



# Belle Heth student wins Virginia Lottery Thank a Teacher Art Contest

The Virginia Lottery is preparing to thank teachers in an artistic way, thanks to some talented young artists.

A Radford City Public Schools student is being honored as one of three winners of the eighth annual Virginia Lottery Thank a Teacher Art Contest. Avalyn Church, a fifth grader at Belle Heth Elementary School, won in the contest's elementary school category.

After receiving nearly 600 entries, the Virginia Lottery selected three winners from the elementary, middle and high school levels to have their artwork featured on thank-you notes that will be distributed to thousands of teachers across the Commonwealth during National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5 – 9, 2025). Thank a Teacher is a statewide campaign organized by the Virginia Lottery in partnership with The Supply Room, IGT, and Neopollard Interactive. Over the years, through this campaign, Virginians have sent more than 400,000 thank-you notes, and 16 deserving teachers have

been awarded fabulous prizes from the lottery and its partners.

In a surprise presentation at Belle Heth on Tuesday, Mar. 25, Avalyn was awarded a \$200 gift card, and the school received a \$2,000 credit from The Supply Room for its art department.

"The lottery is proud to be in Radford to recognize Avalyn's creativity and talent," said Virginia Lottery Executive Director Khalid Jones. "Her art will be used to thank thousands of public school teachers throughout Virginia this Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers and students are at the core of the Lottery's role to support K-12 public education, and the Art Contest is a unique opportunity to recognize them by giving back to the winning schools art departments, thanks to our partners at The Supply Room."

The Thank a Teacher Art Contest winners were selected by a blue-ribbon panel of judges, including representatives of Virginia's arts community and contest

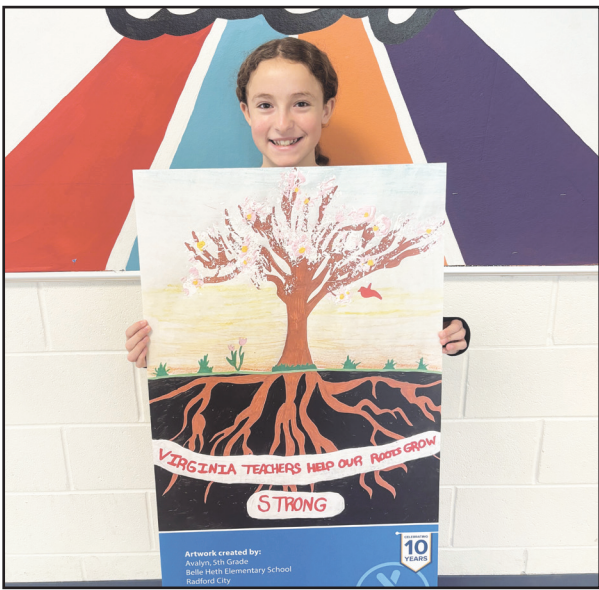


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA LOTTERY

**Belle Heth fifth grader Avalyn Church is the elementary school winner of the Virginia Lottery Thank a Teacher Art Contest.**

partners. The judges were: Peggy Wood, executive secretary, Virginia Art Education Association; Gina Patterson, executive director, Virginia School Board Association; and Wade Whitehead, 2011 Virginia Lottery Super Teacher (executive director, Teachers of Promise Institute and a Roanoke County teacher).

Radford City Public Schools received nearly \$2.5 million in lottery funds for K-12 education last fiscal year.

Virginia Lottery

# Dawn and night photos win Radford Photo Club challenges



PHOTO BY JOSH LOCKRIDGE

RADFORD - John Phillips of Pulaski won the Radford Photo Club's Color challenge at the March meeting with a photo taken at 6:44 a.m. on March 4.

"I was on my way across town to pick up grandkids and there it was," said Phillips. "The most spectacular light show right in front of me. I thought I would never get to the station in time to catch it. As you can see that I made it!"

For the open competition, Josh Lockridge of Radford took his winning photo in Reston, Va. while on a business trip – a challenging night shot.

The Radford Photo Club's next meeting will be on Thursday,

April 17, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. Officer election will be held at the April meeting. The speaker will be Christian Andrew of Pilot, an outstanding black and white photographer who believes in manual focus only. Learn more about him on his Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CMarshart Photography/>. The photo challenge is Black and White. There is also an open topic challenge.

Several outings are planned. Look for Charles Lynch of Christiansburg at the Blue Ridge Kite Festival, Saturday, April 19, at Green Hill Park in Salem (<https://>

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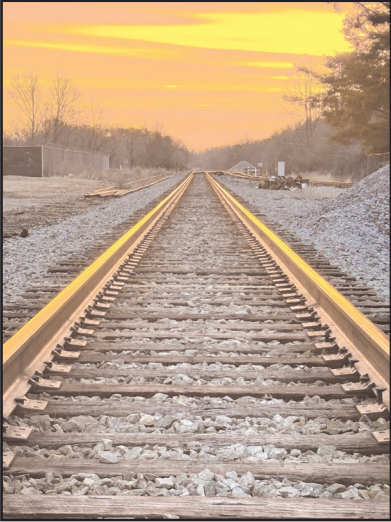


PHOTO BY JOHN PHILLIPS

# Women's Resource Center of the NRV names new executive director

RADFORD – The Board of Directors of the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley has hired Kelly McCoy as the new Executive Director.

McCoy has been the interim director for the past four months, "during which she has shown excellent leadership skills," according to the WRC.

"Beginning with volunteer work during her college years at Radford University, Kelly has spent nearly all of her career at the WRC," the announcement continues. "Her return provides us with the deep benefit of her experience, skills, and commitment to the mission

and values of the WRC, and of her knowledge of the New River Valley community."

The Women's Resource Center of the NRV is a non-profit organization that provides programs and services to adult and child victims of sexual and domestic violence.

"Since 1977, we've been providing hope and help to those who need it in the New River Valley," according to its website. "Our center, the oldest in Virginia, has been and will continue to be the cornerstone of courage and inspiration for thousands of people in our community."

Staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

**Kelly McCoy, the new Executive Director of the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, pictured with Del. Chris Obenshain.**

# Radford named a Voter Friendly Campus

Radford University's initiatives to develop voter education plans and increase student voter turnout at the polls have earned the institution a Voter Friendly Campus designation from the Campus Vote Project.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Campus initiatives over the last five years have included the creation of the Campus Voter Team and Highlanders Vote student organizations, both of which are committed to helping Radford students to register and vote.

Radford's efforts "to break down barriers and empower students with the information and tools they need to participate in the political process lead to tremendous youth voter turnout and opened the door to lifelong civic engagement for your students," the group said.

"By working closely with Campus Vote Project, Highlanders Vote and the Campus Voter team, we were able to pull off many successful civic engagement initiatives, such as the Road to the Ballot Box, which gave students the resources and means to register and vote," said Devin Van Dyke, a junior political science major from Richlands, Virginia.

"It is my goal that every Highlander has their voice heard in local, state and federal elections," he continued. "With Radford University being designated once again as a Voter Friendly Campus, I am grateful that I was able to do my part in empowering my peers to go to the polls."

Van Dyke serves as a democracy fellow for the Campus Vote Project.

The Voter Friendly

Campus designation program began in 2016 through a partnership between the Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project and the student affairs organization NASPA and its LEAD Initiative. The partnership became an instrument to support colleges and universities in fulfilling requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which calls for higher education institutions to distribute voter registration forms to students.

"Voting is one of the ways we show that Highlanders find their place here at Radford University," said Professor Chapman Rackaway, chair of the Department of Political Science, who leads the campus initiative to increase student voter participation. "We're proud to have been recognized for the support we provide to every student in encouraging them to register and vote. This continued recognition is a sign that we're living that promise to full participation, and I hope we'll only be able to get closer to that goal every year, every election."

In 2024, Radford earned a bronze seal from the All IN Campus Democracy Challenge

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# Man convicted of abduction with intent to defile gets 30 years in prison

RADFORD – A Pulaski man convicted in 2024 of abduction with the intent to defile, conspiracy to abduct to defile and sex trafficking in Radford has received a 30-year active sentence.

According to Radford Commonwealth's Attorney Dashawn Tucker was sentenced Friday, Mar. 28 in Radford Circuit Court. Radford City Circuit Court Judge J.T. Showalter Jr. sentenced Tucker to 50 years with 20 suspended. The discretionary sentencing guidelines recommend 15 years to 37 years.

"The victim, Catlyn Wilhelm passed away Aug. 6, 2022 before the trial," Rehak said Friday via email. "Her absence allowed the Commonwealth to play Wilhelm's recorded sworn testimony from preliminary On Jan. 10, 2022, Tucker abducted Wilhelm from the parking lot of Food City in Radford, taking her to Henry County.

"Authorities there responded to a 911 text for help," Rehak explained at the time of Tucker's conviction. "Deputies arrived at a desolate trailer where two young females

told of being abducted and repeatedly sexually assaulted by strangers to satisfy or "work off" a monetary debt. Dramatic body camera video of the rescue was played for the jury."

At trial, the Commonwealth presented evidence Wilhelm owed Tucker money, and Tucker in turn owed a cohort named Waylon Cox money. With Tucker's debt collection efforts heating up, Wilhelm went into hiding to avoid Tucker. Tucker went hunting for Catlyn over several weeks, even going to each of her parents' homes. With Wilhelm unable to pay the \$2,000, Tucker negotiated with Cox to trade the two girls for Cox "to use" in exchange for Tucker's debt.

Radford Food City surveillance video recorded Tucker parking in a manner to block Wilhelm's car with his automobile and captured them together in Tucker's automobile. Tucker took Wilhelm and another woman to a secluded location in Floyd County and turned over the women to Cox.

Staff report



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, April 2:

**Blacksburg Farmers Market**  
At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 - 6 p.m. (New hours for April). 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 [blacksburgfarmersmarket.com](https://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com).

## Thursday, April 3:

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

## Friday, April 4:

**Friday Forum with VTWC**  
The Virginia Tech Women’s Club (VTWC) will host the final Friday Forum of the 2024-2025 club year at 10 a.m. Dr. Richard Masters and VT students will present “Musical Delights by Talented VT Students.” This performance is always a favorite forum and an opportunity to enjoy the music of incredibly talented Hokie students. Friday Forums welcome the community to come to the Fellowship Hall of the Lutheran Memorial Church at 600 Prices Fork Rd. in Blacksburg. The event begins at 10 a.m., but come a little early to enjoy coffee, treats and conversation.

## Saturday, April 5:

**Spring Leaf Mulch Giveaway**  
Leaf mulch is available for pick up at Glade Road Growing, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive, for composting. This is an important service as composted leaf mulch keeps leaves out of landfills. Leaves can take up valuable landfill space and produce harmful greenhouse gases. To arrange pickup, residents must register and follow these guidelines: Register for a 30-minute time slot. Time slots are in 30-minute intervals starting at 8 a.m. Limit two cubic yards per truck or trailer. The town will load your truck or trailer. Notice: The process of loading leaves may cause scratches or dents to your truck or trailer as well as possible suspension damage due to the weight. By participating in this program, you assume the risk inherent with loading leaves in your truck or trailer. No dogs are permitted outside of their owner's vehicle during the event for the safety of the farm's livestock.

**Cherokee War of 1776 event**  
This free public event at Historic Smithfield in Blacksburg will bring together Cherokee people and a descendant of the 6,000-man militia army that invaded the Cherokee lands in 1776 in reprisal for a Cherokee effort to take back what they saw as their lands in what is now east Tennessee, Western North and South Carolina and Kentucky from Southern backcountry settlers. Includes a forum between descendants on the legacy of the war, living history recreations of those on both sides of the conflict, historic trade demonstrations, and a dramatization of the Avery Treaty of 1777 that ended the war at the Long Island of the Holston (present day Kingsport, Tenn.). The event will be held at the actual 1776 house (still in its original location after nearly 250 years) of the Virginia commander of the militia at the Long Island treaty Colonel William Preston, where his deputy and fellow commissioner to the Long Island Treaty William Christian organized the Virginia wing of the offensive against the Cherokee. Everyone is invited and the event is free to the public, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

**Blacksburg Farmers Market**  
At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (New hours for April). 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 [blacksburgfarmersmarket.com](https://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com).

## Monday, April 7:

**MCCC Golf Tournament**  
Chamber Open Golf Tournament at Auburn Hills 1-5 p.m., followed by an After Hours. MCCC is looking for a few more teams and sponsors. Team fee includes a BBQ dinner following the tournament. Register at: <https://www.montgomerycc.org/chamber-open/>.

## Thursday, April 10:

**MCCC Eggs and Issues**  
Legislative Update Eggs & Issues register at: <https://business.montgomerycc.org/events/details/mc-2025-april-10-eggs-issues-legislative-update-14119?calendarMonth=2025-04-01>.

## Saturday, April 12:

**Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast**  
Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will be serving up hot biscuits topped with delicious sausage gravy, or with the latest batch of the club's "world-famous" apple butter. Breakfast also includes scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, 8 -10 a.m., below the sanctuary, on the lower church parking lot level. This is a fundraiser for the club to help serve the community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. More information at <https://fb.com/MtTaborRuritan>.

