

Saturday, August 3, 2024 • USPS 387-780 • radfordnewsjournal.com • \$1.00

Radford mayor explains city's Revenue Anticipation Note

RADFORD - Radford City Council held a work session Monday, July 29, 2024 to discuss the city's finances and how to pay back a short term loan known as a Revenue Anticipation Note.

The city took out the \$4,175,323 loan to cover the cost of bills in the 2024-25 budget year that come due prior to revenues coming into the city from tax payments and other revenues.

Following the work session meeting, which can be accessed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk-XlyeaowM>, Radford Mayor David Horton updated the community on his official mayoral Facebook page.

"The Revenue Anticipation Note was taken out to provide up front money to cover early bills and significant debt payments in the 2024-2025 budget," said Horton. "Inflation has been a challenge for our budget and reserves. We have been working to address it through a variety of means in the budget process.

"There is a roadmap to paying the note by June 2025 without additional

revenue increases or significant cuts," he continued. "If the expected revenue falls short, or there are increased expenses out of our control we have three scenarios to address them."

The three options are ways to cut the budget in additional cuts over what has already been adopted in the 24-25 budget, with the first including \$1,290,000 in cuts, the second including \$ 1.5 million in cuts and the third option including about \$2.3 million in additional cuts.

"We are currently trying to save as much money as possible and will hold off on the cuts that will have the biggest impact. Please know that we recognize that cuts in all three options could be disruptive, and we try to limit that where we can. This is good news for Radford as we have a very thorough and conservatively budgeted plan to address the situation. Wonderful things are happening across the city despite our challenges. Investment in our community is growing and good things are on the horizon."

| Revenue Anticipation Note Payoff Plan | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| October 2024 | \$ 320,000 |
| December 2024 | \$1,480,000 |
| April 2025 | \$ 375,323 |
| June 2025 | \$2,000,000 |
| Principal & Interest | <u>\$4,175,323</u> |



Graphic courtesy of the City of Radford

Author Ron Peterson, Jr. to host reading at Radford Public Library

The author will also appear at two Montgomery County libraries



PHOTO COURTESY OF MFRL
Ron Peterson

Ron Peterson Jr., best-selling author of true crime books returns to the Radford Public Library to talk about his newest book, "In the Wind: the Disappearance of Janice Starr."

Arrive at 5 p.m. to meet the author. His presentation will begin at 5:30. The library will be closed but the community room and foyer are open for the event. If there is overflow, the library will open for streaming opportunities in another section of the library as needed.

The Blacksburg Library and

Christiansburg Library are also holding upcoming author events featuring Peterson, Jr.

Peterson will visit the libraries to discuss his latest release, "In the Wind", a captivating true crime story that delves into the high-profile case of Janice Starr, a missing Old Dominion University student, and the groundbreaking work of detective Kay Schucker. The events will be held at Blacksburg Library on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024, at 6 p.m.

See PETERSON, Page 4

Historic Smithfield dedicates Merry Oak bench

Angelica Ramos
Contributing Writer

BLACKSBURG - Historic Smithfield dedicated a bench made from the wood of the historic Merry Oak tree this weekend during their 250th Commemoration event.

The Merry Oak tree was a white oak tree at Historic Smithfield that was estimated to be over 300 years old. In its time, it served as a gathering place for the enslaved people of Smithfield. In May of 2020, a storm came into the area and cracked the Merry Oak causing it to split and topple.

The Merry Oak's story began long ago, before the storm. Dr. Kerri Mosley-Hobbs, a direct descendant of Thomas Fraction, a formerly enslaved person of Historic Smithfield, explained the Merry Oak was more than just a tree. Mosley-Hobbs, who is also the vice-chair of

the Smithfield board of directors, said the Merry Oak is where the enslaved people would gather, worship, hold meetings, host weddings, mourn and connect during their time of enslavement and, hundreds of years after, it was where the descendants of those people came to connect with their ancestors. The tree thrived for hundreds of years but when Mosley-Hobbs found she was descended from people who were enslaved at Smithfield, she came to visit. She saw the tree and felt drawn to it. She explained that when she first went up to the tree and placed her hand upon it, it was as though the tree had been waiting for her and the other descendants of the Fractions (the last name given to the enslaved), because it started to die shortly after. Other descendants as they were found also came to the Merry Oak, and



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS
The remnants of the Merry Oak remain on the grounds of Historic Smithfield.

it continued to rapidly decline. With the decline came the storm which toppled this beloved site.

With that in mind, Historic Smithfield, Virginia Tech, with their Chief Arborist and project manager Jamie King, Bill St. Pierre who milled the wood, and Fraction descendants worked tirelessly over the years to save the remnants of the tree. The stump still stands surrounded by a fence that was erected before the death of the tree, to protect it. The rest

of the tree was dried and made into the bench that was dedicated on July 27, 2024.

The Merry Oak bench sits in the parking lot of Historic Smithfield, facing the direction of what is left of the Merry Oak tree. The dedication had speeches from Smithfield Executive Director Michael Hudson and Mosley-Hobbs along with a reading of the plaque on which a poem was written, by Fraction Family, remembering the Merry Oak and all it meant.



PHOTO BY ANGELICA RAMOS
Historic Smithfield Executive Director Michael Hudson (right) and Smithfield Board of Directors Vice Chair Dr. Kerri Mosley-Hobbs (second from right) at the Merry Oak bench with Joe Lehnen (left) Forest Utilization and Marketing Specialist for the Department of Forestry and Jeff Armistead, owner of Phoenix Hardwoods in Floyd, who made the bench.

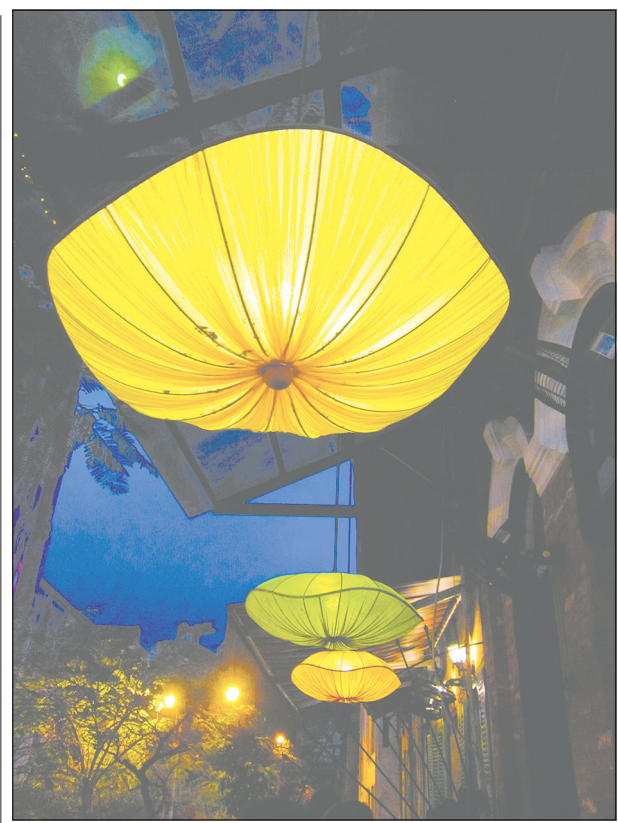


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RADFORD PHOTO CLUB
Photo by Eva Nicole Hinrichsen

Photos taken in Vietnam, Italy win Radford Photo Club contests

Eva Nicole Hinrichsen of Blacksburg won the Radford Photo Club night photography challenge for July with a photo taken in Hanoi. She explains the photo she calls "Well-Lit Regret" was a simple shot captured from the balcony of a cafe in the city's old quarter.

"This particular cafe was directly next to St. Joseph's Cathedral, which claims to be Hanoi's oldest church, and was built in the Gothic Revival architectural style (Neo-Gothic) bearing an undeniable resemblance to Notre Dame," she said.

She wanted to see the church, but "the sun had set and I was absolutely exhausted. So here is a picture of cool lamps instead. Travel is fun like that."

Michele Borgarelli of Blacksburg won the open contest with a photo titled "The village over the clouds." The image captures the little village of Santa Vittoria D'Alba in the Roero Region in Piedmont Italy early in the morning.

"The light and the fog in the valley created the impression of a place over the clouds," he said.

