

RADFORD

News Journal

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Books for Bobcats program encourages summer reading

Heather Bell
Editor

RADFORD — Hundreds of Radford City Public Schools students were treated to a free book and a frozen treat recently, as the Books for Bobcats Bus traveled the city bring joy to the children.

“To encourage summer reading, we launched the Books for Bobcats event, inspired by the idea of giving students brand-new books to enjoy during the break,” said RCPS Assistant Superintendent Dr. Melissa McDaniel. “There’s nothing quite like opening a new book of your own! Our goal was to excite students about reading and help them maintain their reading habits over the summer.”

According to McDaniel, students at McHarg

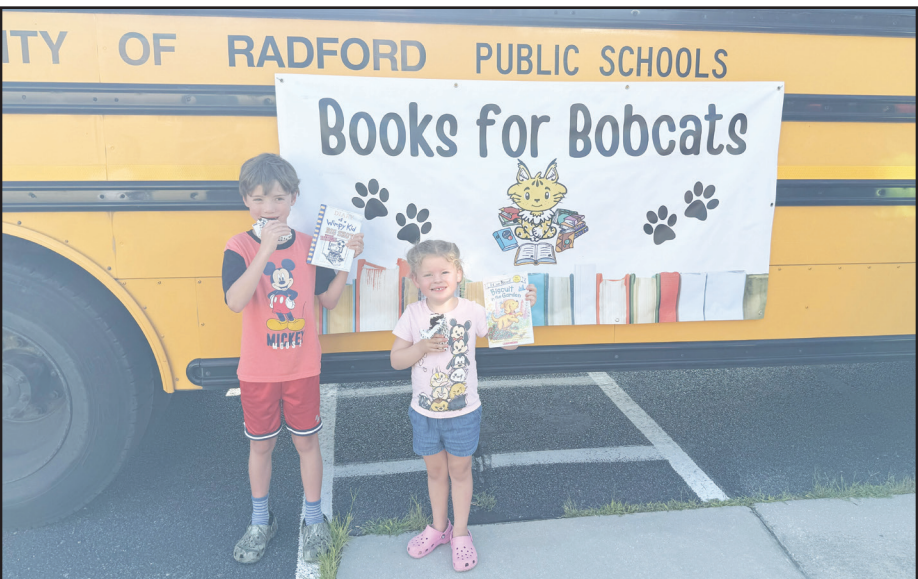


PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Children enjoy an ice cream treat as part of the recent Books for Bobcats Bus event.

Elementary School and Belle Heth Elementary School received their first book during the schools’ spring field day, “allowing them to start summer break with something to read and were also given a bookmark listing the dates and times we would be traveling through the city to deliver additional books in July.”

See **Books**, page 6

Radford University given several Dorothy Gillespie sculptures



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

One of 15 “starburst” sculptures acquired by the museum destined for the Artis Center.

Dorothy Gillespie, a sculptor, painter, and installation artist from Roanoke, left a lasting impact on the world of public art. Renowned for her signature large, ribbon-like metal sculptures, she was a prolific creative force and passionate advocate women in the arts. Gillespie was also a Radford graduate and Distinguished Professor of Art at Radford University.

On July 15, the Radford

See **Gillespie**, page 5

Steppin’ Out returns to downtown Blacksburg this week

Abby Whitt
Contributing writer

Enjoy 24 hours of art, music and more in Blacksburg this weekend during the 44th Annual Steppin’ Out Festival, hosted by Downtown Blacksburg Inc.

Tracie Hughes, executive director of DBI said that Steppin’ Out “is more than just a tradition in Virginia — it’s a time when we get together, despite our differences, and celebrate summer, our town, and each other.”

Music will be across three stages from 2-11 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1, and from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2.

The Main Stage will feature Root Down, First to Mars, Solacoustix,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN BLACKSBURG INC.

Steppin’ Out has something for everyone to enjoy, including music from the Main Stage starting at 2 p.m. Aug. 1 and concluding at 10 p.m. Aug. 2.

Annie Stokes and The Jared Stout Band on Friday, and the Panjammers, Father Sun, Nappy Head Funk Army, Dreams Gone Active, Kevin Vandyke (guitar/lead vocals), Alex Gross and The Wilson Springs Hotel on Saturday.

The Jared Stout Band, comprised of Jared Stout

See **Steppin’ Out**, page 5



Inside Glencoe Mansion are pictures of Radford and the region from the late 1790s to the 1960s, on display to commemorate the home’s 150th anniversary. This one depicts East Radford about 1899.

Festival recalls unique Radford history

Entering Glencoe Museum off Radford’s Main Street is a genuine step back in time.

It is a time when red satin settees, fancy pianos, huge fireplaces and life-sized dress forms were the norm — especially for families of great means. The home of former Confederate Brigadier General Gabriel Wharton and his wife, Nannie Radford Wharton, showcased the rich Victorian style of the late 1800s. He owned a grist mill and championed the development of the town of Radford.

