’t bragging, he just knew his own strength.

Mr. Stanger, beloved teacher and jokester at CHS that he was, made some disparaging remarks about how it couldn’t be done. And to emphasize his point, he made a bet with Curt that was common for the time and added more spice by saying he would pay off in front of the liquor store at high noon the next Saturday and give Curt a week to gather a crowd.

Well as urban legend has it, Coach Campbell picked up each of the pipes, carried them a few feet, and dropped them in the holes. And legend has it further that Coach Ross or one of the guys had engraved invitations made for the big event the next Saturday.

When Buddy Earp died a few years ago, I attended his funeral and heard that Curt was in attendance, but sadly I was not able to catch up with him before he left. Once again, my loss.

Delegate details some of Virginia’s new laws



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

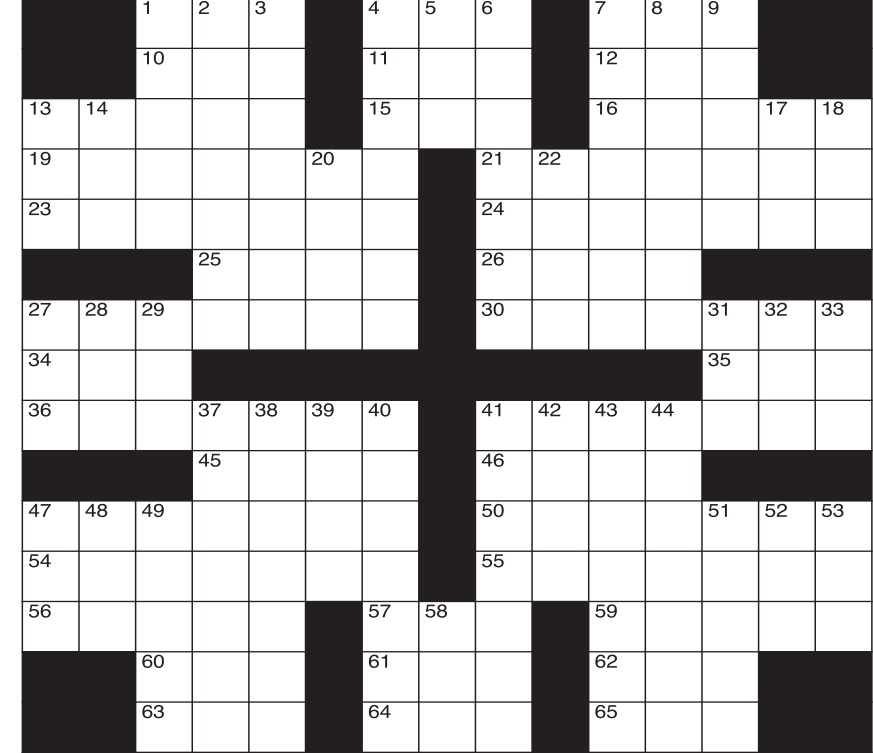
HB 1349 standardizes the eligibility requirements for performing arts centers and sports facilities to serve mixed beverages, which has been an issue in the past. Formerly, these facilities had patchwork approval in state code depending on where they were located in Virginia, and smaller venues especially had a harder

time applying for these licenses. I was approached by a local venue with this very problem, and while my HB 559 would have remedied this situation locally, I was happy to see the more inclusive HB 1349 eventually pass.

Due to the passage of HB 48, college admissions are now more fair to applicants because of the new ban on the practice of so-called “legacy admissions.” This means that the relatives of donors or alumni of institutions of higher

See Ballard, page 8

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS

 1. Sr. enlisted Army member
 4. Payroll firm
 7. Monetary unit of Macao
 10. Cooking vessel
 11. Cow sound
 12. Hairpiece
 13. Spoon-shaped surgical instrument
 15. Mother
 16. Remove from record
 19. Foolish
 21. Mailman
 23. Unit of data size
 24. Stirred
 25. Deceptive movement
 26. We all have one
 27. Direct from pasture beef animal
 30. A person's own self
 34. Helps little firms
 35. Deep, red-brown sea bream
- CLUES DOWN