The Radford Photo Club has two outings in August. They will visit Charlie Brower's outdoor museum in Floyd to view the Out There exhibit this Friday Aug. 9 at 6 p.m. To carpool, meet at 5 p.m. at Radford Public Library. People from Christiansburg and Blacksburg can contact Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com.

On Thursday, Aug. 22, the group will meet at Bisset Park shelter two at 5 p.m. for a scavenger hunt and potluck dinner. Arrival time is flexible if the 5 p.m. time is too early. The photo challenge is Out There, plus an open category.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the club, email Joyce Crowder at joycecrowder2@icloud.com, Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com, or Tracy Burlingame at racylb3870@gmail.com.

Radford Photo Club

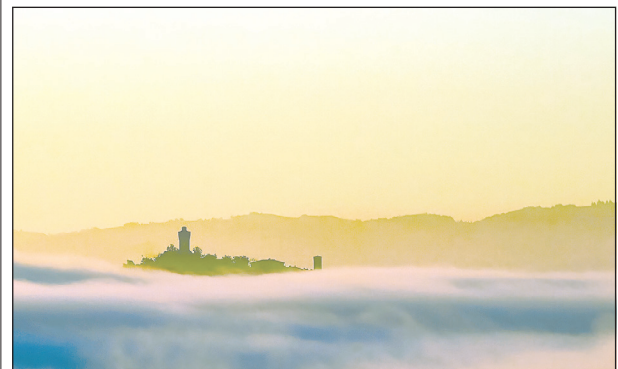


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RADFORD PHOTO CLUB
Photo by Michele Borgarelli

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Aug. 3:

Lamplighters BIG Book Sale

At the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Get great deals on books while supporting the Radford Public Library at the Lamplighters BIG Book Sale! Hardcover and DVDs are only \$1, and Paperbacks are only 50 cents. Many, many children's books and a lot of home school teaching books are available and some DVD's and CD's that are spoken in a language in India. Come and support the Lamplighters, who support the Radford Public Library.

Radford Summer Concert-rescheduled

Chairmen of the Board will be performing. Bring a chair or blanket and come out to the fields of Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery at 600 Unruh Dr., Radford. Gates open at 6 p.m. Concert begins at 7 p.m. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased through Radford Chamber of Commerce. Food trucks and non-alcoholic beverages are also available. Admission is \$5 per person. Children 12 and under and free.

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, Aug. 4:

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/.

Sunday, Aug. 4 – Wednesday, Aug. 7:

South Main Street road closure-Blacksburg

Beginning at 12 a.m. Sunday, August 4, following the Steppin' Out street festival, the 100 block of South Main Street, including the intersections of South Main Street and Roanoke Street, and South Main Street and Lee Street, will be closed to all traffic. Crews will remove, mill, and replace large areas of asphalt during this closure. The detours set up for Steppin' Out will remain in place until this closure is complete. Roads are expected to reopen to traffic after work is complete on Wednesday, Aug. 7. For questions and more information, please contact Senior Project Manager, Kevin Wills at 540-443-1353.

Monday, Aug. 5:

August Kids eligibility screening

The Radford Clothing Bank annual August Kids program provides a \$75 voucher for each income qualifying student in grades K - 12 attending Radford City Schools. Vouchers redeemed at the Fairlawn Walmart to purchase new school clothing and tennis shoes. Screening for eligibility is August 5, 10 a.m.-noon and 4- 6 p.m. at Central Church, 803 Wadsworth St., Radford. You MUST provide all of the following verifications: Photo ID of applicant, proof of address (June or July bill), social security card or birth certificate for each child in the home, and SNAP, Medicaid, TANF or four weeks of current pay stub for each employed family member. Questions? Call the Radford Clothing Bank at (540)633-5050 (10 a.m. -noon) Monday-Saturday. Monetary donations can be sent to: Radford Clothing Bank, PO Box 994, Radford, VA 24143.

Wednesday, Aug. 7:

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.

Saturday, Aug. 10:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry 5 - 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 age three -free, carry-outs -\$12. This month, Ronnie Toney and Friends will be playing some Bluegrass for the diners. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

11th Annual Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise

At Warm Hearth Village Center, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg; 6 -10 p.m. Get ready to dance up an appetite with The Breakfast Club Band and The Panjammers then indulge in refreshing tropical drinks, gourmet cheeseburgers, and delicious Caribbean fare. Don't miss the silent auction featuring one-of-a-kind items and experiences - all to benefit the Warm Hearth Foundation and seniors who call Warm Hearth Village home. In celebration of Warm Hearth's Golden Anniversary, we will have a limited number of special golden tickets with a VIP mix and mingle from 5 – 6 p.m. Tickets on sale now. Visit retire.org and click on Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise in the upper right part of the home page.

Monday, Aug. 12:

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 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, Aug. 13:

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.

Thursday, Aug. 15:

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 present Part two of his talk on the "History of the 29th Virginia Infantry". For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Sunday, Aug. 18:

Faith and Democracy presentation

The local group Defending Democracies will host a special presentation and discussion featuring Chris Crawford, Policy Strategist for Protect Democracy. We'll hear why democracy is important to faith communities and consider actions we can take, both as individuals and as faith communities, to support the defense of our democracy. Join us. 2:30-4 p.m., at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Whisner Building, 111 Church St. SE, Blacksburg (parking in lots off of Lee St.).

Understanding the rising threat – and cost – of ransomware

In cybersecurity, few threats have evolved and increased over the past decade as dramatically as ransomware. Wade Baker, collegiate associate professor of integrated security in the Department of Business Information Technology, has been at the forefront of studying this ever-growing menace.

Baker, co-founder of the cybersecurity-focused think tank Cyentia Institute, is working with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on sponsored research to provide deeper insights into the dynamics, trends, and impact of ransomware attacks.

Baker shared some of the information he has gleaned from his research.

What is ransomware?

Ransomware is malicious software, also known as malware, that permanently blocks access to a victim's system or data unless a fee, or ransom, is paid. Ransoms are often requested to be paid in hard-to-trace currencies, like Bitcoin.

Ransomware is often spread through phishing emails that contain malicious attachments or through what is known as drive-by downloading. This occurs when a user unknowingly visits an infected website and then software is downloaded and installed without the user's knowledge.

Are ransomware attacks widespread?

From 2013-18, ransomware made up around 2 percent of all cybersecurity events and 4 percent of all financial losses from said events. However, since 2019, ransomware has surged to become one of the most pressing cybersecurity risks globally. These attacks now account for 30 percent of all reported events and

27 percent of financial losses and are now the second most prevalent threat to cybersecurity.

Why have ransomware attacks increased?

The increase can partially be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated the shift to remote work. This shift blended personal and professional digital environments for many, which bad actors were then able to take advantage of. With employees connecting to and accessing networks outside of their normal cybersecurity constraints, ransomware operators have been able to exploit even more vulnerabilities.

Who is the most at risk for a ransomware attack?

Attackers often target sectors where disruptions can yield quick financial gains. The most impacted area is education, which is considered "low-hanging fruit" by would-be attackers due to the sometimes-lax cybersecurity measures found at many institutions. The health care industry follows closely behind in second, with manufacturing also experiencing significant attacks.

We don't often hear about attacks on the manufacturing sector in the media because these ransoms are often paid quickly, as costs add up exponentially each day a business is out of service.

Are ransomware attacks also a threat to small businesses and organizations?

Ransomware disproportionately impacts small business, as the scalability of the attacks allows criminals to cast a wide net, impacting a larger number of smaller organizations whose



ILLUSTRATION BY ANDY SANTOS FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Since 2019, ransomware has surged to become one of the most pressing cybersecurity risks globally.

cybersecurity measures may not be as robust. Ransomware attacks encompass around 9 percent of the cybersecurity incidents at larger organizations while making up 41 percent of cybersecurity incidents at smaller businesses.

How are individuals at risk of ransomware attacks?

Ransomware innovations such as "wipers," which destroy entire systems, signify a dangerous escalation in ransomware attacks that can cause widespread disruption and financial harm. The use of wipers has spiked, as they are meant to cause maximum disruption to their victim.

It is through this disruption, rather than through direct attack, that ransomware will victimize typical citizens. These "indirect victimizations," be they mere annoyances or critical outages, are how most people will be impacted by ransomware attacks.

The ransomware attack on the critical infrastructure of Atlanta, Georgia, in 2018 is an example of indirect victimization. The successful attack, which shut down multiple municipal services, impacted 6 million people and is estimated to have cost taxpayers anywhere from \$2.5 million to nearly \$10 million.