## Monday, April 14:

**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](http://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, April 15:

**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. The meeting will be live streamed to the Town's YouTube page at [www.ourvalley.org](http://www.ourvalley.org).

[christiansburg.org/YouTube](http://christiansburg.org/YouTube). Please copy and paste the URL into your browser and be sure to select Live videos to view. Agendas and minutes can be viewed at [www.christiansburg.org/agendasandminutes](http://www.christiansburg.org/agendasandminutes).

## Friday, April 18:

**Deadline for Volunteer Montgomery scholarship**  
Cutoff date to apply for the scholarship awards given by Volunteer Montgomery for human services / human medical field. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to outstanding students in the Montgomery County school system who plan to pursue studies in a human services/ human medical field. For applications or more information, students should visit Volunteer Montgomery’s website at [www.montva.com](http://www.montva.com) [montva.com], contact their school counselors, or contact Volunteer Montgomery at [volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov). Applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. by mail or email to [volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov).

## Saturday, April 19:

**Pilot Community Center Easter Egg Hunt**  
Come join Pilot Community Center for our Easter Egg Hunt, 2- 3 p.m. Kids 10 years old and under are invited to search for candy and prize-filled eggs. There will be refreshments for parents and kids of all ages. So come and join in the fun! Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Rd., Pilot. This event will be held weather permitting. If there is inclement weather, the event will be cancelled and cannot be rescheduled. For more information, please call Alice Jones at 540-257-3336.

## Tuesday, April 22:

**April Shred-a-Thon**  
Shred-A-Thon, sponsored by TRIAD and Christiansburg Recreation Department, will be held 3-6 p.m. at Christiansburg Huckleberry Park. Please bring your documents in a box or plastic tote (no larger than 22.5” x 18”x11.5”) limit of three totes/boxes per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hanging file folders, paint brushes, padlocks, hardback books, keys, eyeglasses, bungee cords, etc. Please note that the Shred-a-Thon is a drive-thru event; please remain in your vehicle when approaching the collection site. No walk ups will be allowed. TRIAD/S.A.L.T. is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies (police/sheriffs), senior citizens, and senior organization, focused on reducing crimes against our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors.

## On-going:

**Radford Fiddle and Banjo Jam at Bee & Butter**  
Bee & Butter restaurant, in the Highlander Hotel on Tyler Ave., is now open on Monday nights during the Radford Fiddle and Banjo Jam. The jam is held at the restaurant 6- 9 p.m. each Monday evening.

**Meadowbrook Greenway construction notice**  
Visitors in the vicinity of Heritage Park off Meadowbrook Drive will begin to see crews actively completing large-scale construction to create the new Meadowbrook Greenway connector. This area is an active construction zone; recreational activities through the construction zone are prohibited until construction is complete and the new greenway is open to the public. This construction zone is marked with flags, fences, and signage. This project is slated for completion in late Fall 2025. Throughout construction, visitors may continue to utilize the areas located on either side of the construction zone: Heritage Park, and the adjacent Stone-cutter’s Hollow trail. Questions: Please contact Dean Crane, Director of Blacksburg Parks and Recreation at 540.443.1101.

# Enrollment forecasts, future academic programming, new initiatives highlight March Board of Visitors meetings

RADFORD - Positive enrollment projections, post-graduation success data points and future academic programming were among the agenda items discussed during quarterly meetings of the Radford University Board of Visitors, held Mar. 20-21, 2025.

According to projections shared during the Enrollment Management and Brand Equity Committee meetings, Radford University deposits are ahead of pace compared to 2024. Overall new freshmen deposits are up 24% for fall 2025, up 21% among first-generation students and up 45% from international students. Applications to Radford University’s Honors College are up 52%. Graduate applications are up 23% overall, with notable growth among students applying to Criminal Justice, Social Work and Physician’s Assistant degree programs.

The board voted to create a new degree program, Master of Science in Clinical Psychology. Once approved by SCHEV, the program will address critical shortages in the workforce of mental health professionals in Southwest Virginia. It will be the first degree program of its kind in Virginia.

Two Academic Affairs and Student Success committee data points highlighted Radford University’s strength in preparing students for their careers. According to Academic Affairs data, 81% of graduating undergraduate students at Radford completed at least one high-impact experiential learning activity, such as undergraduate research, capstones or internships. Among 2024 graduates, 93%

are employed full-time or continuing their education six months post-graduation. Those outcomes are ahead of national averages, according to 2023 first destination data from NACE.

When combined with the recent news that undergraduate retention and graduation rates are at 94% for the spring semester, including at 91% for First Time in College students (FTIC), President Bret Danilowicz credited the collaborative work done by employees across Radford University to support students.

“We are making significant leaps forward across all aspects of university operations,” he said during his report to the board. “It is through the work of a great leadership team, all the way down through every employee across this remarkable institution, who have made these accomplishments possible.”

Radford University anticipates funding for its key priorities in the 2025 Virginia General Assembly session, pending the governor’s signature. Two of the priorities pertain to healthcare education – pre-planning funds for a new Roanoke health sciences facility and support for additional faculty hires for the College of Nursing. Additionally, the university was authorized to spend existing funds for renovations to Dalton Hall.

A new Center for Rural Health was proposed for the Roanoke facility. The center presents an opportunity for Radford to collaborate with other institutions to support critical needs for rural communities.

“The center will recruit students from

rural Virginia and have its internships and placements within rural Virginia, with the goal then of recruiting and keeping these talented graduates as providers within these locations,” Danilowicz said.

A key business item during the meetings was the board’s unanimous approval of tuition and fee rates for 2025-26.

Progress on the 2026-31 Strategic Plan was shared by co-chairs Angela Joyner and Sharon Roger Hepburn, who provided a recap of recent town hall meetings that allowed students and employees to evaluate drafts of mission, vision and core values statements. The committee chairs indicated that a draft of the strategic plan will be available at the September 2025 quarterly meetings, on track for December 2025 approval and implementation in January of 2026.

Radford University’s NCAA Division I athletics program will opt-in to the proposed terms of the House settlement, a class action lawsuit pertaining to past restrictions on student-athlete Name, Image and Likeness (NIL). The settlement also creates a framework for student-athletes to receive benefits directly from their institutions. By opting in, Radford University will have the flexibility to share revenue with Highlander student-athletes, which can be awarded in addition to athletic scholarships, beginning in the 2025-26 season.

The board voted to recommend tenure for 14 faculty members across five colleges and promotions for 35 total faculty. A full list can be found on pages 47-51 of the Academic Affairs and Student Success

Committee meeting agenda.

Dominika Butler, a class of 2026 member from Ashburn, Virginia, was selected by the board to serve as the non-voting Student Representative during the 2025-26 academic year.

In his report to the board, Danilowicz also addressed recent federal guidance and state inquiries regarding inclusion directed at colleges and universities.

“It is our deeply held value, across the institution, that we support all students in being successful, without discrimination against anyone or any group,” he said. “In fact, our mission states that we are ‘Dedicated to the creation and dissemination of knowledge... empowering students from diverse backgrounds by providing transformative educational experiences... within and beyond the classroom.’ That is a constructive mission and not discriminatory in focus.

“In recent decades, Radford University has not used race, color or country of origin in admissions or other administrative processes. All of our organizations, programs and events have always been intended to be open to all students, and we will make sure to promote that they are, in fact, open to all students.”

The board approved a resolution ensuring that “university programs, policies, procedures, and actions that are in compliance with the (Jan. 21, 2025) Executive Order and federal and state laws will be sustained.”

*Patrick Reed for Radford University*

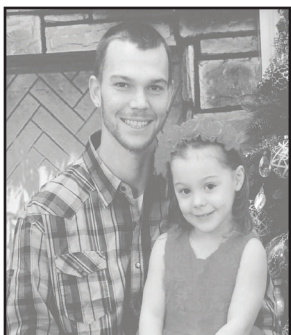


# OBITUARIES

## Meeks, Christopher “Julio” Meredith

Christopher “Julio” Meredith Meeks, 41, of Radford, was born Aug. 23, 1983, and passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Mar. 26, 2025. He was preceded in death by his pawpaw and mawmaw, Pete and Peggy Woodrum; pawpaw, Tom Sheffey; pawpaw, John Meeks; and uncle, Eric Woodrum.

He is survived by the light of his life and daughter, Annika Meeks; parents, Charlie and Lura “Punkin” Meeks; mawmaw, Nancy Sheffey;



brothers, Craig Meeks and Caleb (Kellin) Meeks; nephews, Zaiden and Zorren Meeks and Keyland Powell; mother of his daughter, Morgan

Powell; best friends, Anthony “Buck” Hungate and Geoff Hawkins; and countless other family members and friends.

The family received friends Monday, Mar. 31, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A memorial service followed with Steve Garman officiating.

Chris will be missed by many and the memories of him will live on forever.

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

## O’Morrow, Mary Joan

Mrs. Mary Joan O’Morrow, 94, of Concord, N.C. passed away peacefully at home Thursday, Mar. 27, 2025, after a richly lived life of service and kindness.

Mary was born Nov. 25, 1930 to George August and Mary Barbara Koch Hans in Wynot, Neb. She grew up in a large farming family developing a strong work ethic, sense of responsibility, patience and discipline, which she later instilled in her own family. After graduating from Hartington High School in 1947 she went on to attend St. Joseph Mercy School of Nursing in Sioux City, Iowa to become a registered nurse. Mary, always open to a bit of fun and adventure, moved around the US and abroad with her husband and family, but always devoted her time to service of others.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald O’Morrow; four



brothers and one sister. She is survived by her daughters Dianne Snyder (Dick) and Sharon Rankin of Concord, N.C.; sons Patrick (Julie) O’Morrow of Powell, Ohio and Stephen O’Morrow of Concord, N.C; and four grandchildren, Gavin, Maddie, Carson, and AJ.

Visitation will be held at St. James the Greater Catholic Church, 139 Manor Avenue, Concord, NC on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 12- 12:45 p.m., with recitation of the Rosary and a Funeral Mass following at 1 p.m.

at the same location. A private burial will be held at St. James Cemetery after the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be directed to the following organizations: Cabarrus County Special Olympics, located at 7321 Raging Ridge Road, Harrisburg, NC 28075; the Dianne O. & Richard H. Snyder Endowed Scholarship at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences which can be supported by mailing a check to Cabarrus Healthcare Foundation at 920 Church Street North, Concord, NC 28025; or St. James the Greater Knights of Columbus at 139 Manor Ave. SW, Concord, NC 28025.

Mary’s loss is deeply felt by her family and all those who knew and loved her. Her memory will continue to inspire strength, resilience, care and compassion in those whose lives she touched.

## Albert, Waldo (Bo) Reyburn

Waldo (Bo) Reyburn Albert, 91, of McCoy, died Sunday, Mar. 23, 2025, at his home. He was born in McCoy, Va. Nov. 20, 1933, to the late Oakley Paul and Claudine Lucas Albert. He was preceded in death by three sisters, Juanita Lilly, Rowena Hollandsworth, and Minnie Mae Albert.

Bo was a veteran of the US Army. He retired after over 30 years with the railroad, having worked for Virginian, Norfolk Western, Amtrak, and CSX. After moving back to McCoy, he was a valuable employee of



McCoy Funeral Home for over 25 years.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey McCoy Albert; daughters, Sherry Deremer (Blair), and Pamela Burrell; grandchildren, Robbie

Dodson, Jamie Burrell, Randi Beth Burrell (Paul Rathjen), and Haley Leckie (Tristan); great-grandchildren, Austin, Bode, Jake, Mason, and Emma; and several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Ronald and Randall Hollandsworth and Teresa McCoy.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Mar. 26, 2025 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. Interment followed in the McCoy Family Cemetery.

## West, Evelyn Graves

A most amazing woman, Evelyn Graves West, 102 years and seven months young, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Monday, Mar. 24, 2025.

Born Aug. 12, 1922, in Hopkinsville, Ky., Evelyn was the daughter of the late George Campbell Graves and Mable Underwood Graves. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Frank T West, her parents, and her brother, George Campbell Graves, Jr.

Evelyn was a 1945 graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and worked at Vanderbilt Hospital as a pediatric nurse. She received her master’s degree from the University of Chicago in 1949 and returned to Vanderbilt as a nursing supervisor. While at Vanderbilt she was in charge of three polio units, working with patients in iron lungs. She also had the honor of giving Bob Hope a tour of these units.

Evelyn and Frank married on June 6, 1950, and moved to Blacksburg in 1954 when Frank was offered a job as Industrial Arts teacher at Blacksburg High School. Evelyn worked as a volunteer nurse with Margaret Beeks Elementary School and worked at the polio vaccine clinics at BHS. She worked as a nurse and preschool teacher at Blacksburg United Methodist Preschool for 14 years. She then worked in the newborn nursery at Radford Community Hospital. After six months at the hospital, the director of nursing at Wytheville Community College approached her about joining the nursing faculty there teaching pediatrics. Evelyn worked at WCC for 15 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus of Nursing in 1989.

Her nursing experiences included being secretary of the Virginia League of Nursing for four years, president of the VLN for two years, and serving



several years as a part of the VLN Historical Committee.