 1. Small stem bearing leaves
 2. Female Bacchanalians
 3. Mediterranean city
 4. Measures electric current
 5. Arrived extinct
 6. Edible butterflyfish
 7. Causing wonder or astonishment
 8. Behaviors showing high moral standards
 9. Ancient Irish alphabets
 13. Footballer Newton
 14. Utilize
 17. Sum of absolute errors
 18. Opposite of the beginning
 20. Shoe company
 22. Algerian port city
 27. Girls organization (abbr.)
 28. Type of cell (abbr.)
 29. Swiss river
 31. When you hope to get there
32. Fall behind
 33. Expresses distaste, disapproval
 37. Volume containing several novels
 38. Less sharp
 39. Food for the poor
 40. Having made a valid will
 41. Royal estates
 42. Relating to wings
 43. Japanese three-stringed lute
 44. Taking something through force
 47. Angry
 48. Before the present
 49. Showy ornaments
 51. Norway
 52. Comedienne Gasteyer
 53. Consume
 58. Founder of Babism



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Legals - Botetourt County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF DEBRA ANNE DAWSON, DECEASED NOTICE

Having been requested to do so by Christopher Dawson, administrator of the estate of Debra Anne Dawson, Deceased, and in accordance with Section 64.2-550 of the 1950 code of Virginia, as amended, all creditors of Debra Anne Dawson, and all persons in any way interested in her estate are hereby notified that I have fixed the 7th day of August, 2024 at 10 o'clock a.m. at my office at 13 south Roanoke Street, Fincastle, Virginia as the time and place for determining an account of the debts and demands against said Debra Anne Dawson or her estate, the priorities among them, and the names of the persons to whom they are due.

All creditors of Debra Anne Dawson or her estate, and persons interested in her estate should appear at the time and place named, or any other time or place to which the proceedings may be adjourned, and protect their interest.

Given under my hand this the 2nd day of July, 2024.

Malcolm McL. Doubles
Commissioner of Accounts

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 89 White Oak Drive, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$234,179.00 dated February 7, 2018 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on February 8, 2018 as Instrument Number: 180000469, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on August 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: Lot 4, Block 5, according to the Map of Section 1, White Oak Estates, which map is recorded Plat Book 5, Page 31, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia; and Tax ID: 12297.

TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(Trustee # 24-006338)

Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orleans PC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orleans.com

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Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on July 24, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

The request of Savory Ventures Salem, LLC, property owner, for a variance from Section 106-402.7(A) of the City of Salem Zoning Ordinance pertaining to perimeter landscaping standards for parking lots for the property located at 600 block of West Fourth Street, Tax Map # 143 - 4 - 1. The petitioners are requesting a variance to allow for a food truck court. Section 106-402.7(A) states that the required landscaped planting strip shall have a minimum width of eight feet. Therefore, the petitioners are requesting a 3-foot variance.

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375 3032).

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM

BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM
Planning & Zoning Administrator

Legals - Town of New Castle

ABC NOTICE

RCLC LLC., trading as CARPERS, 5178 CRAIG VALLEY DR., NEW CASTLE, CRAIG COUNTY, VA, 24127.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a RETAIL ON AND OFF PREMISES WINE AND BEER license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

ROBERT CARPER, OWNER

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



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Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104

Case No. **CL24000869-00**

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 DONALD BROOKS SAVILLE, JR., et al Plaintiffs, v. RICHARD BARNETT, ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ESTATE OF EDITH CORDER BARNETT, et al Defendants.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Upon consideration of the Affidavit for Entry of Order of Publication filed by the Plaintiffs, the reason for this cause is to obtain the whereabouts of any person who may have an interest in the property located at 3114 Emerson Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24060, and/or 3137 Emerson Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24060, and if such parties cannot be located, the secondary purpose of this cause is to quiet Plaintiff's title to the Property.