Their home, a museum for many years, recently celebrated its 150th anniversary and was one of the sites of the Mary Draper Ingles Festival, held this past weekend in the City of Radford and Pulaski County. At Glencoe, this included

photographers and artists on hand, house tours and music, as well as a talk on creating family history books by Blacksburg author Madeline Hoge. The museum displayed antique furniture, information on the problems freed slaves faced, as well as photos of Radford from the unique time of the 1880s to the 1960s, a time the city grew.

But everyone wants to eventually get back home. That was the case for area resident Mary Draper Ingles, who was kidnapped by Shawnee tribesmen along with her two young sons and forced to ride to Big Bone Lick, a place she escaped from in order to return to her life in Virginia.

Eventually her older son was returned, but

See **Festival**, page 7



PHOTOS BY D.J. MATHEWS

Madeline Hoge discusses her family history and how to research your roots at The Mary Draper Ingles Festival last weekend.

Local expert explains recent ‘close call’ between a SkyWest jet and a U.S. Air Force jet

Just months after a deadly collision between a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter and an American Airlines jet in Washington, D.C., the FAA is investigating another serious aviation incident in North Dakota.

On July 18, a SkyWest commercial airliner narrowly avoided a collision with a U.S. Air Force B-52 jet.

Virginia Tech aerospace engineer Ella Atkins weighed in on the close call, pointing to several concerning



PHOTO BY PETER MEANS FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Ella Atkins

factors.

“It appears the Minot airport did not have radar, and the nearby Air Force base isn’t yet

See **Close Call**, page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 30:

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.

Market Square Jam
Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road-affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The jam takes place at Market Square Park, 7-9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, the Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer.

Thursday, July 31:

Classical Concert
Performance of Masses by Mozart and Schubert, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St. SE, Blacksburg, 7-8 p.m. Part of the Summer Arts Festival.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market is located at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park. The market features local farmers and vendors each Thursday. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, and handmade jewelry are some of the items available for purchase. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check the Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music. The Farmers Market will run May 15 – Oct. 30, 3-7 p.m.

Secrets of the Ledger exhibit presentation
Sherry Wyatt and Becky Novy will be giving a special talk, 5 - 7 p.m., at the Montgomery Museum of Art and History that will share how the museum uncovered the secrets of the ledger. Before opening in Sept. 2024, the exhibit had been in production for over one and a half years - hundreds and hundreds of hours went into transcribing the ledger, analyzing its contents and finding patterns, researching 1820s shopping habits and culture, and identifying the history of customers who frequented the store. This process involved over 34 volunteers, plus staff. The event is free and open to the public.

Friday, Aug. 1 and Saturday, Aug. 2:

Steppin' Out Festival
Downtown Blacksburg, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Steppin' Out features over 250 artists and crafts people from

around the United States selling unique handcrafted items – jewelry, pottery, textiles, metal work, basketry, stained & fused glass, yard art, fine art, furniture, toys, artisan foods and so much more!

Saturday, Aug. 2:

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.

Radford Farmers Market
At 600 Unruh Drive, next to Glencoe Mansion, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. More than 40 vendors, food trucks, and more.

Monday, Aug. 4:

August Kids program screening
Program provides a \$75 voucher for each income qualifying student in grades kindergarten through grade 12 attending Radford City Schools. Vouchers can only be redeemed at the local Fairlawn Walmart to purchase new school clothing and tennis shoes for each school aged child (K-12) in a family. This year's screening for eligibility will be Aug. 4, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 4 – 6 p.m. at Central Church, 803 Wadsworth St., Radford.

Oak Tree Townhomes HOA meeting
HOA of Oak Tree Townhomes phases III, IV, V and VI will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Townside Property Management offices on Professional Park Drive in Blacksburg. All homeowners and phase community members are encouraged to attend in person or by appfolio zoom to participate in decision making for the development.

Thursday, Aug. 7:

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, Aug. 8 and Sat. Aug. 9:

Book Sale
There will be a book sale at the Radford Public Library on Friday, Aug. 8 and Saturday, Aug. 9, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Even though the library hours are different than the book sale hours, the sale will be there those hours. Many, many children's books will be available. Prices are the same and we always have free items to choose. Come and support the Radford Public Library.

Saturday, Aug. 9:

Rockin' Main Street Concert
Downtown Christiansburg, 5- 9 p.m. Live performances by two local favorites. The Voice" finalist Jimmy Mowery takes the stage at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m., The Jason Adamo Band will take the stage with a blend of pop and rock music. Beer, wine, and food trucks will be available at the event. Please bring your IDs if you plan to purchase beer or wine. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit watch the live music. This event is rain or shine.

Fish Fry
Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults- \$12, children under 12- \$6, (under 3)- free, carry-outs- \$12. This month, Ronnie Toney and Friends will be playing some bluegrass for our diners. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Sunday, Aug. 10:

Blacksburg Vintage Market
Shop at the Blacksburg Vintage Market on the second and fourth Sundays of every month April – November, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the best selection of vintage vinyl, clothing, jewelry, books, housewares, oddities, and who knows what else. Market is located in downtown Blacksburg at the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Avenue, in Market Square park, under the Farmer's market structure.