How can people protect themselves from ransomware attacks?

There are many things individuals and businesses can do to protect themselves from ransomware. While backing up systems and data is often top of mind, that's just one of the many things to consider. And that doesn't actually prevent ransomware infections – it just reduces or contains the impact. Preventative measures include keeping systems up to date, training users to recognize phishing emails, and strong anti-virus or anti-malware defenses.

Radford TRIAD meetings offer information for seniors

RADFORD - TRIAD is an organization that was established in 1988, by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Sheriff's Association to educate seniors about crime prevention, safety programs, scams and more.

In 2006, the Radford City Sheriff's Office established the Radford City TRIAD program, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Radford Recreation Center. The Radford City Sheriff's

Office and the Radford City Police Department join together at the local level by providing an active exchange of information between seniors and law enforcement while learning to be safe and secure.

Each month, the Radford TRIAD program hosts approximately 20 members, law enforcement personnel, and a guest speaker. Guest speakers are a highlight of our meetings offering a variety of information to TRIAD members.

"Seniors are particularly vulnerable

to scams," Sheriff Mark Armentrout said. "Seniors are by nature a trusting group. It seems like sometimes they're victimized more than others."

Anyone interested in attending or

being a guest speaker at the Radford TRIAD program meetings can contact the Radford City Sheriff's Office at 540.731.5501 for more information.

RCSO

Expert shares what prisoner exchange means for U.S., Russia, Ukraine war

The surprising news that Russia has released two well-known American detainees, Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and ex-United States Marine Paul Whelan, has proved to be part of a larger exchange involving at least 24 prisoners and seven countries, the largest East-West prisoner swap since the Cold War.

Virginia Tech political scientist and foreign policy expert Paul Avey answered questions about the importance of the prisoner exchange.

How significant is this prisoner exchange with Russia?

"It's wonderful to see Russia release U.S. citizens from prison: Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan, and Alsu Kurmasheva. Russia unjustly arrested and imprisoned all three. Gershkovich and Kurmasheva are both journalists. Their release is a positive development for press freedom, which has been increasingly under assault around the globe, according to Reporters Without Borders. Freedom of the press, including freedom from intimidation, is a cornerstone of free and democratic societies."

Why is this prisoner release happening now?

"The agreement with Russia appears to be a triumph for quiet, patient, and multilateral diplomacy by the Biden-Harris administration working with U.S. allies. It's part of broader U.S. efforts to secure release of American citizens wrongfully detained or held hostage. President Biden said in a statement that his administration 'has now brought home over 70 such Americans, many of whom were in captivity since before' he took office."

What affect might this exchange have on future relations with Russia?

"Though the prisoner exchange highlights the value of communication between rivals such as the U.S. and Russia, it is unlikely to alter broader U.S. and NATO geopolitical competition with Russia. Past exchanges have not shifted the trajectory. Policies toward the Russian-Ukrainian War will likely remain the same as well. The U.S. elections in November and developments on the battlefield will play more important roles in shaping those policies."

Virginia Tech

Long Way Brewing wins award



Long Way Brewing brew master Kimberly Pensinger (center) celebrates winning a bronze medal at the Virginia Craft Brewers Guild her Mexican Lager Alegria recently with Long Way owners Rob and Janet Gropman (left) and Keith and Julie Weltens (right).



PHOTO COURTESY ADOBE STOCK VIA VIRGINIA TECH



Marketplace



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

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, August 13, 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. Rezoning request by JTCI Electric LLC, Property Owner, and Joseph Iskandar, Applicant, to rezone property located on the West side of Depot St. NW, also adjacent to the South side of 401 Depot St. NW, identified as Tax Parcel 526-((A))-158; (Parcel ID 070666), consisting of approximately 0.254 acre, from Two-Family Residential District (R-2) to General Business District (B-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by JTCI Electric LLC, Property Owner, and Joseph Iskandar, Applicant, to allow one (1) residential dwelling unit (apartment) on the second floor of the proposed "General Office" in the General Business District (B-3) on property located on the West side of Depot St. NW, also adjacent to the South side of 401 Depot St. NW, identified as Tax Parcel 526-((A))-158; (Parcel ID 070666), consisting of approximately 0.254 acre. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013

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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 OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on August 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following requests:

A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Michael Gay, P.E.) to rezone 49.17 acres from Agricultural (A-1) to Rural Residential (R-R), to allow for the development of a fourteen (14) lot single-family residential subdivision. The property is located at the end of Brammer Lane, approximately 0.50 miles

Legals - Montgomery County

east of the intersection of Houchins Road (State Route 758) and Brammer Lane. The property is further identified as Tax Map 080-5 1 (Parcel ID: 033688), in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan.

AND

A request by DW, LLC (Agent: Michael Gay, P.E.) to allow the construction of private streets to service the proposed fourteen (14) lot single-family subdivision. The proposed private street network would connect to Brammer Lane, approximately 0.50 miles east of the intersection of Houchins Road (State Route 758) and Brammer Lane. Section 8-152 of the Code of Montgomery County requires approval of all private streets by the Board of Supervisors.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on August 12, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Jonathan L. Yates for Arcola Towers for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a 197-foot monopole wireless telecommunications tower, freestanding. The property is owned by Reginald L. Duncan and is located at 3936 Childress Road, northeast of Fairview Church Road (State Route 669) and southwest of Piney Woods Road (State Route 600). The property is further identified as Tax Map 127-A 3, 4 (Parcel ID: 019114), 50.4383 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m.

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and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, August 12, 2024 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the Board of Supervisors' intent to adopt resolutions amending the FY 2024-2025 budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget. The resolutions add carryover funding appropriated in FY 2023-2024 budget to the FY 2024-2025 budget for the school operating fund, school capital fund, and school nutrition fund, not to exceed \$100 million and add various County operating expense appropriations not to exceed \$300,000. The total appropriation under this public hearing is not to exceed \$100,300,000.

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



THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING TO GRANT A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO

CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A CABLE SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, AND INVITING BIDS

The Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on August 12, 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 franchise for the construction and operation of a cable system in the City of Radford, Virginia. A copy of the full text of the ordinance, including the terms of the proposed franchise agreement, may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603. In addition, bids are hereby invited for the franchise 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.Webb@radfordva.gov. ALL BIDS MUST BE

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RECEIVED BY AUGUST 12, 2024 AT 12 PM. Bids will be opened and read aloud during open session at Council's regular meeting on August 12, 2024 at 7 PM.

After the reading of the bids, Council will proceed with consideration of the proposed ordinance and franchise.

Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to defer action until a subsequent meeting.

Classified Advertising DELIVERS

Local quilt group supports nonprofits

The Draper Quilt and Art Collective has made and donated a quilt to be raffled off to benefit the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley.

Five years ago, Alice Schaaf moved to the area and wanted to get to know people in her New River Valley home, so she turned to one of her favorite pastimes—quilting. Now the Draper Quilt and Art Collective is an established group of artisans and craftspeople who come together to learn about and share their knowledge of quilting with other members who have a range of quilting skills. The group also explores different art projects and the work of local artists.

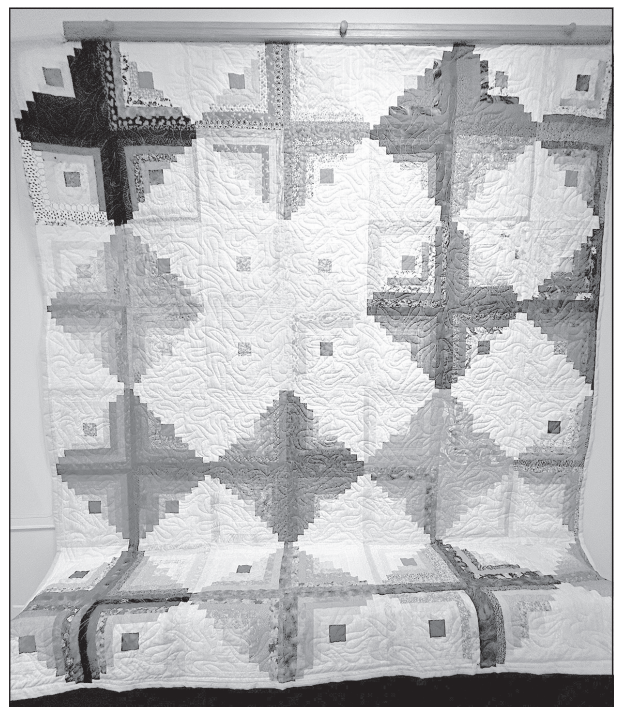
The Collective does more than enjoy each other's company and build their quilting skills. They apply those talents to craft beautiful community quilts that they then donate to local nonprofits to raffle off and raise funds. The Collective has donated five quilts to local nonprofits, with the most recent being donated to the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley.