An Affidavit has been made and filed showing that the Defendant **John Does 1-100 All Persons Unknown or Parties Claiming a Title, Lien, Easement, or Other Interest in the Lands Known as 3114 Emerson Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24060; John Does 1-100 All Persons Unknown or Parties Claiming a Title, Lien, Easement, or Other Interest in the Lands Known as 3137 Emerson Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24060; and John Does 1-100 All Persons Unknown or Parties Claiming an Inherited Interest from Avery May, a/k/a Lee Evans May, Brandynne May a/k/a Brandyne May Moorefield** (collectively "John Does 1-100"), address unknown the general description of **"parties unknown,"** who by reason of true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise of defendants JOHN DOES 1-100 are unknown to Plaintiff, and may have a beneficial interest in the Property. UPON CONSIDERATION whereof, this Order of Publication as to all the parties above is GRANTED, and it is ORDERED that any interested person(s) shall appear here on or before July 31st, 2024 at 9 am, which date is no sooner than fifty (50) days after entry of this Order of Publication.

And it is further Ordered that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in The News Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in the Montgomery County, Virginia.

ENTERED the 11 day June, 2024

K. Mike Fleenor, Jr. Judge

Legals - City of Radford

Bent Mountain Brewery LLC, trading as Bent Mountain Brewery, 9513 Bent Mountain Road, Bent Mountain, Roanoke County, VA 24059.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for an Industry Farm Winery and Limited Brewery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Tommee Larochelle, Manager

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

ABC NOTICE

Amando's LLC., trading as Amando's Italian Kitchen, 1154 E. Main Street., Radford, VA 24141-1748.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant license, for on and off-premises of beer, wine license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Cotey Bentley, OWNER

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

Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY 486 Waterworks Road, Radford, VA 24141 Tax Map No. 064-A 68, Parcel ID No. 020697

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated July 24, 2008, in the principal amount of \$73,280.45, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 08008179, Woods Rogers PLC, Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the main entrance of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, on July 30, 2024 at 12:00 noon, the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land with all improvements thereon situate, lying and being in the Prices Fork Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, on Water Works Road, containing 2.1417 acres more or less as shown on a plat of same dated October 15, 1992, prepared by W. A. Davis, CE/LS, referred to as "Plat prepared for Bobby Wayne Southern, et al."

LESS AND EXCEPT: All that certain lot or parcel of land with all improvements thereon lying and being in the Price's Fork Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and being all of Lot Two (2) containing 1.03 acres, conveyed to Alan K. Southern and Drema J. Southern by deed dated June 1, 1995 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 876, Page 361 and as shown on plat of survey of record in Deed Book 876, Page 363.

TERMS: Cash - Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable not later than ten (10) days after sale.

WOODS ROGERS PLC, Trustee
For Information Contact: Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

Legals - Roanoke County

Bent Mountain Brewery LLC, trading as Bent Mountain Brewery, 9513 Bent Mountain Road, Bent Mountain, Roanoke County, VA 24059.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for an Industry Farm Winery and Limited Brewery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Tommee Larochelle, Manager

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



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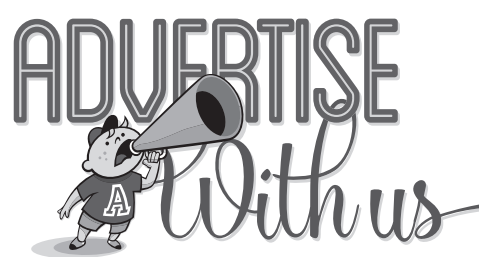


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RADFORD SPORTS



COURTESY IMAGE

ACC welcomes Cal, SMU and Stanford

The Atlantic Coast Conference is adding three new institutions with the addition of the University of California, Berkeley (Cal), Southern Methodist University (SMU) and Stanford University as full members with full voting participation.

SMU's first official day in the ACC was July 1, 2024, while Cal and Stanford will become official members on Aug. 2, 2024. All three institutions will begin conference competition this fall.

The additions of Cal, SMU and Stanford enhance and strengthen the ACC academically, athletically and financially as well as create a true national conference that spans coast to coast. The incoming universities enrich the league's competitiveness in all sports and further demonstrate the ACC's commitment to broad-based programs for both women and men. More than 2,200 student-athletes from Cal, SMU and Stanford will join the nearly 10,000 current ACC student-athletes competing at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics.