After retiring, she and Frank worked the craft show circuit for several years as “Chips and Stitches,” selling woodworking items and hand-knitted or sewn items. She was especially known for her hand knitted baby sweaters and caps. Evelyn spent many years knitting caps for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Every year she donated between 125 and 173 caps for the MCCS. She had already knitted 35 in anticipation of this year before her passing. The New River Valley chapter of the DAR recognized her dedication to the MCCS in 2023.

She was a faithful member of Blacksburg United Methodist Church for almost 72 years. She served as a circle chair, secretary and president of United Methodist Women both on the local church and district level. She served in several other capacities including being active in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, founding the church’s Health Closet, and knitting baptismal blankets for new babies in the church. It was not unusual to find her straightening up the pew materials after the 8:45 a.m. service in preparation for the 11a.m. service and assisting with funeral receptions, making the bereaved families feel comfortable and making sure everything was in place for services honoring their loved ones. She was a member of Church Women United and was recognized by them as a Valiant Woman.

Her influence was felt by so many and none

more than her beloved family. She is survived by her daughters, Karen Bell (Rodney), Elaine West-Watson (Jeff), Maggie Penix, and her heart-adopted daughter, Patricia Davis. In addition, she leaves behind her grandchildren, Josh Bell (Asheley), Alex Penix (Heather), Lindsay Davis, William Penix, Claire Penix, Brian Davis (Mary-Katherine), Noel Land (Ryan), Kyle Watson (Katelyn), and Amelia West-Watson. Also mourning her loss are her great-grandchildren, Emerson and Maddox Bell, Noah Penix, Sloan Davis, Willow, Elijah and Ezekiel Land, and Rowan Watson. She is also survived by her sister, Margaret Burkhart, and nieces Nancy Smith (Jay), Donna DePriest (Robert), Jennifer Hook (Dean), and their families.

The family would like to give special thanks to the staff at Good Samaritan Hospice for their love and care of Evelyn, especially Teresa, Shannon, Karen, Sonu, and Todd, and to Robyn and workers at Caregiver Placement Services for their assistance with Evelyn. Eternal gratitude also is given to Evelyn’s close friends, Sarah and Adam Salzberg, Novella Short, Andrea Muscatello, Charlie Sink, and Joyce Hopkins.

Visitation was held at McCoy Funeral Home Friday, Mar. 28, 2025. A celebration of Evelyn’s amazing life was held at Blacksburg United Methodist Church Saturday, Mar. 29, 2025. The graveside service was at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg. A reception at the church followed the service at the graveside. Memorials may be made to the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Blacksburg United Methodist Church. The family requests that if you have been the recipient of a prayer shawl from this ministry, you wear it to the celebration of life service.

McCauley; her dearly loved Kyle Frederick; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends who were family. The family received friends Saturday, Mar. 29, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Todd Millsaps officiating. Burial will follow in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

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



children Michael, Gabriel, Trinity and Kennedy; her brother Edgar Ray (Lindsey) Lemon; her grandmother Phyllis

Ronald Wayne Gilmore, an exceptionally compassionate and fun-loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and brother-in-law, died Mar. 23, 2025. Ronnie, as everyone who knew him called him, was born in Radford on Aug. 5, 1952, the son of Alva Wesley (Pete) Gilmore and Juanita Pearl Kincaid, and while Ronnie moved around the country and traveled the world, Radford was always the home he returned to.

Ronnie graduated from Radford High School, where he was an exceptional football player who was, in the words of his coach, Norman Lineburg, tough and a great teammate. After high school Ronnie was drafted into the U.S. Army but instead enlisted in the Marine Corps. He served proudly, and his time in the Marines meant a lot to him. After his time in the service, he earned a bachelor’s of science degree and a master’s of business administration from Radford University.

Ronnie went to work for Inland Motor, which would go on to be purchased by Kollmorgen. Ronnie, in typical Ronnie fashion, retired from Kollmorgen on a Friday and went to work



on Monday with InMotion, which had just acquired a Kollmorgen division. Ronnie retired in 2021 from InMotion after working for more than 40 years in sourcing engineering.

Most importantly, in 1975 Ronnie married the love of his life, Sweetie, and they started a life together filled with joy, caring and a lot of fun. The love and support they showed their children was ceaseless, unconditional and inspiring, and is evident in their daughters’ lives, still. No father was prouder of his children, or did more for them. Family was the most important thing in his life. He also loved a party, and parties loved him.

Surviving Ronnie are his daughter Mary Madeline Webster and her husband Christopher, of Radford; daughter Susanna Elizabeth

## Patterson, Martha Courtney Micou

Martha Courtney Micou Patterson died Mar. 27, 2025. Martha was a graduate of Dublin High School and Emory & Henry college. She was an elementary school teacher in Fairlawn and was a member of the Virginia Retired Teachers Association. Martha was also very active in the United Methodist Women’s organization. She was a homemaker and loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother. For many years she provided leadership in many church positions, such as children’s choirs. Some of her many loves and interests include gardening, reading books and spending time with her family including the many dogs she has cared for over the years.

She was preceded in



death by her parents William Davis Micou and Evelyn Courtney King Micou; and brother, William Roger Micou.

Survivors include her loving husband, Richard Jackson Patterson, Sr.; children, Jennifer Courtney Patterson Crittenden and husband David Eugene Crittenden, of Louisville, Kentucky, and Richard Jackson Patterson, Jr. of Sylvatus, Va.; six grandchildren, Ashley Lauren Crittenden

Tackett and husband Trent Morgan Tackett of Louisville, Andrew Bradley Crittenden, William Thomas Crittenden, and Courtney Alexis Crittenden, all of Louisville, Dylan Riley Patterson of Draper, and Teagan Courtney Patterson of Fairlawn; three great grandchildren Sophia Grace Tackett, Lucas Gabriel Tackett, and Levi Brooks Tackett, all of Louisville; nephew, Paul Micou; and niece, Deb Micou Quillinan.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be made to the Memorial Fund of the Dublin United Methodist Church, PO Box 577, Dublin, Virginia 24084.

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

## Garnand, John S.

John S. Garnand died at the age of 76 on Mar. 26, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents Ambrose and Irene Garnand and by his brother Robert and his uncle Harold Garnand.

John is survived by his sisters Jenny Liu and Jane Wood; his nephews Daniel Liu, Douglas Wood and Stuart Wood. John thought often of his cousins in Illinois.

Born July 11, 1948, John graduated from Christiansburg High School and attended Virginia Tech. He enjoyed a variety of interests and loved learning. Serving in the Army Signal Corps in Vietnam he received the



nickname “Radar” because he kept track of everything. Later he worked at Hubbell lighting and Virginia Tech. He also took care of the family farm, helping his family any way he could. John is greatly missed by his family and his friend, Dick Gregory. John’s cat, Freddie,

seemed to know that John was not well and stayed very close to him in recent months.

Thank you to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salem VA for his care. The family would like to also express gratitude to John’s church family for their prayers and particularly to his special friends there, John and Gail Stewart.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the SPCA or charity of your choice.

Graveside services will be private. A memorial service is planned for a future date. Condolences may be left online at Horne Funeral Home.



OPINION

Rural schools and communities need full removal of the support cap

The support cap was implemented by the General Assembly as a temporary austerity measure that unfortunately still has lingering impacts 16 years later

When folks consider public school funding, most thoughts typically center around facility improvements and teacher raises. However, there are a plethora of other unsung heroes whose daily contributions make schools work in Virginia, especially in rural communities. Whether it is the nurse who covers multiple schools or the custodian who doubles as a bus driver in the mornings and afternoons, rural schools are the pride of their communities, largely because of the support personnel who are working behind the scenes to improve our schools and assist our students.

In Southwest Virginia, like other rural communities, we have become experts at doing more with less. However, we have gone long enough without having the state funding we need to recruit and retain the aforementioned support heroes that are critical to day-to-day operations. I ask on behalf of rural schools, rural localities, and rural students that when legislators reconvene on April 2, they approve fully removing the Support Cap that was instituted during the Great Recession.

Many of us remember the Great Recession of 2008 and how it negatively impacted our personal and professional lives. Thankfully, I was not a superintendent during that time. The draconian budget adjustments that had to be made during that time are still the subject of nightmares for those who had to make budget decisions because of the crashing economy. The Support Cap was implemented by the General Assembly as a temporary austerity measure that, unfortunately, still has lingering impacts 16 years later.

Simply put, the Support Cap was an arbitrary limit placed on state funding for non-teaching support staff. There was no nexus between the reduction of positions that were funded and the actual needs of schools. The Support Cap was a quick fix for a commonwealth in crisis that, unfortunately, resulted in fewer services for students and more costs on local governments. That was understandable during one of the most difficult recessions in American history.

In a collaborative spirit, rural schools and localities made it work. That's what rural folks do. The problem is

Keith Perrigan

President, Coalition of Small and Rural Schools

that after the economy began to rebound, the temporary austerity measures stayed fully in place for the next 15 years.

The even bigger problem is that when budget reductions such as these are put in place, they always have more profound impacts on students who live in poverty and the localities that serve them. This is especially true of the Support Cap. More often than not, in rural and high-poverty urban divisions, local governments don't have the capacity to replace the lost funding or the tax base to generate additional revenues. Interestingly, the Support Cap doesn't only affect high poverty school divisions, this is an issue that also resonates in more affluent suburban areas. Stakeholders from every corner of Virginia are negatively affected by the arbitrary Support Cap and have collaboratively supported this very important and impactful issue.

It is no wonder that when state legislators voted in February to remove the Support Cap once and for all, they were loudly applauded by their constituents back home. Based on the General Assembly-approved budget, we thought the final portion of this extended period of austerity was coming to a close. It finally felt like the help we had requested and desperately needed for almost two decades had arrived.

Recently, we have had a small glimpse of how impactful removing the Support Cap could be. In the past few years, Republicans and Democrats in the General Assembly recognized this problem and started rolling back the Support Cap. Last year, with Governor Youngkin's support, they partially lifted the cap, raising

the limit from funding 21 support positions per 1,000 students to 24 per 1,000. That was greatly appreciated progress, but it still didn't fully address the educational funding deficit that has been identified by the General Assembly's non-partisan "advisory board," JLARC, and doesn't address the additional needs students have as a result of the pandemic, the fentanyl crisis, and other community issues.

This winter, lawmakers from both parties went even further — basically agreeing to eliminate the cap entirely. When the General Assembly adjourned in February, they sent the Governor a budget that included approximately \$223 million intended specifically to lift the cap once and for all. No gimmicks, no smoke and mirrors: just putting resources into people who help kids every day. It is no surprise that the budget sailed through the General Assembly with overwhelming support (81–18 in the House, 27–3 in the Senate) and received glowing praise from leaders of both parties.

Suffice it to say, school and community leaders all over the commonwealth were disappointed to learn this week that the Support Cap may not be fully removed after all. I certainly understand the fiscally conservative decision to add to the Rainy-Day fund. It is wise to be prepared for the unexpected. However, the tradeoff between the impact \$138 million can have on high poverty school divisions and struggling localities or adding to a historically high Rainy-Day Fund that is approaching five billion dollars (yes, that is with a B) is not the best course of action for Virginia's current situation or for the commonwealth's future. Providing funding for private school vouchers from this pot of money is definitely not the best way to improve educational outcomes in the commonwealth.

As I mentioned earlier, legislators were heralded in February for their strong support of public education when they overwhelmingly agreed on the budget. The ovation will be stronger and much louder when they stand by Virginia's students on April 2 and vote to remove the Great Recession-era Support Cap once and for all. Students in rural Virginia and all corners of the commonwealth deserve nothing less.

Eliminating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies may have unexpected impacts

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies are being terminated, driven by President Trump and supported by Governor Youngkin. Many supporters of this termination believe that DEI policies were unfair, and didn't result in equal treatment of the best and the brightest. Others find this view troubling and believe that DEI policies positively contributed to many aspects of

Gary Silverman

Columnist

society. This hypothetical but realistic example may be helpful in thinking about life without DEI policies.