Monday, Aug. 11:

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.

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at

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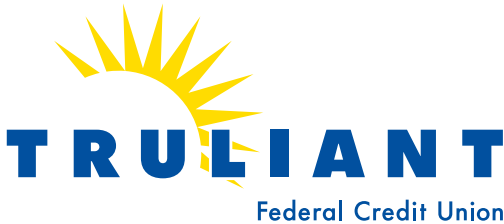
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OBITUARIES

Byrum, Melinda Lee Killon

Melinda Lee Killon Byrum, 64, of Pulaski, passed away Wednesday, July 23, 2025. Born Aug. 3, 1960, she was a traveling nurse. Melinda was preceded in death by her parents, Billy Mack and Nancy Lee Liddle Killon; and her husband, Franklin Eugene Byrum. Survivors include her daughters, Sarah Gravley (Fred) and Abby Austin; grandchildren, Hailey Austin, Johah Burton and Jeb Gravley; great



grandchild, Willow Smith; brother, David Killon (Jayne); sister,

Barbara Owens (Dale Burton); and many other relatives and friends. A graveside service will be held at a later date at Saddle Mountain Baptist Church, Ennice, North Carolina. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the American Cancer Society. The Byrum family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Grim, Carol Sue

Carol Sue Grim, born Oct. 8, 1946, a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and beloved teacher and friend, passed away peacefully at Commonwealth Senior Living in Fairlawn July 17, 2025, where she had resided for the past three years. She was surrounded by love, and her legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew her. Carol dedicated over 25 years of her life to education, shaping the minds and hearts of generations of students—most of her career spent in Bland County School system. Her gentle spirit, patience, and unwavering commitment to her students left an enduring impact on all who entered



her classroom. She is survived by her loving son, Kirby Mitchell Billings, and his wife, Holly Ann Billings. Carol was a proud and adoring grandmother to Parker, 17, and Jillian, 15, who brought her immense joy and pride along with many nieces and nephews and former husband,

Charles Wayne Grim. Carol was preceded in death by her father Charles Pat Haynes, and mother, Mrytle Ethel Haynes. Carol was also followed by her three sisters—Peggy, Nancy, and Jean—and her brother, affectionately known as “Shorty.” She cherished her family deeply and will be remembered for her kindness, warm smile, and the grace with which she lived her life. A graveside service to celebrate Carol’s life was held Saturday, July 26 at Holston View Cemetery in Weber City, Virginia. The Grim family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Carper, Mary Henley

Mary Henley Carper, 78, of Shawsville, passed away surrounded by her family on Thursday, July 24, 2025. Born Jan. 14, 1947, she was preceded in death by her parents, George Washington and Dona Viers Henley; and her beloved husband, John Frederick Carper. Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Gregory (Kelly) Carper, and David (Materina) Carper; daughters and son-in-law, Shannon (Troy) Martin, and Kristl (Barney) Carper; grandchildren,



Holly Carper, Max Carper, Jakob Martin, Jaece Martin, Luna Martin, and Mia Martin; sisters, Sylvia Harris and Shelby Wingo; and many

other relatives and special friends. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Monday, July 28, 2025, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 7 p.m. with Rev. Lanny Belcher officiating. Burial will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 29, 2025, in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. The Carper family is in the care of the Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

McGuire, William “Billy” Thomas

William “Billy” Thomas McGuire, 77, went to be with his Lord and Savior July 19, 2025. Born July 26, 1947, Billy retired from MOOG as a machinist with over 35 years of service. He loved to go to the lake to fish, swim, and enjoy time with his family. He was preceded in death by his parents William A. McGuire and Phyllis W. McGuire. Also, sister-in-law, Micki McGuire. He is survived by his daughters, Crystal (Phillip) Cox and Elizabeth (Scott) Whitlock; grandchildren,



Abby, Ethan and Aaron Whitlock; great granddaughter, Magnolia; sisters, Vickie (Eddie) Midkiff and Cheryl (David) Myers; brother, Dan McGuire; nieces and

nephews, Tracy (Brian) Lytton, G.E. (Amanda) Midkiff, Amy (Josh) Koon, Bryan (Kelly) Myers, Josh (Kassie) McGuire and Megan Parton; many great nieces and great nephews. Special thank you to his church family, Shiloh Christian Church, and to ACG Hospice staff for all the love, kindness, and care shown to him during his illness. Services will be private. The McGuire family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Radford theatre students, faculty perform in Canada



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID BEACH

The Radford contingent participating in the York Plays Festival included students and faculty from both Theatre and English. From top to bottom, left to right: Brandon Smith and Bryce Helbert; Wesley Young, David Beach and Frank Napolitano; Molly Hood and Robyn Berg; Gwendolynne Arnold and Mazie Wakefield.