"This summer marks a momentous occasion for the ACC with the addition of three prestigious institutions – Cal, SMU, and Stanford," said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "Since our announcement last September, the conference has been diligently preparing to become an 18-member league that spans from coast to coast. We look forward to the future of this incredible league and extend a warm welcome to the student-athletes, coaches, staff, campus communities, alumni, and supporters of Cal, SMU, and Stanford into the ACC."

Established in 1953 with seven charter members, the ACC's expansion is the seventh in the league's history and gives the league the most members that it has had in the conference's illustrious history. The conference moved to eight members right away in December of 1953 with the addition of Virginia. After Georgia Tech joined the league in 1979 to remain at eight, the conference expanded to nine members in 1992 with Florida State. The ACC added three members in 2004 and 2005, as both Miami and Virginia Tech joined the league in 2004, followed by Boston College in 2005. Syracuse and Pitt joined in 2013, as did Notre Dame, who agreed to join the ACC in all conference-sponsored sports except football. Louisville accepted an invitation to become a full member of the ACC in 2014.

Cal, SMU and Stanford will begin competing in the ACC across their

respective sponsored sports beginning in the 2024-25 academic year. No conference offers more than the ACC's 15 women's sports and 28 total sponsored sports.

The University of California, Berkeley, is the flagship of the 10-campus University of California system. Enrolling more than 42,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Cal Athletics is a broad-based NCAA Division I athletic department that sponsors 30 varsity sports and includes over 900 student-athletes. The department has approximately 300 staff members. Cal Athletics has produced 104 team national championships and 223 Olympic medals. Notable alums include Aaron Rodgers, Jason Kidd, Natalie Coughlin, Marshawn Lynch, Jaylen Brown, Layshia Clarendon and more.

Southern Methodist University is the nationally ranked global research university in the dynamic city of Dallas. SMU brings the highest level of collegiate competition to Dallas, which was recently named the No. 1 city for sports business by the Sports Business Journal, and continues to build on recent success, with all 17 programs reaching the postseason and 16 programs winning conference championships since 2013. SMU is the only NCAA FBS program in Dallas, and has claimed 10 overall national championships, almost 200 team conference championships, over 100 individual national championships, more than 150 NCAA top-10 finishes, nearly 2,000 All-American honors and over 150 Olympic appearances.

Founded in 1885, Stanford University campus is home to seven schools, a distinguished faculty that includes 20 living Nobel laureates, and more than 7,800 undergraduates and 9,600 graduate students. Stanford's Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation leads the nation with 136 NCAA team championships, has won the Women's Capital One Cup four of the last seven years, and has achieved the LEARFIELD Directors' Cup for 27 of the 30 possible seasons. Nearly 900 Cardinal student-athletes compete as members of 36 intercollegiate athletics teams.

Stanford is the nation's all-time leader in NCAA team championships, having won 136 NCAA titles (71 men, 65 women) and 167 national championships overall (77 men, 88 women, 2 coed).

Atlantic Coast Conference

Long distance relationships do not work



Marty Gordon
FROM THE SIDELINES

Have you ever been on a blind date and didn't want to be there? That's the feeling the Atlantic Coast Conference got going as of this weekend. The University of California, Southern Methodist and Stanford are now a part of the ACC.

It's hard to understand who needed each other more. The three newbies were looking for a home, while the ACC just needed to stay above water. The problem, there is no lifeguards in the deep end of the pool to save anyone from this new relationship.

Problemo number one is the fact two of the three new members are from the west coast. The other is from the great state of Texas and is only remembered for its "Death Penalty" a few years back. Cal is still an unknown. Stanford brings an outstanding women's basketball program and a lot of similarities to UVA.

Then there is the fact about travel. Believe it or not, Virginia Tech is the closest school to all three of the newbies. SMU is the closest at 1,080 miles. Cal is 2,706 and Stanford 2,381. The latter means 39 hours in a car. Of course, tennis teams and others won't be making that trip by four wheels. They will typically fly, meaning 10-11 hours.