That quilt uses a traditional log cabin pattern but with a modern color palette. Alice Schaaf noted

it was both a learning experiment and a gift to the community, as the quilters had to create blocks “with a light side with colors that graduate and a dark side with colors that graduate, so there are a lot of design options when you put the blocks together.” In this case, the experiment yielded a beautiful result.

The king-size quilt is on display at the Center and will be raffled off at Rhythm by the Rails, a music, food, and art festival in Jackson Park in Pulaski on Saturday, August 10. The event is sponsored by the Fine Arts Center and features performances by Ian Gilliam and the Firekings, the GRAPe JAM band, and the Jared Stout Band. Tickets for the quilt are available online, at the Center, and will also be available at Jackson Park on August 10.

For more information about the Fine Arts Center, exhibits, classes, or local, handmade gifts visit the Center's website at FACNRV.org, email at info@FACNRV.org, or call 540-980-7363. The Center is located at 21 West Main Street in the Historic Downtown Commercial District of Pulaski.



Veteran educator named MCPS Director of Elementary Education

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Montgomery County School Board has approved Ann Mitchell as the next Director of Elementary Education.

Mitchell currently serves as the principal at Falling Branch Elementary School.

“Mrs. Mitchell is a proven leader and will be a great resource for our elementary school principals,” MCPS Superintendent Dr. Bernard F. Bragen, Jr. said. “We are excited to have her join the MCPS leadership team.”

“I am excited for this new opportunity,” Mitchell said. “I will miss being the principal of the Falling Branch Frogs, but I am eager to take on this new position and can't wait to get started.”

Mitchell has served

as the FBES principal since 2022. Prior to joining MCPS, she served in administrative roles in Danville, Va, and Rockingham County, N.C. Mitchell has more than 30 years of educational experience.

Her educational background includes bachelor's and two master's degrees from North Carolina A&T and a Specialist in Education Degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Mitchell is currently seeking a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations. She will start this new position following the hiring of the next principal at FBES.



Ann Mitchell

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCPS

Peterson

from page 1

and at Christiansburg Library on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, at 3 p.m.

At these events, Ron Peterson, Jr. will share insights into his newest book, “In the Wind,” which chronicles the trailblazing efforts of Kay Schucker, the lead investigator in the case of Janice Starr. The book offers an examination of the mysterious disappearance of Starr, a charming student who vanished in 1981, and Schucker's groundbreaking investigative techniques that ultimately brought clarity to a perplexing case.

In addition to discussing “In the Wind,” Peterson will provide updates on the local case of Gina Hall, featured in his critically acclaimed 2018 book, “Under The Trestle”. Recognized as one of the Top 100 true crime books of all time, “Under The Trestle” is currently being developed into a documentary film by Mactavish Pictures.

Peterson is also the author of the 2020 bestseller, “Chasing The Squirrel,” which has been optioned for development as a television series by Urban Legends Film Company, and his 2022 book, “Eyes Of a Monster,”

which investigates the unresolved 1981 murder of schoolteacher Olivia Dare Christian. This book highlights the re-opening of the cold case by detective Randy Mayer and the FBI's discovery of a suspect linked to multiple murders.

As a celebrated guest lecturer at colleges and

universities across the Mid-Atlantic, Peterson brings a wealth of knowledge and a compelling narrative style to his presentations. These events provide a unique opportunity for fans and true crime enthusiasts to hear directly from one of the leading voices in the genre.

Staff Report

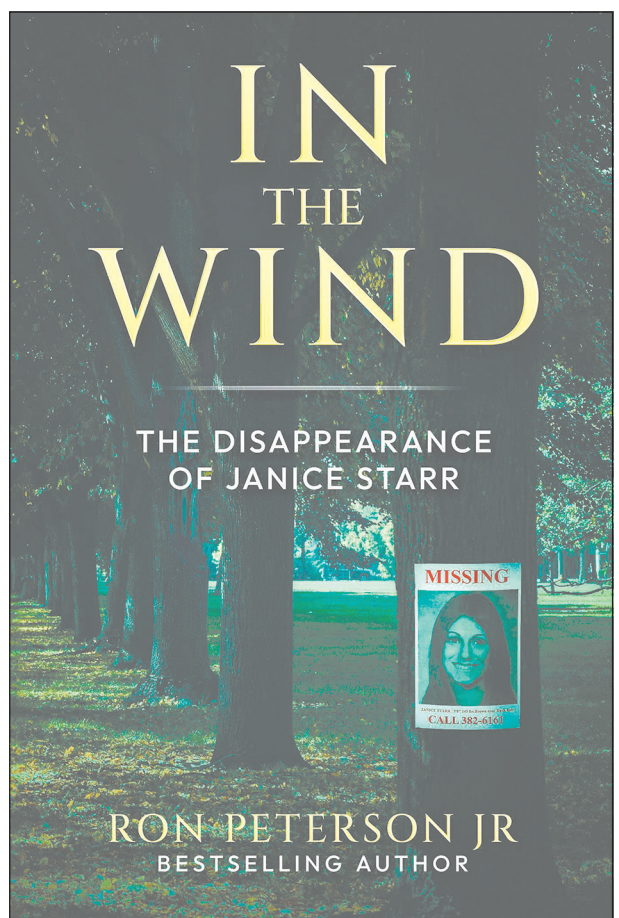


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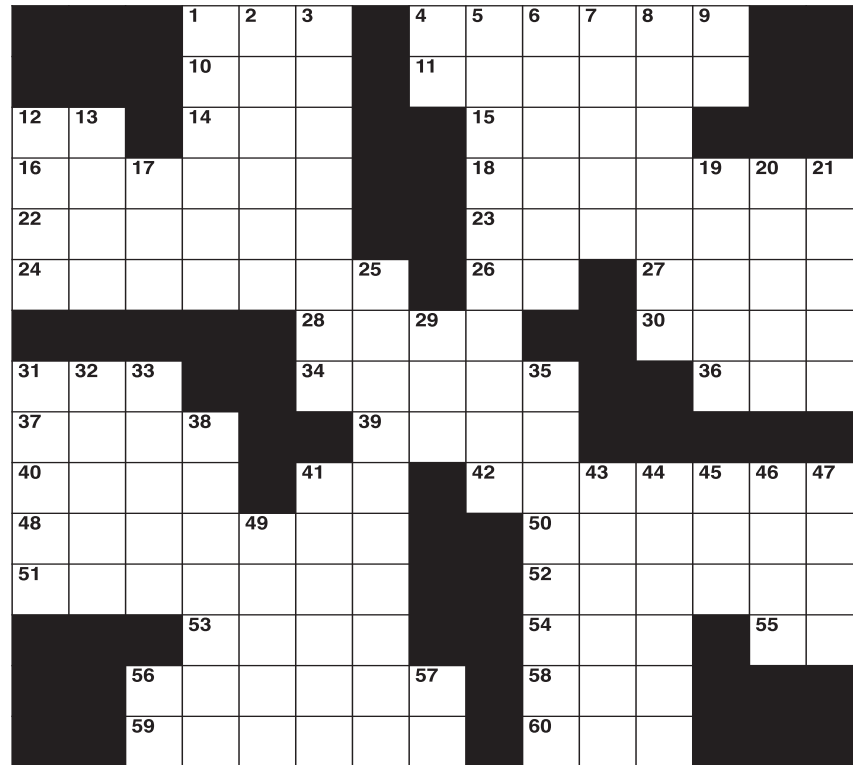
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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Opposite of on</p> <p>4. Creator</p> <p>10. No seats available</p> <p>11. About springtime</p> <p>12. Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)</p> <p>14. Automobile</p> <p>15. A matchup</p> <p>16. Porous volcanic rock</p> <p>18. Utter repeatedly</p> <p>22. Not written in any key</p> <p>23. Revolved</p> <p>24. Archival</p> <p>26. Within</p> <p>27. Smoker's accessory</p> <p>28. Disfigure</p> <p>30. Primordial matter</p> <p>31. Thrust horse power (abbr.)</p> | <p>34. Kisses</p> <p>36. Some is iced</p> <p>37. A way to derive</p> <p>39. Unaccompanied by others</p> <p>40. Discontinued Google app</p> <p>41. Tony B. left his heart there</p> <p>42. Condiment</p> <p>48. Ancient Italian city</p> <p>50. One who distributes payoff money</p> <p>51. Guarantees</p> <p>52. Highly decorative</p> <p>53. Strike with a stick</p> <p>54. Pie ___ mode</p> <p>55. Spanish be</p> <p>56. Glued</p> <p>58. A way to drench</p> | <p>59. Part of the body</p> <p>60. Changes the color</p> <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Passerine birds</p> <p>2. Noisy quarrel</p> <p>3. The front arm or leg of an animal</p> <p>4. Early multimedia</p> <p>5. Golden years</p> <p>6. Large mollusk</p> <p>7. Small arm of the sea</p> <p>8. Persian jurisdiction</p> <p>9. Atomic #81</p> <p>12. From end to end</p> <p>13. Adorable</p> <p>17. Ma</p> <p>19. Nearly falling</p> <p>20. Portable conical tent</p> <p>21. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues</p> | <p>25. Fish with high dorsal fins</p> <p>29. Equal (prefix)</p> <p>31. Aquatic plant genus</p> <p>32. Choppers</p> <p>33. Hand parts</p> <p>35. Region bordering the sea</p> <p>38. Well-liked</p> <p>41. Nap</p> <p>43. It's used to make beer</p> <p>44. Related on the father's side</p> <p>45. Senior officer</p> <p>46. Delicacy (archaic)</p> <p>47. Figures</p> <p>49. A way to take away</p> <p>56. Beloved sandwich ___&J</p> <p>57. Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)</p> |
|--|---|---|---|