Radford students and faculty recently participated in a remarkable marathon performance of Medieval plays as part of the University of Toronto’s annual York Plays festival. After a long drive to Canada, theatre students, along with theatre and English professors, had little time to settle in before repeatedly performing “Moses and the Pharaoh” and “The Dream of Pilate’s Wife” as part of the event, which began at 6 a.m. and ended past midnight. The event is patterned after a similar annual performance of 50 plays in York, England in the Medieval period. Various guilds produced short plays based on Biblical stories on “pageant wagons” pulled through town, each stopping at 12 different stations. It brought religious doctrine to a largely illiterate public for at least 193 years, with the first recorded performance

in 1376. According to producer and director David Beach of the School of Writing, Language and Literature, Radford’s contingent of performers was one of just 17 performance groups from across North America and Europe selected for this project. "This experience showed me how transformative it is for students to take their academic work into the world and see it resonate with international audiences," Beach said. "The project blended literature, theatre, history, and theology—truly interdisciplinary, with students working as researchers, performers, and creators. Performing alongside global peers and previewing our work for the Radford community made the value of the liberal arts unmistakably clear."

Radford University

Student Achievements

Local student named to Western Carolina University's Spring 2025 Dean's List

CULLOWHEE, N.C. - Callia Addikis, of Blacksburg has been named to the Western Carolina University Spring 2025 Dean's List. Addikis was among more than 1,600 students to achieve this honor. To qualify for this honor, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Blacksburg student named to Trine University President's List

ANGOLA, In. - Sarah Weatherspoon of Blacksburg, a Trine University student, was named to the President's List for the Spring 2025 term. Weatherspoon is majoring in Elementary Education/ Special Ed Dual Licensure. To earn President's List honors, Trine University students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.750-4.000.

Radford student named to Midway University's Spring 2025 Dean's List

MIDWAY, Ky. - Midway University is pleased to announce Audrey Mosby of Radford has been named to its Dean's List for the 2025 Spring Semester. To be named to the list, a student must be classified full-time and obtain a 3.60 grade point average for the semester. There were 448 students who made the Dean's List. Midway University is a private, co-educational institution located in the greater Lexington, Kentucky area.

Local Trine University students complete degrees

ANGOLA, Ind. - Trine University students completed degrees at the end of the Spring 2025 term; including the following area students: Sarah Weatherspoon of Blacksburg, majoring in Elementary Education/Special Ed Dual Licensure and Sukhsimran Banwait of Blacksburg, majoring in Master of Science in Business Analytics.

Radford student named to James Madison University Dean's List

HARRISONBURG - Radford resident Erin Wilson has been named to the Dean's List at James Madison University for the spring 2025 semester. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Wilson is majoring in Theatre - BA.

James Madison University announces local spring 2025 graduates

HARRISONBURG, Va. - James Madison University is pleased to announce the following students who graduated during the May 2025 commencement exercises: Ashlea Yearwood of Radford who graduated with a degree(s) in Counseling and Supervision and Brooke Carroll of Radford who graduated with a degree(s) in Counseling and Supervision.

Christiansburg student named to Ohio University's Spring 2025 Dean's List

ATHENS, Ohio - Ohio University Chaddock + Morrow College of Fine Arts student Emily Sirio of Christiansburg has been named to OHIO's Spring 2025 Dean's List. The Dean's List recognizes undergraduate students who complete a particular semester with a GPA between

3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

Shenandoah University announces local Dean's List Students for Spring 2025

WINCHESTER, Va. - Shenandoah University had 1,053 students who earned a spot on the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester including local students Nicklas Bissey of Christiansburg, Madison Bruce of Elliston and Ohanna Napper of Radford. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full-time in baccalaureate degree programs and earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher.

Shenandoah University celebrates local President's List students for Spring 2025

WINCHESTER, Va. - Shenandoah University had 469 students earn a spot on the President's List for the Spring 2025 semester including local students Nicklas Bissey of Christiansburg and Madison Bruce of Elliston. To qualify for this prestigious academic recognition, students must be enrolled full-time in baccalaureate degree programs and attain a semester GPA of 3.90 or higher.

Local students named to Bridgewater College's Spring 2025 Dean's List

BRIDGEWATER, Va. - Approximately 600 students at Bridgewater College were named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List. Students on the Dean's List have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0. Local students include Emelyn Koene, an English and strategic communications major and Ashley Rutherford, a biology major, both from Blacksburg. Students on the Dean's List have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Blacksburg named to Mississippi State University's spring 2025 President's List

MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. - Grant Robertson, of Blacksburg was named to the Mississippi State University spring 2025 President's List. Students on the President's List achieved a 3.80 or better grade-point average, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework with no incomplete grades or grades lower than a C.