Whoopsie. Long distance relationships do not work.

There is talk of playing at neutral sites. So, Virginia Tech might wrestle Stanford in Iowa. It still seems a lot of extreme to play the "non-revenue" sports.

Again, the con outweighs much of the pros. We also have to examine how many Hokie fans would be in the stands for West Coast dates. Hokies travel well but might be lacking on this one.

Mark the calendar, Virginia Tech plays football at Stanford on Oct. 5.

Now, back to this date. There is always a feeling-out period. I guess there can be lots of late-night phone calls, and those non-revenue sports will be staying overnight on a more frequent cycle.

Of course, Florida State and Clemson do not want to be on this blind date. They keep looking across the room at the likes of Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama.

Sorry Charlie, you have to dance with whoever is at your party. The Southeastern Conference might be flirting with you, but they were not invited on this date.

The dance card is still out on the ACC's move. We will just have to wait it out and see how this date turns out.

Maybe, the ACC should've tried Match.com before locking itself into the arrangement.

I guess we will be watching those 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. games on the ACC Network.

Highlanders named All-American Scholars



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Shea Smith, McKenzie Weddle, Caroline Gilreath, Grace Addison and Macy Johnson of the Radford women's golf team were each named 2023-24 All-American Scholars by the Women's Golf Coaches Association, the organization announced earlier this week.

The 2023-24 WGCA All-American Scholar Team features 1,497 women's collegiate golfers from 412 programs who were recognized with this prestigious honor. The criteria for selection to the All-American Scholar Team are some of the most stringent in all of college athletics, including a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 and having played in 50% of the college's regular scheduled competitive rounds during the year.

Each of the five Highlanders on the list eclipsed the 3.50 GPA mark with

Smith majoring in Pre-Business, Weddle studying Allied Health Sciences, Gilreath beginning her collegiate career as a pre-major, Addison majoring in chemistry, and Smith Johnson working towards a management degree.

The Women's Golf Coaches Association, founded in 1983, is a non-profit organization representing women's collegiate golf coaches. The WGCA was formed to encourage the playing of college golf for women in correlation with a general objective of education and in accordance with the highest tradition of intercollegiate competition.

Today, the WGCA represents over 650 coaches throughout the U.S. and is dedicated to educating, promoting and recognizing both its members and the student-athletes they represent.

Radford University Athletics

VHSL releases master football schedule

Interesting matchups for area high schools

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Virginia High School League released its statewide Master Football schedule this past week with some interesting matchups.

For our area schools, there will be plenty of intriguing out-of-district matchups.

Christiansburg will play former mentor, Tim Cromer, in Floyd on August 30. Abingdon will travel to the NRV on September 6. Then in the middle of its schedule, the Blue Demons will host perennial-state power Riverheads on October 4.

Blacksburg will also have a game with Cromer and his Floyd squad on September 13 and then longtime rival Giles to jumpstart the season at home on August 30. Two other out-of-district games include road games at Rockbridge and Lord Botetourt.

Radford will continue to open the season at former New River District-rival George Wythe (August 30) with former Virginia High now-Radford Coach Michael Crist facing a familiar face in Virginia High on September 18. The Bobcats will face its second former NRD foe in Giles on September 6.

Eastern Montgomery continues to dive deep into southwest Virginia with games against Holston (August 30), Rural Retreat (September 6) and Northwood (September 13). The Mustangs also pick up a contest with Ft. Chiswell on September 27.

Meanwhile, Auburn will tangle with out-of-district foes in Narrows (August 30), Craig County (September 6) and a cross-county matchup with Eastern Montgomery on August 20. The Eagles will also play Bath County on October 11.



FILE PHOTO

The Virginia High School League released its statewide Master Football schedule this past week with some interesting matchups for area schools, including Radford, pictured here.

Sports notes: Former Hokie on Canadian Olympic team

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Former Virginia Tech guard Sami Hill has been named to Canada’s Olympic roster, the federation announced this week. For Hill, it will be her first Olympics when she heads to Paris later this month to represent her country.