See Silverman, page 6

Delegate happy for APCo Rate Reduction Act signage into law

I am incredibly pleased to announce that Governor Glenn Youngkin has signed my HB 2621, the APCo Rate Reduction Act into law. As you have no doubt read in past columns, this legislation amounts to the most significant attempt in years to help decrease your electric bill. Even after passage of this legislation in the 2025 General Assembly Legislative Session, constituents concerned about their electric bill have continued to contact me to



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

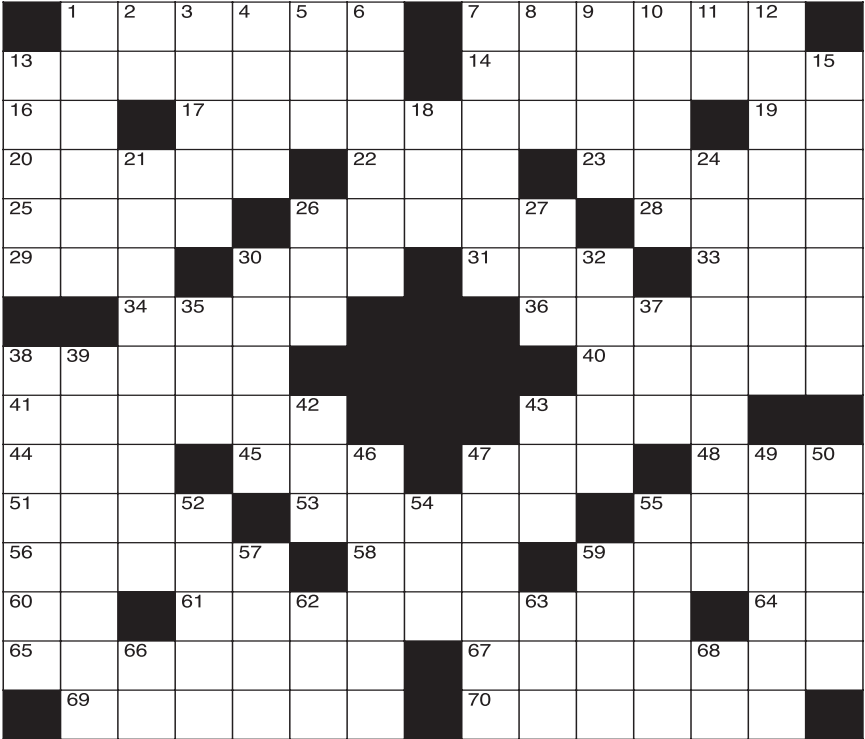
inquire of the bill's status. Now, after much hard work, I can finally report that meaningful rate relief is on the way. Like most legislation, HB 2621 will take effect on July 1, 2025.

This week, the General Assembly

will return to Richmond for a reconvened legislative session. The purpose of this session is to consider Governor Youngkin's amendments and vetoes to legislation he has taken action on from the 2025 regular session. To override a veto, the General Assembly must do so with a two-thirds majority vote. Fortunately – especially as it relates

See Ballard, page 6

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Colas
- 7. Single-celled animals
- 13. The rear car of a train
- 14. Endangered
- 16. It cools your home
- 17. Helper
- 19. "The First State"
- 20. More aged
- 22. Partner to cheese
- 23. Type of wrap
- 25. From a distance
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
- 29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 30. Cooking utensil
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 33. Able to perform
- 34. Big man on campus
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period

CLUES DOWN

- 38. Porticos
- 40. Alban and Peter are two
- 41. Gets up
- 43. Humble request for help
- 44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Hint or indication
- 48. A way to plead
- 51. Digits
- 53. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Jewish calendar month
- 56. Author Gore
- 58. Peacock network
- 59. White poplar
- 60. Promotional material
- 61. A period of calm
- 64. Take too much
- 65. Emit energy
- 67. Something you can take
- 69. Mended with yarn
- 70. Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Calm down
- 2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 3. One who pretends
- 4. Hang glide
- 5. Distinctive practice
- 6. Mariner
- 7. Peaks
- 8. Queens ballplayer
- 9. Geological times
- 10. Twofold
- 11. Atomic #13
- 12. Tranquillizing
- 13. Metric weight unit
- 15. Indicates
- 18. Unwanted rodent
- 21. Partly cooked with hot water
- 24. One who can be recommended
- 26. Resembles a bag or pouch
- 27. Midway between south and southeast
- 30. Sets up for a photo

- 32. California white oak
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. After B
- 38. Decorated tea urn
- 39. Island
- 42. Car mechanics group
- 43. Wordplay joke
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Prickly plant
- 49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
- 50. European buzzard
- 52. Influential linguist
- 54. West African languages
- 55. Siskel's partner
- 57. Skinny
- 59. Oblong pulpit
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Small, mischievous sprite
- 66. Powerful lawyer
- 68. Indicates position



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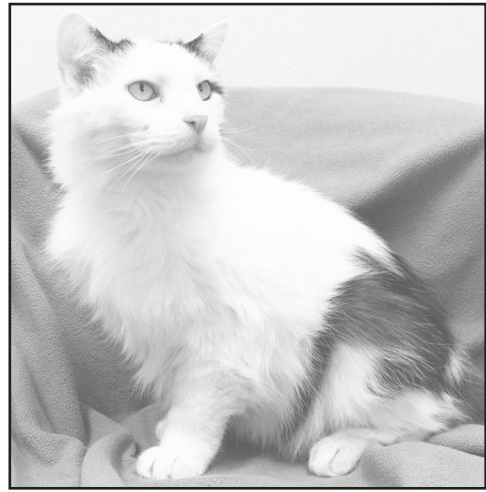
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## PETS OF THE WEEK

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

*Meet Maybelline, a testament to resilience and joy! This adorable parvo survivor is ready to bounce into your life with endless energy for zoomies, a heart full of love, and a happy appetite for treats. She's looking for a human who's just as enthusiastic about life as she is!*



*Say hello to Sparkplug! This fluffy fellow adores gentle pets and cozy cuddles. If you're searching for a devoted and affectionate companion, Sparkplug might just be your purrfect match. Come meet this sweet soul today at the Animal Care and Adoption Center!*

## Annual Spring Craft Show in Riner filled with vendors, food and fun

**Lori Graham**  
*Contributing writer*

RINER – The Spring Craft Show hosted by the Riner Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary is happening on April 5, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. The Auburn High School's two gymnasiums will be packed with vendors, "including wood working, crocheting, pottery, sewing, soaps, essential oils, jewelry, glass work, wreaths, photography, custom crafts, food, direct sales and more," according

to the event's Facebook page.

Food will also be available to purchase during the event, with Purple Moon Café and the Snack Station offering food and drink options for attendees.

Many vendors are posting information about their goods on the event Facebook page for interested shoppers to check out. Further information about a vendor or the event may contact the hosts Becky Saylor or Teresa Thompson at rinerauxiliary@gmail.com.

## Governor appoints Radford alumna to Virginia Board of Nursing

Radford University alumna Jeanell Webb-Jones, MSN '24, has been appointed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin to serve on the Virginia Board of Nursing.

Webb-Jones's board appointment runs through June 30, 2027. The governor announced the appointment on Feb. 26.

The Virginia Board of Nursing consists of a 14-member board and a five-member Massage Therapy Advisory Board as well as administrative, licensing, discipline, education and support staff.

Webb-Jones said that since she became a nurse in 2010, she has made it a personal goal to serve on the commonwealth's Board of Nursing in order to make a positive impact.

"After being in the profession for over 14 years, I've realized that my purpose and passion now encompass not only patient advocacy, but also nurses and the nursing profession," said Webb-Jones, who has been a nurse at UVA Health System for 10 years and currently works as the HIV RN care coordinator for the Infectious Disease and Travelers Clinic. "Being a voice and engaging in shared decision-making and policy change is an extension of my commitment to healthcare and building healthier communities."

At UVA Health System, Webb-Jones has assisted and participated in several initiatives that promoted clinicians working at the top of their licenses; created standard work practices; participated



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

**Jeanell Webb-Jones, MSN '24**

in quality improvement initiatives and research; updated clinical practice guidelines, protocols, and standard operating procedures; and promoted wellness and resiliency among nurses.

She has served as chair and an active member of her local shared governance committee and Ambulatory Nurse Committee. "I've also been involved in other committees such as professional development, nursing informatics, career clinical ladder and the nominating committee for the Virginia Nurses Association (VNA)," she said, "for which I extended my term for another two years (December 2026)."

Webb-Jones said her graduate education at Radford's College

of Nursing prepared her for this moment "by emphasizing the significance of nurses serving on boards; sitting at the table of decision-making; and contributing our unique expertise to practice and healthcare at the local, state and national levels."

Her service to the board, Webb-Jones said, includes responsibilities "for governing laws for nursing practice, making, amending, and enforcing regulations; setting standards in nursing education, ensuring nurses are updated with continuing education; collecting and analyzing nursing workforce data," and other duties.

*Chad Osborne for  
Radford University*

## Blacksburg Vice Mayor Michael Sutphin running for mayor's seat



PHOTO BY JONATHAN ROBERTS

**Now in his fourth term with the Blacksburg Town Council, Vice Mayor Michael Sutphin is running for mayor.**

**Lori Graham**

*Contributing writer*

BLACKSBURG - Vice Mayor Michael Sutphin says he is addressing top concerns expressed by Blacksburg residents along with his desire to work towards a better community in his run for mayor.

Some of Blacksburg residents' concerns for affordable housing, improved water and sewer infrastructure, additional parking, and creating or improving local recreation areas were stated in a survey by the American Rescue Plan (ARPA).

"The American Rescue Plan was signed into law by President Biden on Mar. 11, 2021," according to the Let's Talk Blacksburg website. This program was established to assist communities struggling to recover from the covid pandemic aftermath.

The ARPA community survey was included in a report dated Nov. 17, 2020, to April 17, 2022. In one question of the survey, residents were asked to select up to three areas of improvement that ARPA funds should be used for. Investments for the most vulnerable community residents such as food, childcare, and senior support received the highest number of responses. Affordable housing received the second highest selection. According to the survey, improvement to pedestrian and bicycle transportation areas was also high on the list of needs.

Sutphin agreed that housing is a top concern.

"Housing is one of the biggest problems we are facing," Sutphin said. "We are facing somewhat of a housing shortage."

A recent decision by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to discontinue a project for student housing called the Student Life Village, caught many Blacksburg Council members by surprise.

"We were all quite surprised that it got removed this past week," Sutphin said. "We did approve a ton of additional housing but in 2019, we did a resolution basically that we were going to be picky about what we approved in the town. We have provided over 5300 campus housing beds over the past 10 years, and it hasn't been kind of a

similar commitment from Virginia Tech."

The Board of Visitors announcement followed a recent decision for Blacksburg Council's approval of an eight-story housing development and adjacent townhomes in the town, which will primarily be marketed to Virginia Tech students. However, Sutphin pointed out that the new development comes with a proffer that \$1.1 million will be placed into funding to support additional affordable housing.

Sutphin also wants to see improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure, which he says would help in the construction of more affordable housing in the town. One example he mentioned is the location of the old Blacksburg High School, which required the resolution of rezoning the property to residential use. However, even with that resolved, construction has stopped due to the aging water and sewer infrastructure that cannot support the development.

Additional issues in the town that Sutphin would like to continue tackling are recreational areas and parking.

"We made some changes to our capital improvement plan and the biggest was adding \$10 million to go into recreation spaces in town," Sutphin said. "We have to make some changes to some parking as well, and there was a proposal for a very large parking garage downtown. We changed that to an over under parking deck and then moved some money into recreation."

Overall, Sutphin knows how difficult it is to find affordable housing in the area and believes that improved infrastructure and addressing zoning issues will provide more opportunity for affordable "starter" style homes for individuals and families.

"I'm excited to run for Mayor," Sutphin said. "I'm currently the vice mayor, and I was previously the vice mayor in 2020 and 2021, and before that in 2018 and 2019. I was the town council's representative to the planning commission, so I think my experiences in both the council and planning commission, and as vice mayor, that sort of experience, is helpful in this campaign," Sutphin said.

## Obituaries

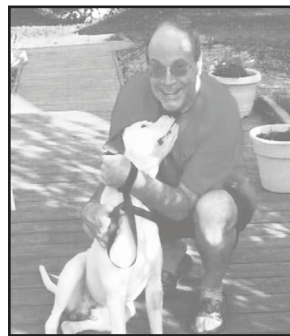
from page 3

### Burris, George "Lynn"

George "Lynn" Burris, 74, of Radford, passed away at his home with his family by his side and his cat on his lap, on Wednesday, Mar. 26, 2025. He was a dedicated member of Fairlawn Presbyterian Church since he was two years old. Lynn was preceded in death by his parents, Jean and Will "Wingo" Burris, and his canine companion, Chase.

Lynn prized education and received a bachelor's and master's degree from Radford University. He loved his family and his beloved cats and dogs more than anything else in the world, except for maybe a cold margarita (or a warm margarita, for that matter). Lynn married the love of his life, Dianne Wright, in 1984, and they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 2024. He loved to fish, garden, balk at the news, and drink Irish car bombs, all while wearing his favorite apparel, a Hawaiian shirt.

Lynn spent years serving the Radford City Schools as a member of the school board and could always be found taking the recycling for the Bobcat Backpack



program on pack nights. He gave away his time freely to those who needed it – as a volunteer for CASA, Beans and Rice, and numerous other charitable organizations and events. Lynn was a light to everyone who was lucky enough to know him and those even luckier to be on his infamous beverage delivery route. He will be missed deeply by his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Dianne Burris; his children and their spouses, Kevin Burris (Ruth), Jonathan Burris, and Dr. Kathleen Burris and Dr. Jason Fowlkes; grandchildren, Sydney Smith (Lane), Spencer, Frazier, Luke and Gabriel Burris, Ellie, Jacob, Adam and Abigail Fowlkes; special family

friends, Nichole Leeson and Hailey Dalton; and numerous other family members and friends.

The family would like to thank the entire community for all the love and kindness they have shown in the last year and a half, whether that was bringing food to the house, calling Lynn to check in, stopping by for a visit, or bringing in the trash cans on trash day. It has been a true blessing to see the love and caring that Lynn inspired in others.