Radford student named to University of Alabama Spring 2025 Presidents List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Dawson Martin was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for Spring Semester 2025. A total of 14,289 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2025 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

Local University of Mississippi graduate achieves Chinese capstone


UNIVERSITY, Miss.- Emily Barron from Blacksburg is headed abroad to hone her language skills after being accepted for the Chinese capstone year program. Barron earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese from the University of Mississippi in May and is in the UM

OPINION

Cutting state regulations is good for business and personal growth

Reducing and ultimately eliminating burdensome regulations has long been a priority of Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly. You would be stunned by the number of outdated rules created by state government across decades that either contradict current Virginia statute or unnecessarily constrict business or personal growth. That is why we work hard in Richmond to cut this red tape – Republicans know that in many cases, government works best for you when it simply stays out of the way. This is why Governor Glenn Youngkin's announcement earlier this month of a 25% reduction in state regulatory requirements is so exciting and an achievement worth celebrating.

On June 30, 2022, Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order 19, creating the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) tasked with streamlining the regulatory process, increasing transparency, reviewing existing regulations, and reducing the overall regulatory burden on the public. EO 19 set a goal of achieving a 25% cut in regulations—a goal which has now been surpassed. As of July 8, Virginia agencies have streamlined 26.8% of regulatory requirements. These requirements that the Commonwealth have placed on



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

businesses and individuals have had a massive impact on the average cost of living, and some changes will be felt immediately. For example, regulatory reforms in the state building code have cut the average construction cost for new homes by at least \$24,000. This amounts to huge savings for both businesses and consumers and encourages economic activity by saving homebuyers \$700 million dollars annually.

Republicans are not content to stop here. Virginia is on track to reduce regulatory requirements by 33%, which will create even more savings for consumers and business owners alike. The governor's administration also recently announced that it would be supplementing its regulatory review with Artificial Intelligence (AI),

which will be the first time that any state has done so. Using AI as a tool for government efficiency means all regulations and guidance documents can be quickly assessed and marked for redundancies, contradictions with state code, and anything else that can streamline efficiency.

Cutting red tape and eliminating outdated and burdensome regulations is just one example of Virginia Republicans standing by our promise to make state government more efficient. We have been able to accomplish this task in a responsible, measured way that impacts the lives of everyday Virginians for the better, and I will continue to support government efficiency as your representative in the Virginia House of Delegates.

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

Energy demand is increasing – partisan politics limit Virginia's response

An editorial in last week's paper indicated bipartisan agreement that future energy demands in Virginia will grow beyond our current production capacity. Almost everyone agrees that we need to be able to produce more electricity. How best to add production is a major challenge facing the Commonwealth, with divergence along party lines.

Virginia's demand for electricity is growing quickly. Driving this demand are new data centers, estimated to use up to half of the state's electricity by 2030. A growing population, and electrification of industry, residences and vehicles are also contributing to an increased demand for electricity. Clearly, we must do something to increase production.

Partisan disagreements have resulted in little government action for the past several years to solve this problem, as the governor has vetoed proposed legislation. The last successful major legislation response occurred back in 2020 when the Virginia Clean Economy Act went into effect, establishing a

Gary Silverman

Columnist

pathway for more clean energy production. However, even as energy demand then began to greatly exceed earlier projections, Virginia did little to encourage more production or even to meet the obligations of the existing law! For example, we were part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which would have brought in hundreds of millions of dollars for energy efficiency programs. However, the Governor removed the state from this agreement, arguing that it was too costly. Even though the courts ruled that the removal was illegal, it was not reinstated. One of the consequences of this removal was the loss of incentive to build clean energy facilities – meaning we have fallen even further

behind in meeting our energy needs.

Although perhaps oversimplified, the bipartisan divide involves increasing the use of renewable energy versus increasing the use of fossil fuels. Local opposition to solar arrays and windmills is often a NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) response – as actual environmental impacts are small and costs are now competitive or lower than fossil fuels. Local NIMBY opposition to developing more fossil fuels facilities also is important – remember the hostility as the Mountain Valley Pipeline was built over the opposition in our neighborhoods? More importantly, carbon emissions from fossil fuels drive extreme weather. As weather becomes more severe it costs you both in terms of comfort and dollars (e.g., your bills to cool your house, the price of insuring your home, and your taxes to respond to extreme events). Extreme weather will continue to increase until carbon emissions are reversed, yet 21st century energy demands are not going away (AI and cryptocurrencies are here to stay). Important decisions need to be made in a hurry, and future legislative gridlock will help no one move forward.

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Remembering Paul Barnett, longtime friend and good Christiansburg citizen

I was reminded recently of how people and relationships and experiences can be so meaningful and real in their day and then over time become distant and faded, but wonderful memories. A stark reminder for me came when Christiansburg resident Paul Barnett passed away a couple of weeks ago. Longtime real estate and family



Evans "Buddy" King

Columnist

lawyer in town, solid citizen, married to the lovely Debbie Gerberich, a girl one year ahead of me at CHS,

Paul was my fraternity brother at UVA several lifetimes ago. I never knew him as "Paul" - he was "Doc" to us at Delta Sig, for reasons I'll explain. Always Doc.

Doc was two years ahead of me at the U. And like me, he was a

See King, page 6

What does the future of Social Security mean for your retirement?