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OBITUARIES

Duncan, Rebecca Sharon



Rebecca Sharon Duncan, 75, of Clintwood, passed away Sunday, July 28, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Derald Franklin Barrett and Rowena June Dotson; sister, Reba Ethel Barrett; and her brothers, Ronald, Johnny and Dook Barrett.

She is survived by her daughters and son-in-law, Felecia Kilgore, and Nicole Blansett (Brad); grandchildren and their spouses, John Kilgore, II (BreAnna), Isaiah Blansett and Quinlan Blansett; great-grandchildren, Lillian Williams

and Roger Kilgore; special grandsons, Dylan Fleming and Devin Stanley; sisters and brother-in-law, Judith Shumaker and Susan Anderson (Glenn); and many other relatives and friends.

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

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the A.S.P.C.A., www.aspca.org.

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

Gravely, Donna Denise Buckland



Donna Denise Buckland Gravely, 65, passed away Tuesday, July 30, 2024. She was preceded in death by her father, Howard Edward Buckland; sister, Debbie Turpin; and her brother, Curtis Buckland.

Survivors include her loving husband of 38 years, Grover Gene Gravely; son and daughter-in-law, Sam Gravely (Katie); daughter, Angie Buckland; step-daughter and her husband, Tammy Conn (Bobby); grandchildren, Taylor Keith and Justin Buckland; great-grandchild, Brayden Buckland; mother, Ilene Montgomery; sisters and brother-in-law, Dorothy Damron, and Rhonda Myers (Larry); brothers and sisters-in-

law, Doug Buckland (Sally), and Eddie Montgomery (Becky); and numerous other family members and special friends.

The family received friends Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Eddie Dalton officiating. Burial followed in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

St. Thomas Anglican Church- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for 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: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford. **Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

EPISCOPAL

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

LUTHERAN

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

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

From Violence to Victory

Read Revelation 15:1 through 18:24

When our daughters were small, they enjoyed watching cartoons at their grandparents' house since we didn't have a TV. We noticed the girls' behavior would worsen after such sessions. They would fight and hit each other.

Violence portrayed in all forms of media—TV programs, movies, video games, the news—has dramatically increased in the past twenty years. Watching combat and killing desensitizes viewers. Violent crimes have risen.

John's visions must have been like watching a wild movie, which might have overwhelmed this first-century saint. But the "violence" he recorded had a divine purpose: to carry out God's just judgment of sin and Satan.

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" (Revelation 16:17).

The end times will be devastating for the wicked. We must continue to be overcomers. Our personal battles and victories foreshadow God's final one. Look to Him for deliverance. When Jesus returns, He will usher in peace.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, help us stand strong and stay true to You.

Quicklook: Revelation 16:9-21

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. Sunday Services 10:30am Sunday School 9:00am. Child care is provided. www.centralchurchradford.org.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. lchristopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph. Worship will be at 10 am Memorial Day (May 26) through Labor Day (September 1). Pastor Morgan Whitfield, Jr. will lead 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.stpaulvauumc.org

OBITUARIES

Alderman, Effie Marie

Effie Marie Alderman passed away Sunday, July 28, 2024, at her home. She was born in Carroll County to Steven Solomon and Mildred Bernice Martin on Aug. 25, 1931. Marie was predeceased by her parents and brothers, Marlin Preston, Elmer Ray, and Elden Blaine.

She is survived by her husband, Bobby Pratt Alderman of Blacksburg; children, Edward Wayne Alderman (Linda) of Kemah, Texas, Jane Marie Hall (Mark) of Hot Springs, Va.; grandsons,



Robert Benton Alderman (Amy) of Missouri City, Texas, Austin Ryan Hall of Hot Springs, Va., and Travis Michael Hall of Hot Springs, Va.; and great-granddaughter, Tennyson Blaire Alderman of Missouri City, Texas.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Brad Dulaney officiating. A private burial will take place at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin.

Hudgins, Douglas Bland

Douglas Bland Hudgins, 54, of Blacksburg, died July 25, 2024.

Doug was born in Richmond in 1969 to H. Bland Hudgins and Gaylia Kline Hudgins and grew up in Mathews, Va. with his older sister, Vaniene. He played football and loved to sing in church. Doug attended Mathews High School before receiving a bachelor's and two master's degrees in engineering at Virginia Tech. After college, he stayed in Blacksburg and became a highly respected and sought after environmental engineer. In 1995, he met his wife Cathy and became a devoted stepfather to his children Alli and John, and a loving father to his son Zachary in 1998.

One of his favorite days in the whole year was the opening of dove hunting season. But his greatest passion was fly fishing, which also endowed him with lifelong friendships, took him around the world in his quest for the greatest trout streams, and filled him with a profound sense of peace. He was a lifelong Hokie who loved to tailgate with friends and family.

Along with being a sporting man, Doug was a devout Christian and an active member and leader of the Blacksburg



United Methodist Church. He was a beloved Sunday School teacher to kids of all ages – “Mr. Doug” made the best chocolate chip muffins as a special treat for them. He also was a kind and compassionate mentor to children and families in the community.

Family and friends will remember Doug as a strong, reliable anchor with a wily, infectious sense of humor.

He was genuinely interested in everyone he met. No matter what, he was there to offer a helping hand, strong shoulder, and kind word.

Doug was preceded in death by his father H. Bland Hudgins. He is survived by his wife Cathy Mills Hudgins; daughter Alli Dyer and her husband AJ Minette; son John Dyer and his husband David Williams; son Zachary Hudgins; mother Gaylia Kline Hudgins; sister Vaniene DeLucas and her husband Jim DeLucas; nephew Cole DeLucas and his wife Emily DeLucas; and niece Addisen DeLucas Good and her husband Jonny Good. He is also survived by his sweet dog, Artie.

The memorial was held July 30, 2024 at the Edges campus of Blacksburg United Methodist Church.

Bradford, Barbara Ellen Sarver

On Tuesday, July 30, 2024, Barbara Ellen Sarver Bradford, of Christiansburg, unexpectedly departed this earth for her heavenly home. She was born March 14, 1938 in Ironto in the Sarver home. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, William Theodore Bradford, and her parents, Houston Montgomery and Ethel Mae Guthrie Sarver.

She is survived by a son, Tony Ray Bradford; a daughter, Vickie Kay and husband Dennis Spangler; and a daughter, Libby Gay Bradford; three granddaughters, Alaina Anne and husband Scott Lawrence, Olivia Rae and husband Brian Harris, and Christina Maureen Bradford; three great grandsons, David and Benjamin Lawrence, and Bradford Harris, and a great granddaughter, baby Harris, who will make her arrival later this year. She is also survived by her brother Virgil and wife Colleen Sarver, and her brother Mike and wife Linda Sarver, and many nieces and nephews.