Everyone who knew Lynn is asked to celebrate his life in their own way, but raising a glass of their favorite pick-me-up would be most appropriate. A celebration of his life was held Sunday, Mar. 30, 2025, at the Fairlawn Presbyterian Church in Fairlawn.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donation be made in his name to the Radford Animal Shelter or a tribute gift in Lynn's name to the Parkinson's Foundation. <https://www.parkinson.org>

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



# Family Fun Festival, Cyber Day, Cruise-in to be held at NRCC April 5

A “Family Fun Festival” will be held at New River Community College in Dublin this Saturday, April 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Family Fun Festival will include a variety of activities for adults and children. Children’s activities will include face painting, a bouncy house, a scavenger hunt, early childhood programming, fun science experiments, and

children’s book giveaways. Live animal and insect exhibits will provide hands-on learning experiences for kids of all ages. Community resources, health screenings and wellness information will also be available to attendees. Several classroom labs will be open for tours including criminal justice, welding, and instrumentation.

NRCC’s Campus Cruise

In car show will be going on during the Family Fun Festival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in parking lot A. The Campus Cruise In will feature classic cars from regional car club members. The event is sponsored by the automotive technology department, is family-friendly, open to the public and free of charge.

NRCC’s Cyber Day event will also be part of the Family Fun Festival. Cyber Day is an event where anyone can bring their laptops, desktops, tablets and phones for a free tune up and virus scan. There will be several students and Josh Taylor, NRCC assistant professor of information technology, working on the systems at the event. Any Windows or Android device is welcome. The event will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 135 Rooker Hall at the NRCC in Dublin. For more information about Cyber Day, contact Taylor at [jdtaylor@nr.edu](mailto:jdtaylor@nr.edu) or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4272.

The Family Fun Festival event is sponsored by NRCC in partnership with the Southwest Virginia Governor’s School. The event and all activities are free and open to the public. Food trucks will have meals available for purchase on campus during the event.

For more information, contact Stephanie Addikis at [saddikis@nr.edu](mailto:saddikis@nr.edu) or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4579.

NRCC

# Ballard

from page 4

to left-wing legislation seeking to erode our Second Amendment rights – this two-thirds majority does not exist for Democrats, meaning that their attempts to drastically restrict lawful firearm ownership will not be successful this year.

Governor Youngkin has signed 599 bills into law from the 2025 General Assembly legislative session, while amending 159 pieces of legislation and vetoing 157. The latter two categories of legislation are what we have returned to Richmond to discuss for further consideration. In addition, the General Assembly will also be considering 205 amendments and eight item vetoes of the Commonwealth’s budget.

Some of the legislation that the Governor has signed into law includes: a bill that would enable a Treasurer’s office to send checks for unclaimed property under \$5,000 without requiring a formal claim (HB 1606), legislation that protects minors from receiving sexually explicit material (HB 2310), a bill that repeals provisions relating to the licensing requirements of a person who buys or sells fruits and vegetables of a producer of such produce in Virginia (HB 1837), legislation to expand the eligibility of business-ready site to 25 acres to receive a site development grant if the site is located in a jurisdiction of 35 square miles or less (SB 1275), a bill to expand and standardize career and technical education standards (HB 1783), and my bill that updates the penalties for those who threaten to shoot at or in a school or

other place of assembly (HB 1583).

The governor’s vetoes include legislation that would have made it illegal to purchase or sell a magazine that could accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition (HB 1607), a bill that would hold firearms manufacturers civilly liable if someone uses their firearm illegally (HB 1608), legislation that would create a 5-day waiting period before purchase of a firearm (HB 2631), and a bevy of additional legislation that would erode your 2nd Amendment rights, make energy more expensive, and other left-leaning prerogatives.

I look forward to updating you further upon final completion of our legislative – and budgetary – work for the 2025 Legislative Session. You can expect that the House and Senate Democrats will vocally resist the Governor’s vetoes, but they do not have a large enough majority to override them. We are fortunate to have a Republican governor to stand as a firewall against left-wing overreach.

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](mailto:DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov). You can also follow me on Twitter [@JasonBallardVA](https://twitter.com/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.

# Silverman

from page 4

is a one-mile run, with the department determining that an important job-related skill is to be able to run at least an eight-minute mile (to chase the bad guys down). Two of the applicants can’t do this – so they don’t have this required job skill. The other four applicants all run a sub eight-minute mile, with the two fastest times run by two men. The two other qualifying candidates are women but are a bit slower (while still meeting the eight-minute mile standard). DEI policies demand that the department hire the two men as their scores were the best, so now the force will have four male officers.

Sometime later, there is a sexual assault on a young woman in the

community. The victim wants to report what happened, so the police can arrest the criminal. Naturally, she wants to talk to a female officer, as the situation is highly emotional and embarrassing. But the police force can’t help her with this – it does not have any women officers. She has the choice of trying to talk to a male officer while still in shock from the attack, or letting the bad guy get away.

This example easily could be changed to reflect other examples of DEI – is a police force that resembles the community demographic more effective? I offer these examples only as a way to think about the value of DEI to various communities – to help consider what might be lost as DEI programs are terminated.

## BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church**, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. 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 stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

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

## CHURCH OF GOD

**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

## (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Road, Hiwassee, VA. 24347, Website: <http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com> & Facebook. Email: [Office@Snowvillechristianchurch.com](mailto:Office@Snowvillechristianchurch.com), Sunday School: 9:30, Worship Service: 11:00, Bible Study: Thursdays @ 6:00pm. We are: “Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith and sharing God’s love with others.”

## EPISCOPAL

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

## LUTHERAN

**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, Pastor James Henricks, who is a guiding light for our lives. 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,

# Radford

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### SICK WITH SIN

Read Psalms 37:1 through 38:22

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quicklook: Psalm 38:8–18

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at [advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

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@stmcl.us](mailto:hope@stmcl.us); Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

## ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org) or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

## PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph.

Sunday School for adults and children will be at 10 am and Worship will be at 11 am through Memorial Day. Pastor Morgan Whitfield, Jr. will lead worship. Phone 540-639-2585. Email [pcofradford@gmail.com](mailto:pcofradford@gmail.com). Website [www.pcradford.org](http://www.pcradford.org). We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond

## UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382- 0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month’s with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship at 10a.m. with Children’s Church at the same time, Sunday School at 9 a.m. Worship is in-person and Live-streamed on our YouTube Channel: [StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA](https://www.stpaulumcchristiansburgva.org). All are welcome. Website: [www.stpaulvaumc.org](http://www.stpaulvaumc.org)



# Montgomery County BOS holds public hearing for \$10 million 911 project

**Lori Graham**  
*Contributing writer*

MONTGOMERY Co. – A public hearing to appropriate a one percent budget amendment (up to \$10 million) to the current FY 2024-2025 budget was held during the Mar. 24 Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting.

The funds of no more than \$10 million would provide emergency radio infrastructure that is not currently existing in parts of the county.

“It will benefit all the public safety agencies throughout the county as well as provide opportunities in the future for other partners who might want to use some of that infrastructure,” County Administrator Angie Hill said.

Hill also explained that the other members of the New River

Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority (NRV 911) - Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Virginia Tech - will be providing their portion of the cost through cash funding. Montgomery County would use some debt payments to meet with the improvement costs if cash funding is not approved, but cash funding would reduce this debt and save on interest for the county. There would be future maintenance costs in the future of \$250,000, Hill said, but financial planning would be made to meet this ongoing fee.

Citizens were invited to speak on the topic, with only one individual addressing supervisors.

“This is a total and complete waste of money,” Chris Waltz said. “You’re talking about \$250,000 a year for maintenance;



IMAGE COURTESY OF WWW.NRV911.ORG

**The New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority (NRV 911) includes Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Virginia Tech and Montgomery County.**

they are not doing maintenance now. What makes you think they’re going to do it then?”

Waltz also cited frequency drift as a concern due to his suggestive proximity of

# Constituents of Virginia’s 9th District to hold public town hall

BLACKSBURG – Frustrated by repeated refusals from Congressman Morgan Griffith to attend a live town hall, constituents of Virginia’s 9th Congressional District are holding a town hall without the congressman.

On Friday, April 4, 2025 at 7 p.m. residents will gather at 1301 Gladewood Dr., Blacksburg for a public town hall.

“Despite multiple invitations, Congressman Griffith has declined to attend, offering a range of reasons or, in some cases, not responding at all,” organizers stated. “Constituents believe that elected officials should be accountable and accessible to the people they represent. This event will serve as an open forum for residents to discuss

pressing issues, share concerns, and ask the questions they would have posed to their representative.”

Organizers say the town hall will include discussions on key issues affecting the district, including cuts to Medicaid and social security. Residents, local leaders, and policy experts are invited to participate and contribute to a meaningful dialogue about the future of Southwest Virginia.

Special guest speakers have been invited to attend.

This event is open to the public and media. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact Molly Lawson, mollylawson@proton.me.

*Staff report*

# Spring clean your closet with tips from a Virginia Tech expert

As spring begins, it’s the perfect time for a closet clean out, and this Virginia Tech instructor has some tips.

“Detoxing your closet by getting rid of excess stuff that no longer serves you is one of the best ways to take physical action to let the past go,” said Stephany Greene, a fashion designer, celebrity stylist, branding expert, and instructor in Virginia Tech’s fashion merchandising and design program. “It is a process that creates momentum for bigger changes.”

About 70 percent of clothes in closets go unworn but are kept for sentimental reasons or in hopes they will fit again someday, she said.

Greene, author of the

book “Stephany’s Style Secrets: 7 Steps to Live and Dress Your Best,” has spent time analyzing closet clean outs for her clients and shares her insights.

**What is your advice for someone preparing to purge a closet?**

My top three pieces of advice to anyone who’s preparing to clean out their closet are: First, ask yourself why you want to do it. Second, create solutions that answer your why. And third, make a plan.

Most people simply dive in without a strategy. Ask yourself, ‘Why am I doing this?’ Think of ways you can reduce some of the stress that causes your why. Organizing one’s closet

tends to dramatically reduce stress, because it feels so good and it’s quite satisfying, to be able to put clothes away quickly and easily. You should make a plan to set yourself up for success. Cleaning out your closet should be a relaxing process that relieves stress from your life instead of increasing it. Block out time when you won’t be interrupted. Rearrange your schedule to free yourself up, perhaps for three hours on a Saturday morning. Turn on music and have fun with it.

**Why is it important to remove certain clothes from your closet?**

An organized closet relieves stress from searching for clothes and trying to figure out what

to wear from day to day. Clothes are not only items that make you look a certain way, but they also make you feel something when you wear them. Most of all, it is important to detox your closet because it should be filled with clothes that make you feel good. By letting go of unhappy clothing, you detox unhappy bad memories and open your life to feeling happy again. We spend most of our lives in clothes, so everything we wear really should help us feel good in one way or another.

**Why is spring the perfect time for assessing your closet?**

In November and December, we start to hibernate, we eat more, our bodies are covered

in winter clothes, and gradually most of us gain weight. As spring approaches with sunnier and warmer days, we start exposing more skin. We are ready to blossom in a new way to feel better about ourselves. As human beings, we follow nature, so as flowers start to bloom, we also want to refresh, declutter, and shed everything that has been weighing us down during the cold, dark, winter months. We are naturally inspired to spring clean and detox all the negativity in our closet.

**How would you respond to the concern that cleaning out a closet is too expensive?**

Hopefully you’re keeping items that

make you feel good and that you will continue to wear in the future. Think of it as letting go of the negative to benefit yourself with the positive. It is worth the monetary investment because you are reinvesting in yourself psychologically from the inside out. To make up for the money you spent on your clothes, pay it forward by giving them to someone who needs them more by donating, consigning, or selling to recycle them.

**What are common mistakes people make when determining what to remove from their closets? How do they overcome them?**

See **Cleaning,**  
page 12

## Legals - Montgomery County

**Order of Publication**  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316;-317,20-104  
Case No.CL25000550-00  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073  
Kayla Dawn Comer, Stanley Hunter Early v.  
Commonwealth of Virginia,  
The object of this suit is to: Name change of a minor  
It is ORDERED that Anthony Paul Early appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 9:00 AM.  
Entered March 17, 2025  
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

**Order of Publication**  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316;-317,20-104  
Case No.CL25000555-00  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073  
Megan Alyssa Sawyers v.  
Elden Raul Gonzalez  
The object of this suit is to: Divorce  
It is ORDERED that Elden Raul Gonzalez appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 27, 2025 @ 9:00 AM.  
Entered March 25, 2025  
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

**TRUSTEE’S SALE OF 295 NEWTOWN ROAD, SHAWSVILLE, VA 24162.**  
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 2, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$139,200.00 recorded in the Clerk’s Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2007013212. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or

## Legals - Montgomery County

any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on May 19, 2025, at 1:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY SIDE OF NEWTOWN ROAD IN THE VILLAGE OF SHAWSVILLE, SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF NEW PARCEL 2, CONTAINING 0.374 ACRES AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF C.B. SISSON AND R.D. SISSON BOUNDARY LINE REVISION AND LOT LINE VACATIONS, PREPARED BY C.S. CORRELL, LS. PLAN #P-1095, DATED APRIL 2, 1999 A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED HEREWITH IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGE 74, AND TO WHICH MAP REFERENCE IS MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREBY CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder’s deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser’s deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee’s Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the

## Legals - Montgomery County

Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. A form copy of the Trustee’s memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation.  
Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). VA-375117-1.