Social Security remains a critical component of most American's retirement plans and questions persist around its long-term solvency. While the number of Social Security beneficiaries is expected to continuously grow over the next decade, payments into the program via payroll taxes are likely to slow. This dynamic is creating



Josh Smith, CRPC

Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

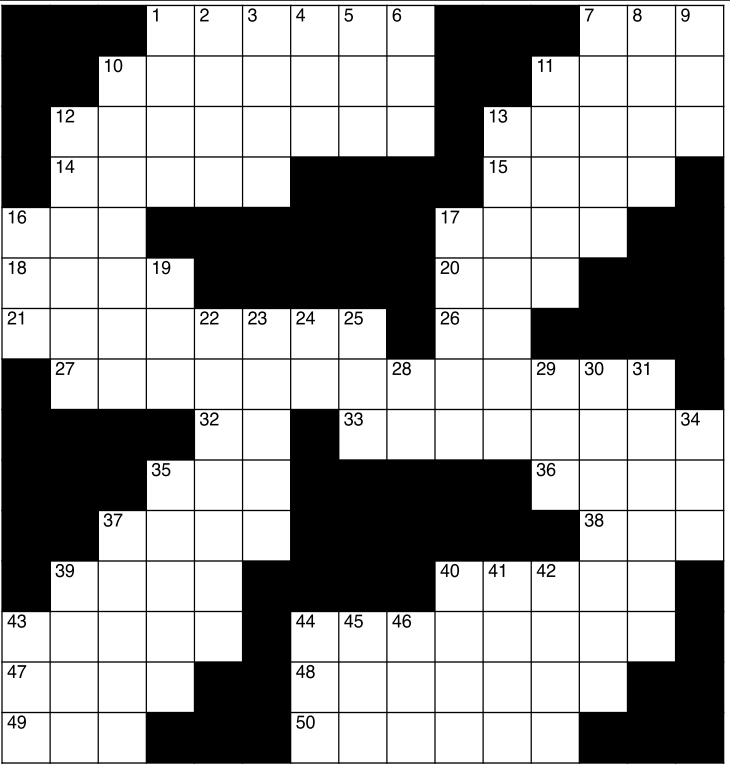
anxiety for many about whether they can rely on Social Security to help fund their retirement. It can

be beneficial to explore the role that Social Security may have in your retirement and how to best prepare if there are meaningful changes to the program.

The future of Social Security. If you have been following financial news, you may have heard industry

See Smith, page 6

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Disco light

7. London radio station

10. Aerospace Co. Morton

11. Capital of Puglia, Italy

12. A phantom or apparition

13. Packed wine

14. The ocean below 6000 meters

15. 1st dynasty: AKA Xia

16. Every

17. Six (Spanish)

18. His ark

20. Segment or a circle

21. Pres. Johnson or Obama

26. 12th Greek letter

27. The First Lady

32. A blood group

33. Takes to task

35. Prints money (abbr.)

36. Airbus manufacturer

37. A instance of selling

38. 12th month (abbr.)

39. Baseball's Ruth

40. 1959 Nobel biochemist Severo

43. Weights deducted to obtain net

44. To lie scattered over

47. 6th Jewish month

48. Physical mal-treators

49. Founder Franklin

50. Published

CLUES DOWN

1. Fish of the genus Alosa

2. Rock singer Turner

3. Muslim weight from 1 to 5 pounds

4. Turkish unit of weight

5. Bovine genus

6. Popular shade tree

7. The principal foundation of

8. La ___ Tar Pits

9. Spanish hero soldier

10. Brains egg-shaped grey matter

11. Fundamental

12. Bast

13. Small angels

16. Not or

17. S Pacific island group

19. Ad ___: impromptu

22. Gen. ___ DeGaulle

23. Hasidic spiritual leader

24. Aluminum

25. Considerate and solicitous care

28. Popular Canadian phrase

29. Consumed food

30. Hayfields

31. About Andes

34. Secondary School Certificate

35. Pen maker Castell

37. Brand of clear wrap

39. Past tense of bid

40. Resort city on Lake Biwa

41. Big Bear was chief

42. A group of cattle

43. The bill in a restaurant

44. People of the Dali region of Yunnan

45. One point S of due E

46. Pig genus

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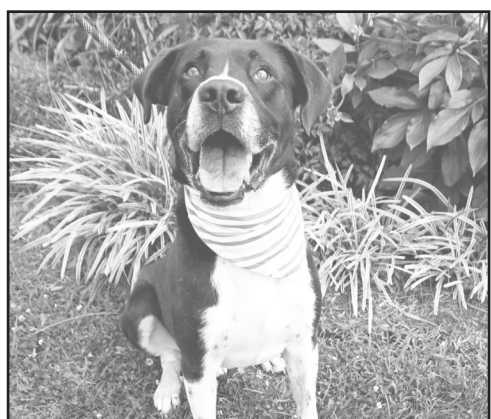
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PETS OF THE WEEK

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.

Celery is the “stalk” of the town! She’s a very sweet, loving gal who may think she’s a lap dog. She thrives on affection, cuddles, and hugs from her favorite humans. Stop by to meet her.