Barbara was a feisty and active woman until slowed by years of rheumatoid arthritis. Her favorite thing was reading, especially in the true crime genre. She started reading as a little girl and often reread books because they were the only ones she had. If you visited the Bradford home, you saw shelves and stacks of books and magazines, much to the dismay of Theodore. She hosted many picnics and family and holiday meals, and especially loved baking, and before the arthritis, cake decorating.



She also enjoyed traveling, even though she frequently drove her traveling companions (family members) just a bit batty. Her favorite place to visit was New York City for its musical performances, museums and food.

She rescued, raised, and loved dozens of guinea pigs and was always willing to take in more that needed a home. She loved dogs and cats, and especially her grand dog Sheba.

The family wishes to thank those who helped her after her husband's passing: Virgil and Colleen Sarver; the members and pastors of Blacksburg Christian Church, Gary McCoy and John “JB” Beane, Whitney Edmister, and the “guys” who came into her and her daughter's lives: Chris, Joe-Joe, and Julio: they were a blessing and showed Christian love when it was needed most. The family also wishes to thank the many friends, family, and church members for their care, love, and support.

Flowers are welcome. If you would like to make a donation in her name, please donate to the Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control or The Agape Center NRV.

Funeral services will be conducted today, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor J.B. Beane and Pastor Gary McCoy officiating. Interment will follow in the Halls Church Cemetery. A visitation was held Friday, Aug. 2, 2024 at McCoy Funeral Home.

This Day in Wharton History

Join Glencoe Mansion each week to highlight the Wharton letters by learning what Gabe and Nannie were doing and thinking on this day in the 1860s.

One common theme in Civil War soldiers' writings is the uncertainty about what was happening in other areas of the country during the War. Unlike today's quick mass communication, news took days or weeks to travel during the 19th Century. This meant for these soldiers that as their armies split up to go serve in different areas, they were unsure what was happening to their fellow soldiers.

This is highlighted in Gen. Wharton's letter on July 31, 1864. He wrote: “Nothing has been heard from McCausland since he crossed the Potomac tho' I am sure his expedition will be a success.” You can see this as an example of how fellow southern soldiers were unsure of their brothers-in-arms fates, including Gen. McCausland, pictured here.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION
General McCausland

To read more about Gabe's experiences during the Civil War, visit Glencoe Mansion to get a copy of “The Whartons' War.” We are open Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Glencoe Mansion

August is National Water Quality Month, a chance to highlight local research

Water is abundantly present in our lives — drinking fountains and showers, garden sprinklers, swimming pools, reservoirs and streams — that it can become invisible, always in sight but often out of mind. Yet, contamination risks can endanger that abundance. August is National Water Quality Month, a time to contemplate conserving natural water sources and consider what households and communities can do to ensure and preserve access to clean, safe water.

Clean water poured into a glass. Image courtesy Pixabay. Many researchers at Virginia Tech pursue this goal, whether through teaching communities how to detect problems and protect their water sources, pioneering new approaches to removing pollutants, or even seeking new understanding of how water moves across the ocean floors. To schedule an interview with any of the researchers below, please contact mediarelations@vt.edu.

Reducing forever chemicals and contaminants

Leigh-Anne Krometis and Erin Ling lead projects examining private water supplies such as wells, concentrating on contaminants like bacteria, arsenic, and PFAS, or forever chemicals. Krometis, a professor and Turner Faculty Fellow of Biological Systems Engineering for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Ling, coordinator of the Virginia Household Water Quality Program, have also studied contaminating metals found in plumbing like lead and copper. Krometis has additional projects focused on bottled water reliance and other coping behaviors like reliance on roadside springs in rural Appalachia, as well as home water and sanitation access and wastewater surveillance in the rural United States.

Managing water sources in new ways

Cities have long treated stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water as siloed entities, but the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory, led by Stanley Grant, is on a mission to change that through a new concept called “One Water” that is gaining momentum among urban water practitioners. Implementing this novel approach could be essential to meeting new Environmental Protection Agency standards for the reduction of PFAS, or forever chemicals, in drinking water.

“We are aiming to stop thinking of water as three separate things and start treating it all as a single resource,” said Grant. “This will take innovative methods and technologies to tackle water quality challenges as a unified system.”

Grant and assistant professor Megan Rippey are also working to address freshwater salt pollution. Many human activities, such as applying salt to roads and sidewalks in the winter, worsen the pollution, which threatens safe drinking water and leads to declines in biodiversity and critical freshwater habitats. “If we don't figure out how to reverse this trend of salt pollution soon, it may become one of our nation's top environmental challenges,” Grant said.

Advancing water management in rural settings

Alasdair Cohen conducts research on drinking water — contamination, treatment, and supply — and health outcomes, especially in the Central Appalachian region. Cohen, an assistant professor of environmental epidemiology in the Department of Population Health Sciences and the Public Health Program in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, explained that “our research group's overarching goal is to help advance programs and policies for improving drinking water, sanitation, and health in rural and lower-income settings.”

Empowering communities through technology

Cholera afflicts millions annually, especially in regions with poor sanitation and water infrastructure. Working with a community in rural Bangladesh, Kevin Boyle from Virginia Tech, in collaboration with researchers from Moravian University, Penn State, and the University of Rhode Island, developed an Android-based smartphone app that delivers real-time cholera risk forecasts to households. By utilizing NASA satellite data, CholeraMap predicts cholera risks based on factors like rainfall, temperature, and historical incidence. The app creates a model that could assist in similar regions worldwide.

Training communities to protect water supplies

Anthropologist and associate professor of history Nick Copeland is part of a team of Virginia Tech researchers using water science to respond to the concerns of rural and Indigenous communities in Guatemala and empowering communities to conduct their own monitoring to protect their waterways. They have taught these communities how to use field testing kits in areas where residents fear that sugar cane, palm oil plantations, and extractive industries



IMAGE COURTESY PIXABAY

are contaminating waterways. The team also is exploring ways that Indigenous environmental justice movements can use water science to address industrial development.

Laying groundwork for pipe replacement

Marc Edwards' research looks at water contaminants such as lead and deadly microbes including Legionella. His team used citizen science to help expose the 2001-2004 D.C. lead crisis and the 2014-2016 Flint water disaster. His research exposed how antiquated pipes, including those made of lead, are endangering public health, laying the groundwork for billions of dollars in federal funding for pipe replacement. “Our past failures threaten the health and welfare of every American,” Edwards said, adding “if consumers can't trust the water coming out of the tap as provided by a government water utility, how can we hope to solve more complicated problems?”

Reducing pollution from fracking

A research team led by Wencai Zhang at Virginia Tech received a \$1.9 million grant from the Department of Energy to recover high-demand metals, such as lithium and other rare earth elements, from naturally occurring water that comes out of the ground during hydraulic fracking. “High-demand metals and minerals, such as lithium, play an essential role in electric vehicle production and are present in virtually every battery worldwide,” said Zhang. “Our goal is to contribute to the supply chain of these critical materials while also making a positive environmental impact.” The research aims to reduce the environmental consequences associated with water produced by fracking, removing pollutants and making it safer for affected communities.

Underwater robots bring new understandings

Dan Stilwell and his team develop autonomous underwater robots that can operate without human intervention. Recently, they have been deployed to rapidly search for hazards to navigation, search large areas of ocean for sources of methane that bubble up from the seafloor and characterize the flow of microplastics through Virginia's waterways. Because these robots can make intelligent decisions based on their real-time measurements of their surroundings, they can conduct investigations in the ocean that would be nearly impossible with a human onboard. This technology can help determine how concentrated microplastics have become in the ocean and how that could affect wildlife. The robots could also help to map the ocean floor, contributing to a more complete picture of the Earth's climate.

Artificial intelligence and water quality forecasts

Computer engineer Anuj Karpatne's research explores the potential for artificial intelligence to forecast water quality in lakes that supply drinking water. To develop this technology, he recently collaborated on a project intended to provide real-time forecasts of water quality for the Falling Creek Reservoir in Roanoke, Virginia. “This reservoir is a major source of drinking water for Roanoke residents, and we are interested in forecasting its temperature, chlorophyll content, and other water quality variables,” Karpatne said. “We aim to generate better forecasts of water quality in lakes and reservoirs that can directly impact the people who depend on their water.”