## STATEWIDE ADS

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## STATEWIDE ADS

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## SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated

## STATEWIDE ADS

completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

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### Cemetery Plots For Sale

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO DECLARE INTERMENT RIGHTS ABANDONED

Evergreen Develop Co., Inc., owners of Evergreen Burial Park declares its Intention to recover the abandoned cemetery lot know as Section O, Lot #14 own by and in the name of John W. Payne and Annie Frances Payne. If there is no response from said lot owners or their heirs of assigns within 120 days from the publication of this notice, the interment rights shall be deemed abandoned and shall revert to Evergreen Burial Park, 1307 Summit Avenue, SW

### Help Wanted



### Now accepting Applications for 3 MACHINE OPERATORS FOR LASER, TURRET PUNCH AND PRESS BRAKE

CNC Fabricators, a 25-year Roanoke based fabrication and machining company, is looking to fill the above positions.

Key qualifications for these positions include the ability to read and understand blueprints, read tape measure, and understand basic math skills to accurately measure dimensions.

**MACHINE OPERATOR**  
The position calls for a motivated individual to run a variety of equipment including laser cutter, turret punch, press brake, and other equipment as needed. Medium to high volume orders will require paying strict attention to detail. Requirements include understanding and performing machine setups, resolving machinery issues to clear bottlenecks, and performing equipment preventive maintenance.

We're looking for problem solvers with critical thinking and analytic skills and a good work ethic. Reliable transportation needed. All candidates may be required to operate a forklift and pallet jack. Performing timely quality checks and having safety awareness are necessary to the job.

If you have the ability to fill this role, please email a resume to [info@cncfabricators.com](mailto:info@cncfabricators.com).  
**CNC FABRICATORS**  
621 Ashlawn Street SW  
Roanoke, VA 24015  
540-345-2031

**Mechanical Engineer, Research Associate - VT Transportation Institute Blacksburg, VA.**  
Expected to work with mechanical and electrical systems, specifically as they relate to light vehicles, heavy vehicles, and automated vehicle systems. Research, design, build, and reverse engineer complex assemblies. Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering or related field + experience in vehicle systems, complex assembly design, rapid prototyping req. Conviction check reqd. Full job descrip & apply online at <https://jobs.vt.edu> or mail L. Eichelberger 3500 Transportation Research Plaza, Blacksburg, VA 24061

**Help Wanted**  
PleasantDale Church of the Brethren seeks a pianist to play at the 11 o'clock Sunday service. Salary negotiable. Call Pastor David Tozar, 540-580-3257 or Gary Creed, 540-537-2412.

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.  
**389-9355**

### Legals - City of Salem

**Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on April 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing,** pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Gwynn Properties, LLC, contract purchaser, to rezone the property located at 220 Brand Avenue (T/M# 74-2-8) from HBD Highway Business District with conditions to HBD Highway Business District.
2. Consider the request of Riverland Oaks, LLC, property owner, to rezone the property located at 19 Carey Avenue (T/M# 83-1-11) from RSF Residential Single-Family District to RB Residential Business District with proffered conditions.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: Christopher J. Dorsey  
Executive Secretary

### Legals - Botetourt County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 249 RAINBOW FOREST DRIVE, BLUE RIDGE, VA 24064.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 26, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$310,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 210002895. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BLUE RIDGE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, DESIGNATED AS LOT NO. 1, IN BLOCK 1, SECTION 2, SHOWN ON "MAP OF SECTION 2 OAK WOOD", MADE BY T. P. PARKER & SON, ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS, AND OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 8, PAGE 192. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the

### Legals - Botetourt County

deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). VA-364124-1.

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1412 Narrow Passage Road, Buchanan, VA 24066

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$260,988.00 dated June 24, 2022 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on June 24, 2022 as Instrument Number: 220002472, 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 May 2, 2025 at 4:30 PM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: All that certain tract or parcel of land with improvements thereon located and appurtenances thereunto appertaining, situated in Botetourt County, Virginia, on the North side of Highway No. 43 (Narrow Passage Road, formerly Springwood Road) and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit; BEGINNING at a stake in the North line of Highway No. 43 (Narrow Passage Road, formerly Springwood Road), corner to the tract sold to Thomas Molony (see Deed Book No. 97, page 48, in the following name Clerk's Office), and thence with the latter, North 9° West 1382.5 feet to a stake in the outside line; thence with the same, North 49° East 150 feet to a stake in said line; thence a new line South 9° East 1470 feet to a stake in the line of said Road or Highway No. 43, and with the same South 79° 58' West 122 feet to the point of BEGINNING, and containing 4 acres of land, more or less. LESS AND EXCEPT 1.40 acres which William Owen Breedlove and his wife, Dolly Kelly Breedlove, sold to the Commonwealth of Virginia for Highway No. 81 — a description of which land so sold off and which is reserved and excepted from this conveyance will be found in Deed Book 139 at page 481 and Deed Book 149 at page 491, to which Deed Books and pages in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, reference is here and now made for a description of the land so sold to the Commonwealth of Virginia and which land is reserved and excepted and excluded from this Deed and Conveyance, Thus, the land hereby conveyed by this Deed contains approximately 2.60 acres, more or less; Tax ID: 22174. 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

### Legals - Botetourt County

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 # 24-011096) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: [www.Orlans.com](http://www.Orlans.com) The Vendor auction.com will be used in conjunction with this sale. Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit [www.Auction.com](http://www.Auction.com) or call (800) 280-2832.

### Legals - City of Radford

### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Civil Case No. 24-7300 VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF RADFORD

THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA Plaintiff vs  
The heirs and devisees of HOWARD WALKER, deceased PATSY WALKER WHITTAKER, deceased The heirs and devisees of JOHNNY LEE WALKER, deceased JOHN "J.C." WALKER JAMES TRACY CARLION NEW RIVER VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT Defendants

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Plaintiff for delinquent taxes against certain real estate described as follows: All that parcel of land in the City of Radford, Virginia, known as 2412 Second Street and designated as tax map number 19- (7)-SEC 17-14 standing in the name of Howard Walker, pursuant to Section 58.1-3965 et. Seq. of the Code of Virginia.

And an affidavit having been filed that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of Emma Leigh Whittaker and Ma kea la Whittaker, whose last known post office address is 1780 Gallimore Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073; that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of Melody Johnston Martin, whose last known post office address is 1408 Grove Drive, Pulaski, VA 24301; that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of Thomas Linkous, whose last known post office address is 222 Allen Avenue #49, Radford, VA 24141; and that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of Hallie Linkous, whose last known post office address is 108 Jeffries Drive, Unit J, Radford, VA 24141. It is ORDERED that this order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Radford News Journal and that the parties named herein appear on or before 6.20.25, at 9:30 a.m. in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the City of Radford, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this suit. Enter this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025. Angel Turpin CDC Clerk

I ask for this: James W. Elliott p.q. Attorney at Law P.O. Box 1410 Yorktown, VA 23692 (757) 898-7000

### Legals - Montgomery County

### 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 April 14, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen

### Legals - Montgomery County

comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' intention to act on the following Ordinance:

A request by **Fotheringay, LLC** (Agent: Balzer and Associates) for an amendment to the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan to change the policy map designation of approximately 633.72 acres of property, located off Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road) between Crozier Road and Graham Street, from Resource Stewardship to Village Expansion. The request would further designate 307.72 acres of the total 633.72 acres in Village Expansion as Open Space, with the remaining 326 acres designated as Medium-Density Residential, within the Elliston Lafayette Village. The Medium-Density Residential policy designation permits single-family housing at a density of no greater than five dwelling units per acre. The property is further identified as Tax Map Numbers 072-A 2, 54.343 acres (Parcel ID: 023523); 072-1 56, 37.824 acres (Parcel ID: 013681); 059-3 58, 15.3 acres (Parcel ID: 013682); 059-3 57, 59, 60.7 acres (Parcel ID: 013683); 072-1 60, 73(1)6, 304.4 acres (Parcel ID: 013684) 072-A 4A, 0.04 acres (Parcel ID: 180205) and a 162.15 acre portion of Tax Map 072-A-4, 188.1 acres, (Parcel ID: 013680).

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/pendingapplicatin> ns.

### 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 April 14, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. in the Montgomery 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 Ordinances:

A request by **Carriage Road, LLC** to rezone 1.571 total acres from Agricultural (A1) to Traditional Neighborhood Development Infill (TND-I), to allow a mixed-use development. The proposed mixed-use development will mainly consist of a community center, coffee shop, and soccer practice facility. The property is located at 1708 & 1714 Carriage Road, Riner, at the intersection of Carriage Road (State Route 704) and Five Points Road (State Route 671). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 119-A A 8, 9 (Parcel IDs: 070635, 070611). 1.571 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Mixed Use in the Prices Fork Village 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. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplicatio> ns.

### 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 April 14, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen

### Legals - Montgomery County

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 April 14, 2025 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 **J. William Colbert II Declaration Trust and Jo Ann Bandi Colbert Declaration Trust** for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Short-Term Tourist Rental within an existing single-family dwelling and attached accessory dwelling on property located at 1480 and 1482 Clay Street, approximately 0.07 miles from the end of state maintenance, 0.22 miles east of the intersection of Cedar Orchard Drive (State Route 1237). The property is further identified as Tax Parcel 041-A 63G (Parcel ID: 032846), 1.082 acres, zoned Residential (R-2) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition 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. and 5:00 p.m. or at [montva.com/pc](http://montva.com/pc).

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on April 9, 2025 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 request: A request by **Stateson Homes** (Agent: Balzer and Associates) to rezone 276.66 total acres, owned by Fotheringay, LLC, from Agricultural (A-1) to Planned Unit Development-Residential (PUD-RES), with proffered conditions. The proposed request would rezone a 32.52 acre portion of 53.343 acres of Tax Map 072-A 02 (Parcel ID 023523); a 35.531 acre portion of 37.824 acres of Tax Map 072-1 56 (Parcel ID 013681); 15.3 acres of Tax Map 059-3 58 (Parcel ID 013682); 60.70 acres of Tax Map 059-3 57, 59 (Parcel ID 013683); a 122.03 acre portion of 304.40 acres of Tax Map 072-1 60, 73(1)6 (Parcel ID 013684); and a 10.58 acre portion of 188.10 acres of Tax Map 072-A 4 (Parcel ID 013680). The requested rezoning would facilitate the development of a mixed residential development consisting of up to 409 residential units, at a density of 1.5 units per acre. The proposed development would consist of a mixture of single-family detached and single-family attached (townhouse and villas) residential units. AND A request by **Stateson Homes** (Agent: Balzer and Associates) for a Special Use Permit to allow increased height in the PUD-RES zoning district on property owned by Fotheringay, LLC. The requested Special Use Permit would allow maximum height of 40 feet for single-family detached units and villa units and a maximum height of 45 feet for single-family attached (townhouse) lots. The property is currently located in an area designated as Resource Stewardship in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the

### Legals - Montgomery County

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 [montva.com/pc](http://montva.com/pc).

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on April 9, 2025 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 intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Shah Development LLC for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Contractor's storage yard. It is proposed that an existing structure on the site will be used for storage as will on-site outdoor storage. The site is located at the western terminus of Flanagan Drive, Christiansburg (F060), and is located approximately 1.2 miles west of Riner Road (St. Rt. 8). The property is further identified as Tax Map 106-A 7C1 (Parcel ID: 290036), 18.784 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Resource Stewardship 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. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplicatio> ns.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on **April 9, 2025 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 Rezoning request: A request by **Northstar Church** (Agent: Balzer & Associates) to rezone 10 acres from Agricultural (A-1) to Community Business (CB), with proffered conditions, to allow for future expansion opportunities for the existing church. The property is located at 3929 Price's Fork Road and is further identified as Tax Map 052-A 127 (Parcel ID: 210174). The property is currently located in an area designed as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Traditional Neighborhood Design and Open Space in the Prices Fork Village Plan. The property is in the Prices Fork Magisterial District. 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 [montva.com/pc](http://montva.com/pc).





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## Legals - Montgomery County

### New River Valley (NRV) HOME Consortium & Town of Blacksburg Notice of Public Hearing 2025 Annual Action Plan & Citizen Participation Plan for HOME &Community Development Block Grant Programs

In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the NRV HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg will hold a public comment period regarding the draft 2025 Annual Action Plan for the NRV HOME Program, Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and proposed revisions to its Citizen Participation Plan. The public comment period begins on April 2 and ends on May 1, 2025. The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of HOME and CDBG funds allocated to the implementation of objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. The Citizen Participation Plan details how the public will be involved in CDBG and HOME program planning. Funding for the 2025 fiscal year is unknown at this time. This Action Plan was developed using 2024 allocation amounts of \$541,225 CDBG funds and \$547,113 HOME funds. All proposed project budgets will be proportionally

## Legals - Montgomery County

increased or decreased to match actual allocations.