Duffy is a larger doggo with a happy attitude and friendly spirit. He likes meeting new people, especially if they greet him with tasty treats! Visit pawsome Duffy at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.

Radford University College of Visual and Performing Arts welcomes new dean

RADFORD - On July 1, 2025, Rachel Williams, CVPA's new dean, officially stepped into her new position, moving into her Artis Center office overlooking the courtyard.

Through the flurry of boxes, handshakes, faces, meetings (official and otherwise), Dean Williams is getting acclimated to her new Highlander home. Here are a few words from the new dean.

I am thrilled to serve as the next dean of CVPA. Since beginning my role, I have been continually impressed by the remarkable energy and creativity that defines our college during the summer months, thanks to our exceptional faculty and talented students from across the state. I am so lucky to follow in the footsteps of Tim Channel. His energy, knowledge, and dedication will be hard to match.

We recently concluded the Governor's School program under the direction of Dr. Tay Keong Tan. For three intensive weeks, high-



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Dean Rachel Williams

school students in the Arts and Humanities had the extraordinary opportunity to collaborate with our world-class faculty, creating work that truly showcased the caliber of Virginia's remarkably intelligent and talented young people. It also showcases our exceptional facilities and programs at Radford.

Beyond the professional excitement of this new role, my husband and I have been warmly embraced by the Radford community. The genuine hospitality of the

people here, combined with the natural beauty of this region, has made our transition feel like coming home.

As we prepare for the fall semester, our dedicated chairs and staff are working diligently to ensure everything is in place for what promises to be an exceptional year. The anticipation is building, and I am eager to see the innovative projects and performances our students will bring to life.

Radford University

Steppin' Out

from page 1

(bass guitar/vocals), Matt Brassington (lead guitar/vocals) Robby Carden (harmonica/secondary percussion) and Jeremy Price (drums), is a native Southwestern Virginia band that regularly plays at the FloydFest music festival in Floyd County. In 2022, the alt-country powerhouse band was runner up in the On-the-Rise competition and played a VIP set at the 2025 FloydFest Aurora festival last week.

Father Sun's specialty is reggae covers and original compositions. The band's website states that the band's performances "are not mere musical exhibitions; they are heartfelt celebrations of life and the universal language of music."

Father Sun is composed of Janiah Allen on bass, Nyo Allen on drums and Aram Skenderian on lead guitar.

The Wilson Springs Hotel will close out the festival from the Main Stage on Aug. 2. Based out of Richmond, the band blends country and western swing with bluegrass, folk and rock to produce their own unique, high-powered sound.

On the Acoustic Stage, find Tim Thornton, American Roots, Tell Jenny, and Hatfield on Friday, followed by Chris Long, Kat Mills, Stella Trudel, Virginia Hollow, The Hot Mamas, and Lillian Hackett on Saturday.

Tim Thornton has a long history of strumming in various bands, including Sula's Front Porch, Eight Point Star, Fort Vause and the Ephraim Vause Memorial String Band, and is a veteran performer at weddings, festivals, conventions, square dances and more.

His website calls his sound "eclectic," reaching into blues, gospel and storytelling Americana.

Virginia Hollow is another three-piece band based out of Floyd County, and it features Carrie Hinkley on lead vocals and acoustic guitar, Sue Winchester on upright bass and harmony vocals, and Brad Collier on lead guitar and multiple other instruments.

The band's repertoire includes a blend of Americana, and country and folk, with a hint of bluegrass and rock. Lillian Hackett is an American Idol alum, and an incoming Virginia Tech Hokie, who has played with the Low Water Bridge Band and Palmyra.

The Community Stage will host the Montgomery County Junior Appalachian Musicians, Blacksburg Dance Theater, Blacksburg Community Strings and

Achievements

from page 3

Chinese Language Flagship Program. As Chinese capstone participants, four students will spend their final year directly enrolled at a university in Taiwan and complete an internship in a field of their choice while abroad. Four UM Chinese Language Flagship students who applied to the program were accepted this year, said Donald Dyer, associate dean for faculty and academic affairs and Distinguished Professor of Modern Languages.

Local students named to Dean's List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. - Nearly 18,000 University of Maryland Global Campus students were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2025 term. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete

at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC. The following students from the area were recognized: Angelica Calderin-Ayala, Blacksburg and Walter Wouvala, Radford. University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers.

Radford student graduates from Mississippi State University

MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. - Joshua Johnson of Radford is among approximately 3,500 students who graduated from Mississippi State University in spring 2025. Johnson received the Doctor of Philosophy from MSU's College of Education.

Gillespie

from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Zoe Ris helps bring one of the larger sculptures into the storage area for future restoration and installation.

University Art Museum received several of her sculptures to restore and add to the permanent collection. These works will find their way to the Artis Center and perhaps campus other locations. Gillespie's son, Gary Israel drove them down from New York in a rental van, one of several trips he says he's made over the years to various museums.

The museum received about 20 sculptures in total including three

towering metal creations that were once exhibited in the 2003 Rockefeller Exhibition and a number of "starburst" works. Israel, who is the President and CEO of The Dorothy M. Gillespie Foundation Inc., said that he was happy to bring them to Radford and excited about the prospect of students working on the restoration.