Defending water supply cybersecurity

The research conducted by Feras Batarseh and his AI & Cyber for Water & Ag lab — ACWA for short, pronounced “aqua” — highlights a different way of protecting water resources. The team collects data in order to develop artificial intelligence algorithms that can help defend water systems from cyber-attacks and other threats. Batarseh is associated with the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, Virginia's central hub for cybersecurity research. He also works with the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture, an entity in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences that focuses on cyberbiosecurity. “The ACWA lab provides a test bed for stakeholders such as water treatment plants and utilities all over the country to come to Virginia Tech and evaluate the security levels at their utilities, and how they can improve,” Batarseh said.

Virginia Tech

RADFORD SPORTS

Former Blue Demon to return as coach

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Christiansburg High School has given the keys to the wrestling program to one its former all-state champions.

Former Virginia Tech standout Hunter Bolen has been named head coach at the school where he won three state, four regions and four district titles. He was also a two-time Fargo All-American.

As a senior at CHS, Bolen ranked as the number fourth ranked wrestler at 160 pounds. Overall, he was listed as the #17 overall recruit in the country.

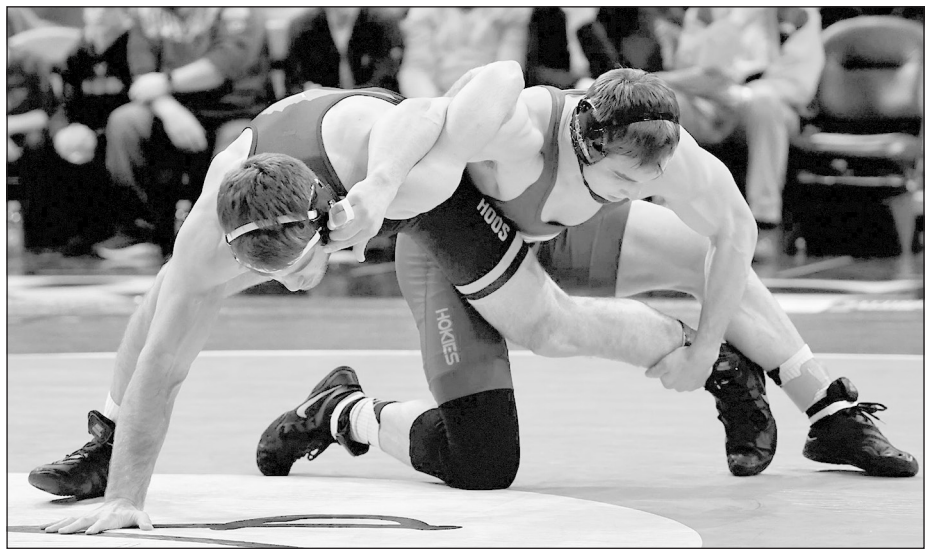
At Virginia Tech, he was a two-time NCAA All-American, four-time NCAA

qualifier, the 2020 ACC champion and the 2018 ACC Freshman of the year.

In the past two seasons in Blacksburg, he won 43 matches with only 14 losses. This past year, he graduated from Tech and moved to the private sector.

One of Bolen's most productive years was in 2020 when he was an ACC champion after being the top seed in the conference championships. That season, he also claimed an 8-1 decision over Ohio State's Zach Steiner to help Tech pull the upset over the then-No. 3 Buckeyes.

The Christiansburg wrestling program had gone on an unbelievable streak of 17 straight titles, ending in 2017. Since



FILE PHOTO

Hunter Bolen was one of the top wrestlers in the country in both Virginia Tech and at Christiansburg High School.

then, Christiansburg has not been able to scratch the top five.

The Blue Demons have had several state champions including back-to-back wins by Brady Hand, but the depth in wins simply has not been there.

During this span, Christiansburg has seen four new coaches after now-lowa State and former Virginia Coach Kevin Dresser stepped away. The coach's office has been a revolving door.

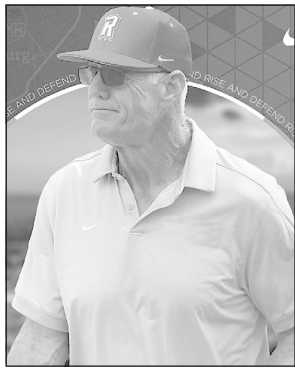
In a statement announcing Bolen's

appointment, the school said they were thrilled to welcome Bolen back to his alma mater.

"As a former wrestler for CHS and Virginia Tech, he brings a wealth of experience, passion and strong commitment to fostering excellence both on and off the mat. His vision of building a program from within the Christiansburg community aligns perfectly with the goals of our athletic department."

Former NFL player, softball guru takes over at RU

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PHOTOCOURTESYOFRUATHLETICS

Radford University has named Kevin Fagan, who is considered one of the most exciting up and coming coaches at the collegiate level, as its new softball coach.

Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg made the announcement on Monday.

"We are thrilled to announce that Kevin Fagan has agreed to become the head coach of the Radford Highlander softball program," Lineburg said. "Throughout his career, he has consistently proven to be a champion, and we look forward to him leading our program. Kevin is truly an outstanding leader, and I am confident that our student-athletes will learn, grow and excel under his guidance."

Fagan was an accomplished football player at the collegiate and professional level. In 1983, he was a member of the Miami Hurricanes national championship team that won the Orange Bowl. After his collegiate career, he joined the San Francisco 49ers as a defensive end and was an integral part of the defense that helped win a pair of Super Bowls.

He joins the Highlanders after spending the last four seasons with Division II Emmanuel where the Lions amassed a 121-96 record during his tenure. The Lions reached new heights in the program's history over that span, including their most overall wins, most conference wins, first-ever conference Player of the Year and first-ever

NFCA All-American. They also reached a program-high ninth in the regional rankings. In 2022, Emmanuel broke every offensive, pitching and defensive record in school history. In his first season with Lions in 2021, Fagan led the program to their first-ever Conference Carolinas Championship, earning their first-ever bid to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Fagan replaces Alisha Tasler, who had been head coach the past three seasons tallying a 59-86 overall record. She was initially hired in 2021 and became the school's 10th coach in the history of the program. Fagan will be number 11. Prior to Emmanuel, Fagan spent six seasons at the junior college level with the College of Central Florida. During his tenure, the Patriots never had a losing season. Before Fagan arrived there, the Patriots had never finished higher than fourth in their conference standings before going on to dominate the Mid-Florida Conference and the NJCAA. From 2014-2020, he coached the Patriots to several firsts, including first conference championship, first Region 8 championship, first national championship

tournament appearance (2015-2nd, 2019-3rd), first national ranking in school history and first NJCAA No. 1 ranking in school history. During Fagan's time at the College of Central Florida, the Patriots were the most productive offensive team in the nation. They were first in Region 8 in homeruns for six consecutive years (over 100 in 2019) and consistently finished in the top-five of all offensive categories in NJCAA softball. During his tenure there, Fagan was the fastest coach to the 100, 200, and 300-win milestones. He finished there with an overall record of 355-68 boasting an impressive .839 winning percentage. From 2009-2012, Fagan coached his daughters in travel ball on Team North Florida, where they consistently competed for a national championship. In his four years as a coach, the team won ASA Gold Nationals, Champions Cup, Colorado Independence Day Tournament and the inaugural NFCA tournament. The team placed third at the Premier National Championship in his last year as the head coach. During that time, he produced 50 scholarship players, including 14 that played in the Division I Women's College World Series. Fagan also coached his three older daughters at Dunnellon High School where they won two Florida state championships, were ESPN national champions, produced three Gatorade Players of the Year, seven all-state players and three All-Americans.



FILE PHOTO

Sean DeLorenzo is taking his soccer talent from Blacksburg High School to Lynchburg.

Blacksburg grad, soccer player named All-American

Sean DeLorenzo from Blacksburg High School has been named a 2023-24 High School Boys Soccer Scholar All-American by the United Soccer Coaches (USC) organization.

He is one of 43 senior boys nationwide to earn this recognition. A First Team All-District, First Team All-Region, and First Team All-State selection, he led Blacksburg in 2024 to a 16-2-1 record with 20 goals, 10 assists, and nine game winning goals. Sean was a team captain and chosen Most Valuable Player by his teammates.

DeLorenzo has signed to continue his soccer playing career at defending Old Dominion Athletic Conference Champion and NCAA Tournament participant, University of Lynchburg, earned a \$22,000 per year merit scholarship, and will enter the Westover Honors College.