Contingent on funding, CDBG goals and proposed use of 2025 funds are:

- 1) Support affordable housing - \$355,558
- 2) Prevent and end homelessness- \$17,685
- 3) Support non-homeless special needs- \$59,736
- 4) Administration- 108,245

**CDBG TOTAL - \$541,225**

Contingent on funding, proposed use of 2025 HOME funds are:

- 1) HOME Administration - \$54,711
- 2) Community Housing Development Organization Operations- \$27,346
- 3) Affordable Housing Initiatives - \$236,137
- 4) Stroubles Ridge Project – \$70,000
- 5) Claremont School Redevelopment - \$158,919

**HOME Total - \$547,113**

The 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan, draft 2025 Action Plan, and draft revised Citizen Participation Plan is available at: [www.blacksburg.gov/HUDpl](http://www.blacksburg.gov/HUDpl) an

A public hearing to share comments on the 2025 Action Plan and revised Citizen Participation Plan will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 12 pm via zoom and 5pm in person at the Housing and Community Connections office, 303 Wilson Ave, Blacksburg. Please email [jmmaher@blacksburg.gov](mailto:jmmaher@blacksburg.gov) for the zoom link or to submit comments. Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1615.



## Legals - Montgomery County

### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104  
Case No.**CA25000005-00**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1,  
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

GILLIAN ROSE SCHNIDER  
MANNEBACH and  
MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER  
MANNEBACH, Petitioners  
v.  
Commonwealth of Virginia,

The object of this suit is to:  
ADOPTION OF CHILD TO  
BE KNOWN AS CORY  
ROSE IRENE RODGERS  
It is ORDERED that  
EDWARD LEE RODGERS  
appear at the above-named  
court and protect his/her  
interests on or before May  
16<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
@ 9:00 AM.  
Entered March 17, 2025  
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk  
Judge

### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104  
Case No.**CL25-260**

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE COUNTY  
OF MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY OF  
MONTGOMERY,  
VIRGINIA, a Political  
Subdivision of the  
Commonwealth of Virginia,  
Complainant, v.  
PATSY ANN CALDWELL,  
ET AL., Respondents.

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows:

Tax Map No. 063-A-2-35,36  
Account No. 002962

## Legals - Montgomery County

All those two (2) certain lots or parcels of land, with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and being Lots No. Thirty-Five (35) and Thirty-Six (36) as shown and described on a map of the portion of the E.P. Eskridge Property on New River, which map is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 111 at Page 186.

And being the same real property conveyed to Charles E. Caldwell and Patsy Ann Caldwell, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety with the right of survivorship, from Larry Snow Vaught and Hilda May Vaught, husband and wife, by deed, dated August 28, 1967 and recorded September 27, 1967 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 279 at Page 368.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 111 at Page 186, Instrument Number 2019006289, Deed Book 306 at Page 417, Deed Book 399 at Page 379, Instrument Number 2020006394.

Deed Book 399 at Page 379, Instrument Number 2020006394.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Patsy Ann Caldwell, who is believed to be

## Legals - Montgomery County

deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Charles E. Caldwell, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Carolyn A. Graves, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Harvey Graves, whose last known address is 1490 Mahone St, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Ricky W. Caldwell, whose last known address is unknown; Gary W. Barker, whose last known address is unknown; Charles E. Caldwell, Jr., whose last known address is 1201 Virginia Ridge Dr, Hardy, Virginia 24101; Phyllis Jean Caldwell Poff, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Monica Noble, whose last known address is 3353 Vista Rd, Pulaski, Virginia 24301; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

**ORDERED** that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before May 1, 2025 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 24th day of March, 2025  
Honorable  
K. Mike Fleenor, Jr.  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq.  
(VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffery A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No.30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq.  
(VSB No. 27409)

## Legals - Montgomery County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1035 CHESTNUT DRIVE, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 5, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$163,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2020000865. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 28, 2025, at 3:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING SITUATED IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEING ALL OF LOT FOURTEEN (14) ON A MAP OF CRAIG MOUNTAIN, SECTION ONE, PREPARED BY CLEMENTS AND DRAPER, CLS, DATED JANUARY 6, 1971, WHICH SAID MAP, ALONG WITH CERTIFICATE OF CRAIG MOUNTAIN, SECTION ONE SUBDIVISION, APPEARS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 77 AND DEED BOOK 311, PAGE 217. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of

## Legals - Montgomery County

ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). VA-371165-1.

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## Past season disappointing for Young

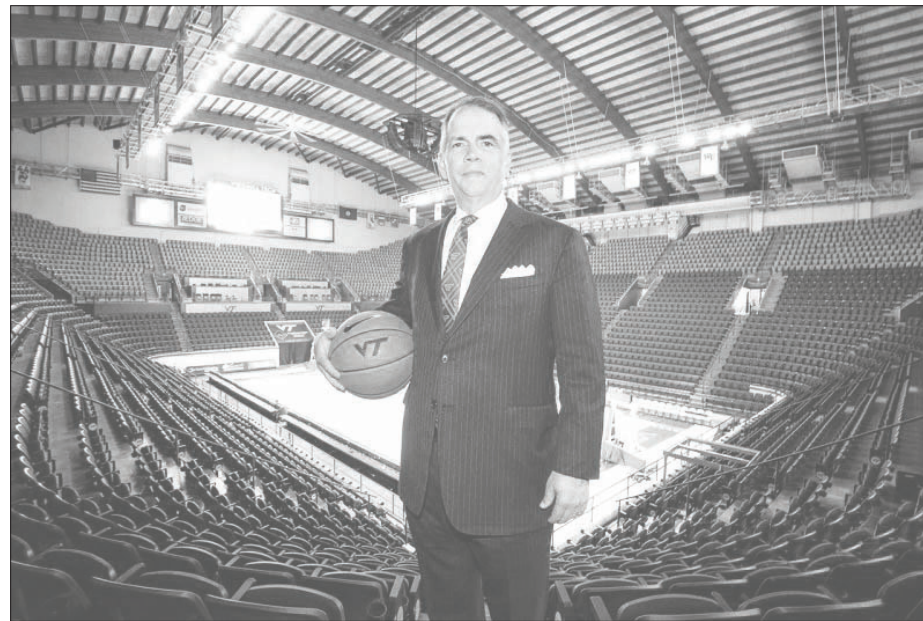


PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

**Mike Young just completed his 40th year in coaching. The Radford native has been the top man at Tech since 2019.**

### Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

This men's basketball season definitely was not what Virginia Tech expected. The team failed to make the NCAA March Madness Tournament and failed quick in the ACC basketball team.

Fans expressed frustration, and that also included the team's head coach Mike Young.

This past week, he openly spoke to fans and alumni, hoping they will continue to support his program.

He acknowledged his own disappointment but is 100 percent committed to turning things around.

His message comes shortly after five players announced they were jumping into the transfer portal. Young also loses two to graduation.

He also lost three assistant coaches, so this will definitely be a rebuilding year.

Assistant coach Christian Webster and recruiting coordinator Blake Wetherington will not return for the 2025-26 season.

Webster was initially hired by former Tech head coach Buzz Williams in 2016 and wrapped up his ninth season with the Hokies in 2024-25. Wetherington joined Young's staff last July.

Young said this past season did not meet our expectations—the fans nor his.

"I have spent 40 years in coaching, and we are in a tumultuous time in college coaching," according to Young. "This transfer cycle critical (for Tech), and we are well into it."

He took over the Tech program in 2019 after a successful stint at Wofford College.

Young has made the NCAA Tournament in seven of the last 13

seasons, including being the fastest Virginia Tech coach to make The Dance. Steered the Hokies to their first-ever ACC men's basketball championship by winning four games in four days in Brooklyn, New York in March 2022 and is no stranger to winning Coach of the Year awards, earning five conference Coach of the Year honors since 2010, and was the 2020-21 ACC Coach of the Year. He is a two-time National Coach of the Year, earning the status in 2010 (Hugh Durham Award) and 2019 (Sporting News). During the 2020-21 season, Young was named one of 15 coaches to the Naismith National Coach of the Year Late Season Watch List.

The Radford native joined the Hokies after a record-setting 17-year tenure as the head coach at Wofford. The Terriers posted a 30-5 overall record in 2018-19, including a perfect 18-0 mark in Southern Conference play, and registered a convincing 84-68 win over Seton Hall in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament. The 2019 Sporting News Coach of the Year, Young built the Terriers into one of the Southern Conference's preeminent programs and a perennial NCAA Tournament participant. He guided Wofford to five NCAA Tournament berths over the past 10 seasons and five Southern Conference championships. In addition to the on-court success of his teams, 100 percent of Young's student-athletes at Wofford who completed their eligibility graduated.

Young remains confident in the future of his program.

"This is my home. This is my dream job, and I don't take it for granted every morning when I come to work," he said.

## Saunders named App head coach

### Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School alum and former Virginia football coach Kevin Saunders has a new gig. He has been named the head coach at Apalachee Ga. High School.

Saunders, the former Duluth Ga. defensive coordinator, will be replacing former head coach Mike Hancock, who stepped down from to deal with post-traumatic stress from the school shooting last fall that took the lives of four members of the school, including one of the school's assistant football coaches.

Saunders is a Radford High School graduate who was an assistant at the school before taking head coaching stints at three Virginia high schools including a state championship at Brookville in 2011.

In 1995, he led William Campbell High School to the Seminole District and region III title, being named the district coach of the year and Associated Press AA Virginia coach of the year.

He then continued the winning ways with J.J. Kelly, leading them to four consecutive playoff appearances from 2000-2003, the first time in school history.

Saunders would follow that up at Shelby Valley (Ky.) with three consecutive District 7 playoff appearances and the school's first ever playoff win. A short time later, he returned to Virginia and took over at Gretna.

In 2010 and 2011, he was named the Dogwood District coach of the year and served as the head coach of the Virginia



PHOTO COURTESY OF APALACHEE HS

### Kevin Saunders

High School League all-star game after being named the Virginia State coach of the year.

Apalachee High School is a public high school located near Winder, Georgia, with 1,900 students in grades 9–12.

On Sept. 4, 2024, a mass shooting occurred at the school, resulting in the deaths of two students and two teachers, as well as another nine injuries.

Saunders takes over a program that hasn't won a game in three seasons, accumulating a 0-28 record over that time span. Saunders has over 40 years of coaching experience ranging across Georgia, Virginia and Tennessee and a 191-113-2 record as a head coach.

From 2009-2013, Saunders was the head coach at Gretna in Virginia, winning a state championship with the program in 2011, accumulating a 13-2 record during that time.

## Hokies down Highs in baseball during Rumble in NRV



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

**Just a little inside. Virginia Tech catcher David McCann dives out of the way during a pitch from Radford University this past week.**

### Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech took the battle of the New River Valley this past week over Radford University in a 6-1 win at Williams Field at Sherman Carter Memorial Stadium.

Tech leads 55-16 in the series.

In game notes:

Freshman left-hander Chase Swift delivered four scoreless innings, setting the tone for Virginia Tech to notch its fifth win during its last six games.

Swift showcased his best stuff through four scoreless innings of work, becoming the Hokies' first midweek starter to pitch as long into a ballgame this season. The freshman southpaw recorded five strikeouts, two walks and held the Highlanders to one hit (single), at one point retiring eight consecutive batters.

Virginia Tech (17-8) followed Swift with a dose of confident pitching as, together with Swift, four Hokies arms combined to rack up 13 strikeouts, firing 99 strikes at an efficiency of 68 percent. Mathieu Curtis struck out two batters during his scoreless fifth inning while Josh Berzonski punched out five batters through two and two-thirds innings, keeping the Hokies' shutout intact through seven innings of play.

James Ward paced the Radford offense with the only RBI of the game off a 1-for-3 showing at the dish that included the aforementioned RBI and a base on balls. Hunter Keen kept his hot start to the year rolling with a 2-for-4 performance that featured a run scored. Former Christiansburg High School pitcher Clay Clatterbaugh fired two scoreless innings in relief along with two strikeouts. The two were scheduled to meet again on Tuesday in Blacksburg.

## Auburn softball prevails over Giles



**Auburn's Johnnie Gaynor gets a five from head coach Tim Smoot as she comes in after hitting a home run in this week's 11-3 win over Giles.**



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

**Kaylee Ramrattan connects with the ball and will make it to first in Auburn's win.**

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**News Journal**



# Weekly roundup: Auburn baseball rolls in early season

**Auburn hit-a-rama**  
The Eagles picked up their fourth win of the year, pounding out 14 hits including 10 for extra bases. Brody Hensel was dominant on the mound for three innings allowing one hit and striking out nine.  
Five players collected two hits apiece with Hensel and Matthew Altizer collecting a double and triple each. Landen Marrs, Talan Mower and Mitchell Hale had three RBI each while Mower and Zac McGlothlin scored three runs each.  
Later in the week, Auburn continued to swing a hot bat as they collected 12 hits against a talented Blacksburg Bruin squad and picked up a 7-2 victory on the road.  
The Eagles scored two runs in the third on a single by Jared Lavergne, who scored on a throwing error to make it 1-0. Matthew Altizer and Brody Hensel then had back-to back doubles to give Auburn a 2-0 lead. In the top of the fifth the Eagles added two more runs when Josh Givens led off with a single and after one out, Landen Marrs doubled to put runners at second and third.  
Altizer hit a sacrifice fly and Hensel a single to make the score 4-0. The Bruins got on the board in the bottom of the fifth on a walk and two hits to make it 4-1.  
In the sixth singles by Zac McGlothlin, Talan Mower and Josh Givens added a fifth run for Auburn. In the bottom of the sixth and error and a double produced a second run to make it 5-2 going to the seventh.