The Canadians will face the hosts France in their first matchup in Group B on July 29 and will also compete against Australia and Nigeria.

Canada Basketball’s senior women’s national team qualified for their fourth consecutive Olympic Games by finishing third in one of four FIBA Women’s Olympic Qualification Tournaments this past February. Paris 2024 will be Team Canada’s eighth appearance in the Olympic women’s basketball tournament since it debuted at Montreal 1976.

Canada’s best Olympic result in women’s basketball was a fourth-place finish at Los Angeles 1984. Currently fifth in the FIBA rankings, Canada also finished fourth at the most recent FIBA Women’s Basketball World Cup in 2022.

Peebles gains national attention

Newly transferred from Duke, Virginia Tech defensive lineman Aeneas Peebles claimed the ninth spot on Pro Football Focus’ (PFF) list of the top 10 returning interior defensive linemen for the 2024 season. Peebles is the only player in the top-10 who will be playing for a new school in 2024, finishing as one of the nation’s best defensive tackles in pressuring the quarterback last season.

This honor adds to an impressive list of accolades for Peebles, including being named to the 2023 All-ACC First Team by PFF and the 2023 All-ACC Third Team as a defensive tackle. He was also recently featured in On3’s Top 100 Players in College Football, alongside new teammates cornerback Dorian Strong and defensive end Antwaun Powell-Ryland.

The 290-pound lineman played in 12 games for the Blue Devils last season, making his lone start against No. 11 Notre Dame. In total Peebles registered 40 total tackles, four quarterback hurries, two pass breakups, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery.

Cross on all-star roster

Former Virginia Tech outfielder Gavin Cross has been selected to the MLB All-Star Futures Game, Major League Baseball announced this week. The number nine pick in the 2022 MLB Draft, Cross, who plays in the Royals organization has been playing for the club’s Double-A affiliate, the Northwest Arkansas Naturals.

In 62 games this season, he’s batting .279 with an OPS of .798. He’s tallied 65 hits, 39 RBI and has eight home runs on the campaign.

The 25th annual showcase will feature 39 members of MLB Pipeline’s recently updated Top 100 Prospects list in a seven-inning game on July 13, at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.

The All-Star Futures Game features the brightest stars of tomorrow in an annual seven-inning matchup of the game’s top prospects that are nearing the Majors. Many of today’s All-Stars made their first appearances on a Major League stage at the All-Star

Futures Game.

In his three seasons at Virginia Tech, Cross tallied 174 hits in 124 games with a .340 batting average.

New assistant coach

Virginia Tech women’s tennis announced the addition of Megan Forster as an assistant coach for the program on Tuesday.

Forster, who played at Colorado and North Florida, comes to Blacksburg after a season-long stint as a women’s tennis student assistant coach and men’s tennis director of operations for the Ospreys.

While in her most recent roles, the London, England native assisted with planning and managing tennis and conditioning sessions, organizing community opportunities, complying with NCAA rules and schedule regulations, marketing and social media outreach and stringing rackets for the women’s program. Furthermore, Forster assisted the men’s program with organizing travel.

ACC leadership

The Atlantic Coast Conference and its Board of Directors have announced the conference leadership structure for the transformative 2024-25 year, which will see the ACC expanded to 18 members with the addition of Cal, SMU and Stanford beginning July 1.

University of Virginia President James E. Ryan will serve as the league’s Chair of the Board of Directors for the second year of his two-year term. He will be joined by Wake Forest University President Susan R. Wentz as the Vice-Chair of the league’s Board of Directors, announced by the Board of Directors following the annual winter meetings in February.

Ballard

from page 4

no longer receive an unfair advantage when applying to colleges or universities. Virginia is one of only two states that have now banned this practice.

My HB 292 also became law last week, which changes the name of “Drug Treatment Courts” to “Recovery Courts” in state code. This is something I’ve written about extensively, but it’s an important piece of the puzzle as we seek to resolve the ongoing opioid crisis and rehabilitate those who would otherwise be productive members of our community. Graduates of these programs have spoken to me at length about how important and powerful the term “recovery” is, and I’m proud to

have played a part in getting this bill into state code.