He is the thirteenth Blacksburg High

School Boys Soccer student-athlete to be named a Scholar All-American since the USC (formerly the National Soccer Coaches Association of America) began this recognition in the 1999-2000 academic year.

United Soccer Coaches announced the 2023-24 High School Scholar All-Americans on Wednesday. A total of 88 student-athletes, including 45 girls and 43 boys, were honored based on their cumulative achievement in the classroom as well as on the soccer field during their secondary school careers.

The lists are highlighted by the Scholar Players of the Year as selected by the High School Scholar All-America Council.

This past season, DeLorenzo was named first-team All-River Ridge District, all-region 4D, and All state first teams.

Blacksburg High School

Hunter, Willson nominated for Big South award

The Big South conference announced Wednesday Radford University's Olivia Hunter (lacrosse) and Helena Willson (women's soccer) have been named nominees for the conference's Woman of the Year award.

Hunter, a political science major, was involved in Morgan's Message in 2023 and 2024 as an Ambassador. She hosted events to educate others about mental health to end the negative stigma around the issue. The two-year captain was also a Dean's List honoree three times at Radford.

Willson, a biology major, was the Big South Women's Soccer Defensive Player of the Year honoree in 2023, and helped the Highlanders win the Conference Championship. Off the pitch, she was involved with REALISE, which focused on inclusiveness

and diversity to bring peers together as one in the Artis College of Science and Technology. She also participated in Fellowship of Christian Athletes as well as the Beta Beta Beta Biology Honors Society.

The committee will

use criteria of Service and Leadership (including community services, campus activities and leadership positions), Academic Achievement, Athletics Excellence and a Personal Statement from each candidate when determining this year's

award recipient. Whoever is named will also become the conference's candidate for the national NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Since the Big South began the Woman of the Year initiative after the 2005-06 season,

four have earned the award including Hope Creasy (2009-10), Jessica Wollmann (2018-19), Sydney Fisher (2020-21) and most recently Saleena Lynch (2022-23).

The 2023-24 Big South Woman of the Year nominees include:

- Blake Holtorf, Charleston Southern Softball
 - Callie Scheier, High Point Basketball
 - Lauren Fox, Longwood Softball
 - Kaitlyn Tucker, Presbyterian Softball
 - Olivia Hunter, Radford Lacrosse
 - Helena Willson, Radford Soccer
 - Mallory Haney, UNC Asheville Track & Field
 - Cora Brendle, USC Upstate Soccer
 - Valentine Savioz, Winthrop Golf
- Radford University Athletics

RADFORD ATHLETICS x BIG SOUTH

Woman of the Year Nominees



OLIVIA HUNTER



HELENA WILLSON

PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

| | |
|---------|---------|
| OFF | ARTIST |
| SRO | VERNAL |
| SC | CAR |
| PUMICE | ITERATE |
| ATONAL | ROTATED |
| NEMESIS | EN |
| MAIM | YLEM |
| THP | BISE |
| REAP | LONE |
| ALLO | SF |
| POMPEII | BAGMAN |
| ASSURES | ORNATE |
| LASH | AL |
| PASTED | RET |
| BREAST | DYE |

RADFORD SPORTS

Sports notes: Referee shortage to affect Friday nights

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There's a shortage of high school officials in almost every sport. In a recent posting from the Virginia High School League (VHSL) in some communities the shortage is critical, and high school games are being either postponed or canceled. The NFHS has launched a campaign to address this called #BecomeAnOfficial.

Already, the VHSL has said some Friday night football games might be switched to Saturday or Thursdays because of the lack of official numbers.

This is nothing new as the program popped up two years ago. Older officials are retiring and there simply not enough young ones stepping forward. In some cases, this past year some games were not fully staffed because of the problem.

Scholarship numbers to rise

The NCAA is moving forward with a plan to approve an increase in scholarships for multiple sports. Earlier this week, a subcommittee that included power conference commissioners decided to increase Division I football from 85 to 105 scholarships. Basketball would go from 13 to 15, baseball from 11 to 34, softball from 12 to 25, and volleyball from 12 to 18.

The change would take effect in the 2025-2025 school year.

E&H football coach resigns

Due to health concerns,

Curt Newsome, who has served Emory & Henry as head football coach for the past 10 years, announced on Tuesday, that he is stepping down, effective immediately. Additionally, assistant coach and offensive coordinator, Quintin Hunter, has been appointed interim head coach for the 2024 season.

In 10 years as Emory & Henry's head football coach, Newsome compiled a 53-42 record with six winning seasons. He was named the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2014 after leading the Wasps to an 8-2 record and took the team to the ODAC Championship game in the spring of 2021.

Newsome became the 20th head coach in program history in January of 2014 after spending 15 years at the Division I level. He coached at James Madison University for eight years (1999-05, '13), helping lead the Dukes to the 2004 FCS National Championship. Between his two stints in Harrisonburg, Newsome was an offensive line coach at Virginia Tech for seven seasons (2006-12). During that time, the Hokies won three Atlantic Coast Conference Championships in four years (2007, 2008, 2010).

E&H officially D-II

Emory & Henry College will be a full NCAA Division II member in the upcoming 2024-25 academic year, NCAA officials announced Thursday

afternoon. The announcement was made following the completion of annual reporting by E&H and deliberation by the membership committee. College officials learned of the news on Thursday morning during a conference call with the NCAA.

"The news that we have been fully admitted to Division II status is the result of great teamwork and in particular the efforts of Dr. Anne Crutchfield and the rest of the athletics administration," commented Dr. John W. Wells, President of the College. "Moving to Division II elevates the entire institution. This is another great day at Emory & Henry."

Over the past three years of realignment from Division III to Division II, Emory & Henry has seen historic growth as an institution. Enrollment has reached unprecedented heights at both the undergraduate and graduate levels including significant increases in campus diversity. E&H has also made investments in its infrastructure with the construction and renovations of several residence halls, the renovation of Carriger Hall as the home of the School of Business and the construction of the Food City Sports Complex at Interstate 81.

Auburn grad honored

The Emory & Henry College Women's Tennis Team has seen three players named Scholar-Athletes by the Intercollegiate

Tennis Association, ITA officials announced Tuesday. Additionally, the team was recognized as an ITA All-Academic Team. The individual list included Molly McMichael of Riner (Auburn High School).

ITA Scholar-Athletes must be a varsity letterwinner and carry at least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.00 scale) for the current academic year. Additionally, each student-athlete must be enrolled at their present school for at least two semesters. To be an ITA All-Academic Team, the cumulative team grade point average must exceed 3.20 for the current academic year.

The ITA is the governing body of college tennis and oversees men's and women's varsity tennis at NCAA Divisions I, II and III, NAIA and Junior/Community College divisions. The ITA administers a comprehensive awards and rankings program for men's and women's varsity players, coaches and teams in all divisions, providing recognition for their accomplishments on and off the court.

Drones, Tuten on watch list

Virginia Tech quarterback Kyron Drones and running back Bhayshul Tuten have been named to the watch list for the Maxwell Award, presented annually to the college football player judged by a panel of sportscasters, sportswriters, National Collegiate Athletic Association head coaches

and members of the Maxwell Football Club to be the best all-around in the United States.

Drones (6-2, 234) threw for 2,085 yards and 17 touchdowns last season against only three interceptions. The redshirt junior from Pearland, Texas also rushed for 818 yards and five scores. Drones took over as the starter in Week 3 last fall at Rutgers and led Tech to a big turnaround over the final eight games, going 5-3 in the ACC to become bowl-eligible.

Drones set a Virginia Tech bowl record and Military Bowl record with 176 rushing yards in a 41-20 win over Tulane. He also passed for 91 yards and two touchdowns and was named Military Bowl MVP.

Tuten (5-11, 209) rushed for 863 yards and 10 touchdowns last season, averaging five yards per carry. The senior from Paulsboro, New Jersey tallied 239 receiving yards and two TDs. Tuten made a huge impact on special teams, returning 19 kicks for 550 yards and two touchdowns. He was one of five FBS players to record two-plus kick return touchdowns.

Tuten's 1,633 all-purpose yards in 2023 helped him earn several post-season accolades including, third team All-ACC running back, second team All-ACC all-purpose back, as well as All-American kick returner honors from Phil Steele, The Sporting News, and College Football Network.



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