Marrs then led off the inning with his third hit of the day and moved to third on a wild pitch. Hensel walked and stole second. Marrs then scored on a wild pitch and Hensel scored on a single by McGlothlin to make it 7-2.  
Hensel who entered on the mound in the sixth, retired the Bruins in order to pick up the save and secure the win for the Eagles. Givens pitched four plus strong innings allowing one hit, one run and striking out eight. McGlothlin pitched 1 2/3 innings in relief and **Hensel pitched the last 1 1/3.**  
Blacksburg girls remain unbeaten The Blacksburg High School girl soccer team traveled to Abingdon Tuesday night and came home with a 6-0 win. Erin Bishop led the way with two goals and two assists. Also scoring for the Bruins was Ginny Crawford, Piper Berger, Tea Bissell, and Addison McSorley.  
Blacksburg improves to 3-0 on the season and Abingdon drops to 1-2. Blacksburg boys down Abingdon Blacksburg (3-0 record) defeated Abingdon (0-3 record), 10-2, in Abingdon.  
Pee Wee Distler had four goals, Brendan Osebre had three goals, Craig Huxtable two goals and Jonny Joyce had one for Blacksburg. Noah Cousins and Mason Sollien scored for Abingdon.  
**Auburn falls to East Mont**  
The Eastern Montgomery boys’ soccer team picked up a 1-0 win over cross county rival Auburn. East Mont moves to 1-1 on the season, while Auburn fell to 3-1-1. Senior Talan Bruce scored a second half goal for the Mustangs.

Junior Keeper Chase Bierman kept the shutout.  
**Auburn girls beat Bland**  
The Auburn girls’ soccer team moved to 3-1 on the season with a 6-0 win over Bland. Freshman Kaycie Smith had three goals, while Caroline Fultz, Brooklyn Mikowicz and Kenleigh Smith, all had one goal. Kennedy Marshall finished with the shutout in goal.  
**Auburn boys rebound for tie**  
The Auburn boys were in a scoreless match with Floyd until the last 10 minutes when Judy Mear scored from a free kick. Floyd Freshman AJ Miller equalized with less than two minutes left with a quick goal. The match would then end in a 1-1 draw after two overtimes.  
**Auburn downs Giles**  
Johnnie Gaynor collected three hits in five at bats as the Auburn softball team defeated Giles 11-3. Gaynor hit a homerun to center field in the second inning, tripled in the first and singled in the fifth.  
Giles opened the scoring in the first after Addisyn Vanderpool, singled and scored.  
Auburn took the lead 2-1 in the bottom of the first thanks to singles by Kaylee Ramrattan and Hope Wilson.  
Auburn added three more runs in the bottom of the second inning on four hits. Gaynor homered to centerfield, and Ariel Mullins singled.  
The Eagles would add one run in the third, making the score 6-2.  
McKenzie Booth earned the win, surrendering five hits and two earned

runs, striking out six and walking one.  
Skyler Hodges pitched two innings on no-one ball in relief.  
Auburn piled up 16 hits in the game. Wilson shows power in loss against Blacksburg  
Hope Wilson hit two home runs and drove in three, but Auburn would fall 6-4 to Blacksburg. Wilson homered in the first and third.  
Clara McMahon earned the win for Blacksburg as she surrendered eight hits and four runs over seven innings, striking out five and walking five. McKenzie Booth took the loss for Auburn as she gave up six runs on five hits, striking out eight.  
Kylie Semtner hit a grand slam in the fifth. She finished with four runs batted on a 2-for-3 day.  
**Hensel home run in win**  
It was a record-breaking evening as Auburn defeated Bland is Bastian. Brody Hensel hit a two run HR, Landen Marrs collected four hits, and Marrs and Matthew Altizer drove in four runs apiece.  
Jared Lavergne scored a run to become the all-time leader in runs scored in a career at Auburn with 108, breaking the record of 107 held by Gabe Spencer.  
Lavergne was also the winning pitcher picking up career win number 27 breaking the tie with Keith Reed at 26. And Zac McGlothlin picked up an RBI to become the all-time leader in RBIs at Auburn with 96 which also broke a record previously held by Reed.

*Staff report*

# Meet the Tech alumnus who feeds the Commanders

As he attempted to establish a career as a chef in the restaurant industry, Connor McGuire ’10 found himself with a unique opportunity to follow his mentor and be a sous chef for the NFL’s Washington Commanders.  
And after letting the idea briefly simmer in his mind, the Virginia Tech alumnus came to a simple conclusion – being a cook for one of the NFL’s most popular franchises wasn’t a half-baked idea.  
McGuire now serves as the executive chef for the Commanders following a promotion in 2018 after working five years as a sous chef. Armed with an appetite for cooking and for hard work, the Washington, D.C., native today takes pride in providing tasty and nutritious food daily for some of the world’s top professional athletes.  
In the culinary world, McGuire has found that variety, well, really is the spice of life.  
“This was such a unique opportunity,” McGuire said recently via Zoom from the Commanders’ headquarters in Ashburn, Virginia. “I thought maybe I’d do it for a year, just to get that experience. My mentor brought me along with him, and I fell in love with it. It was incredible. It’s such a fun atmosphere. Sports is like no other business.”  
McGuire’s culinary career started after he earned his degree in consumer foods from Virginia Tech’s Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “After I graduated, I enjoyed cooking so much that I had to try to become a chef,” he said. He worked at two high-end restaurants before a painful bout with ulcerative colitis sidelined him for several months.  
McGuire’s mentor, Jon Mathieson, eventually invited him back to work at a high-end restaurant in Washington, D.C. When Mathieson left that position to become the executive chef for the Commanders in 2013, he brought his sous chef with him.  
“When Connor was an entry level cook, I threw a lot of tasks his way, and some tasks were a little bit above his abilities,” Mathieson said. “He was always very conscientious and willing to put in a little extra time on his own to learn. He took a lot of notes, and he took the opportunities to heart.  
“I think, as a chef, when you see little things in people, like passion and drive, you try to throw a little bit at them and see how they’re going to be able to handle it. Connor was able to pick those things up rather quickly, quicker than most. He was always there to ask questions and always looking to put in the extra work.”  
Promoted after Mathieson left in 2018, McGuire and his 15-person staff have been providing meals for approximately 225 people three times a day from July through January for the past six-plus years. The contingent includes players, coaches, executives, personnel staff, and others.  
During the season, McGuire gets up at 4 a.m. for the start of a 16-hour day and gets to the team headquarters by 5:15 or 5:30. At 6 a.m., he meets with his cooks, who already have prepped breakfast, to go over the menus for the day.  
“Our menu switches every single day,” McGuire said. “We feed the same people, obviously, every day, so we don’t want to be too repetitive. We don’t want to give them the same thing every day, so we talk about the menu and any special things going on, any special prep items that need to be made.  
“Then from there, we start prepping for lunch, and then roll into our snack, which is later in the afternoon, around like 2 or so. From there, we roll into dinner time, and then we’re closing shop around 7 or 7:30, sometimes 8.”  
Lunches and dinners can consist of items such as salmon or grilled flank steak with fingerling potatoes and garlic kale one day to swordfish, garlic parm chicken, and sauteed broccolini the next. Pasta dishes and stir fry are regular items, along with desserts.  
All dishes get seasoned differently to create variety as well. McGuire and his staff members have traveled all over the world on vacations – places like Thailand, Colombia, Brazil, and throughout Europe. They take



**Connor McGuire (at left) and his staff start preparing breakfast for Commanders' players and staff at 5 a.m. and often don't leave the kitchen until after 8 p.m. during the season.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

**Connor McGuire worked in the restaurant industry following his graduation from Virginia Tech in 2010 and now provides food for one of the NFL's most noticeable franchises.**

in the local cuisine and bring those flavors back to the Commanders’ kitchen.  
“It’s a balance, how we feed the players,” McGuire said. “There is a lot of performance and nutrition that goes into it, but we’ve got to make sure that they’re eating. We feed a very wide degree of palates. ... We’ve got to make sure that we’re cooking items that they want to eat and that are approachable.”  
McGuire not only oversees the cooking, but he also sets the menu, with help from his chef de cuisine and his sous chef. They start writing each day’s menu a week in advance, leaving room for tweaks.

*Jimmy Robertson, VT Athletics*



# Auburn downs Giles in baseball



Auburn catcher Matthew Altizer uses his body to stop the pitch in a big win over Giles this past week. Offensively, Altizer had a double and a triple in the game as Auburn pounded out 14 hits.

PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

## National Bankshares, Inc. announces retirement of CEO F. Brad Denardo

BLACKSBURG — National Bankshares, Inc. announced Monday F. Brad Denardo, the company's chief executive officer and chairman, will retire from his position effective June 30, 2025.

He will also retire from his position as chairman, president, and chief executive officer of National Bankshares Financial Services, Inc., the company's wholly owned financial services subsidiary. Denardo will remain chairman of the boards of directors of the company and the bank.

Denardo has served as Chief Executive Officer since 2017 and was president from 2017 through Dec. 2024. He joined the bank as a vice president in 1983 and has served in an executive capacity with the bank since 1989. He became Executive Vice President of the company in 2008 and president and chief executive officer in 2014.

Denardo has entered into a consulting agreement with the company and the bank.

Effective July 1, 2025, Lara E. Ramsey, the president of the company and the bank, has been appointed by the boards of directors to succeed Denardo as president and chief executive officer upon his retirement. Ramsey joined the company in 1996 and was

promoted to senior vice president of administration in 2011. In 2022, she was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer and in Jan. 2025 she was named president of the company and the bank. Ramsey, who has also served as a director of the company and the bank since Jan. 2024, has managed the company's Investment, Human Resources, Marketing, Training, Corporate Administration, and Strategic Planning functions during her career.

"Brad has played a key role in our success for over 40 years," said Ramsey. "Under his leadership, National Bankshares has grown to serve new communities and has implemented successful strategies to deliver personalized financial services in an ever-changing marketplace. National Bankshares has also maintained its position as a top-tier community bank holding company under his guidance, during a period marked by global uncertainty and economic disruption. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Brad for nearly 30 years, and we are delighted that he will continue to serve as Chairman of the Board and as a consultant to our organization after retiring. I am also humbled to have the opportunity to succeed Brad, and I look forward to carrying

on the tradition of community banking excellence he has fostered."

"I feel very privileged to have played a role in a tradition of service that stretches back for 133 years," said Denardo. "I am also proud of our accomplishments and the positive impact we have made for our customers, our communities, and our shareholders. Our success would not be possible without their loyal support. It has been a great pleasure to work with so many talented and dedicated employees during my career, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside them as Chairman of the Board and as a consultant."

"We are very excited to have Lara as our President and Chief Executive Officer," Denardo added. "Her experience at National Bankshares is extensive, encompassing many critical functions throughout the Company. Her expertise, along with her enthusiasm and strong leadership, make her ideally suited to help continue our tradition of service and deliver solid shareholder value well into the future. Lara has been an instrumental part of the Company and the Bank for nearly 30 years, and we are confident that she will excel as the Company's President and CEO."

National Bankshares, Inc.

## Cleaning

from page 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

### Spring is the perfect time for a closet clean out.

Sometimes, the order people choose to clean their closets can be more stressful than a different approach. Instead of

randomly pulling items out, take a strategic approach. Reflect on how each item of clothing made you feel. Look back at pictures to see if you were truly happy when you wore it. Also, if the process feels overwhelming, break it into stages and start little by little. Try to turn it into a fun process that makes you happy.

After the detox, how can people be more mindful about future purchases? Whatever you're

shopping for, sit down and walk around the dressing room to figure out if you feel good wearing it. It is important to focus on why you're buying the item. While shopping, most people assume if it fits, or it looks good enough, they'll go ahead and buy it without noticing if they feel good in it. The goal should always be buy it only if it makes you feel as good as you look.

Brooke Van Beuren for Virginia Tech

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Bark in the Park

## Photos

from page 1

roanokecountyparks.com/365/Kite-Festival). Joyce Sims of Radford has been haunting the river's edge in Bisset Park, where she has seen Osprey. She regularly leads club members on bird sightings, so watch the Facebook page to join her.

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 Tracymb3870@gmail.com. Also, check out Radford Photo Club on Facebook.

Radford Photo Club

## Voter

from page 1

based on the university's 2022 campus voting rate.

"Radford University is fast developing a reputation for student-led participation in democracy and a commitment to open discourse on political and social topics," said Radford University President Bret Danilowicz. "Professor Rackaway has

shown outstanding leadership in 'all things voting' for our university and has inspired students to make their voices heard at the ballot box. We are proud to be recognized as a leading institution in Virginia, and nationally, in student civic engagement."

Chad Osborne for Radford University

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