SB 951, which was passed in 2023 but became law this year, removes the option for motorists to pay a \$500 uninsured motorist fee in lieu of carrying motor vehicle liability insurance. I’ve had constituents contact me in the past describing frustrating situations where they were involved in an accident, and the at-fault driver didn’t carry liability insurance. This is a commonsense bill that protects motorists financially in the unfortunate occurrence of an auto accident.

HB 707 prohibits – subject to a parental consent requirement – a data

company from processing personal data of a child for the purposes of targeted advertising. This is an important law to safeguard our children from predatory advertising practices. I am certain that the General Assembly will continue to address this topic in future sessions as online data harvesting becomes more and more prevalent.

A complete listing of bills passed in the 2024 Legislative Session can be found at lis.virginia.gov, and a selection of laws now on the books can be read in the Virginia Division of Legislative Service’s publication, “In Due Course” (which can be found easily online). I’d encourage you to read up on this

document so you can learn about the priorities of your state government. I hope you and your family enjoyed your Independence Day!

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

Virginia gas prices on the rise

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 6.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.38/g today, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 3.8 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 2.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 3.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.81 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.97/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.02/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.97/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.02/g.

The national average price of gasoline is unchanged in the last

week, averaging \$3.46/g today. The national average is up 3.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 5.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

July 8, 2023:	\$3.36/g (U.S. Average: \$3.52/g)
July 8, 2022:	\$4.50/g (U.S. Average: \$4.70/g)
July 8, 2021:	\$2.95/g (U.S. Average: \$3.15/g)
July 8, 2020:	\$2.01/g (U.S. Average: \$2.19/g)
July 8, 2019:	\$2.49/g (U.S. Average: \$2.75/g)

July 8, 2018:	\$2.62/g (U.S. Average: \$2.85/g)
July 8, 2017:	\$2.04/g (U.S. Average: \$2.26/g)
July 8, 2016:	\$2.06/g (U.S. Average: \$2.24/g)
July 8, 2015:	\$2.59/g (U.S. Average: \$2.76/g)
July 8, 2014:	\$3.46/g (U.S. Average: \$3.65/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Roanoke- \$3.30/g, up 6.6 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.23/g.

Richmond- \$3.36/g, up 5.4 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.31/g.

West Virginia- \$3.38/g, up 1.3 cents per gallon from last week’s \$3.37/g.

“The national average price of

gasoline has nudged higher over the last week as oil prices have continued to push toward multi-month highs. While it looks like this recent rise could be restrained for now, Hurricane Beryl is a stark reminder that hurricane season could play a role in prices in the weeks ahead,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “For now, we’ll likely continue to see some fluctuations in either direction with the national average moving up, but as we approach August and the peak of hurricane season, there remains a risk that the national average could surge temporarily if we see a major storm in the wrong place.”

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AARP Virginia fraud alert: The latest in Amazon impostor scams

Criminals love to impersonate big businesses and the bigger the better. One of the largest targets of impostor scams last year was Amazon. According to the Federal Trade Commission, 44,000 reports about scammers using Amazon’s name were filed last year, with \$19 million reported lost. Here are two of the latest versions of an Amazon impostor scam to be on the lookout for.

Complex scams that involve an Amazon impostor, a bank impostor and someone pretending to be a law enforcement investigator are trending. These scams have a heightened sense of legitimacy because the victim believes they are speaking to different independent entities who are all confirming the same threat. In reality they are talking to multiple criminals who are all part of the same scheme.

False membership renewal messages are another trending form of Amazon impostor scams. Because many customers aren’t aware of when their membership expires these messages can seem legitimate. The criminals also create real looking websites where you can share your payment information.

Whenever doing business, renewing a membership or dealing with a suspicious charge with any retailer, it is safest to do so at their official website or through their official customer service lines. Do not rely on links or phone numbers emailed or texted to you. These run a higher risk that you’ll be connected directly to a crook.

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

AARP Virginia

CROSSWORD ANSWERS									
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