Radford University

Close Call

from page 1

sharing its radar data publicly," Atkins said. "The SkyWest plane would have been equipped with a collision avoidance warning system, but if the B-52 was not broadcasting its location, this system may not have detected it."

Atkins, a long-time advocate for using artificial intelligence to enhance flight safety, acknowledges there's a lack of public trust in the technology. Still, she believes that existing broadcast systems can help avoid near-calamities like this. For instance, most aircraft are equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance—Broadcast, which shares an aircraft's position using GPS and other onboard systems.

"Although the Skywest result was far better than the accident at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in January, both incidents raise the question of whether military aircraft not facing an immediate threat should be required to carry Automatic Dependent Surveillance—Broadcast," she said.

Atkins is head of the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering at Virginia Tech. Her research centers on the investigation of airspace and aircraft autonomy and safety. She is also a licensed private pilot.

Virginia Tech



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN BLACKSBURG INC.

VA Techniques gymnastics troupe will perform on the Community Stage this Saturday during Steppin' Out in downtown Blacksburg.

Mainstream Music Performances on Friday.

Saturday's lineup will include the Little Leapers, Dance. Tech, Blacksburg Ballet, Summer Musical Enterprise, Itraab and VA Techniques.

New this year, said Hughes, is Radford University sponsoring a Comfort Station on Jackson Street where visitors can stop by to hydrate, cool off, sit under shade and pick up festival information.

With more than 250 vendors signed up for the event — from as far as New Hampshire and Florida — Hughes recommends checking out the website before heading out to Steppin' Out. She said there's plenty to add to your agenda.

"Park easily in the Upper Chicken Hill Lot on the VT campus and ride the free Blacksburg Transit route," Hughes added. "The drop off is right at the festival."

There is also the 43rd Annual Draper Mile run, which is a one-mile downhill road race that first took place in 1982 with 97 participants.

Race Day is Aug. 1, and registration costs \$25 for adult divisions with a price increase day-of; registration for the Kids Fun Run is free.

Additional details for the race can be found at www.runsignup.com/Race/VA/Blacksburg/DraperMile.

Find the full music schedule, festival guide and more details online at www.blacksburgsteppinout.com.

Natural Tunnel photo wins contest

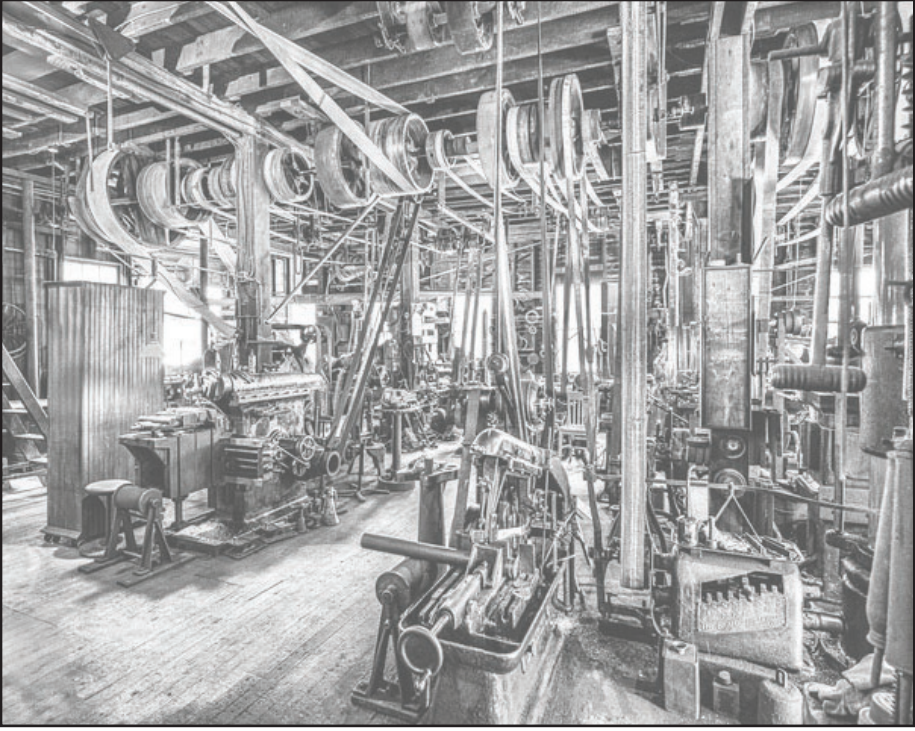


Bill Kennedy of Christiansburg won both the theme category and the open category at the Radford Photo Club's July meeting, which was a picnic held at Bisset Park.

The theme of the next several months are photos being considered for display at the Hahn Horticulture Gardens on the Virginia Tech campus. Kennedy's photo is looking out of the Natural Tunnel near Duffield, VA. The tunnel, cut into the mountain by flowing water over millions of years, is 850 feet long and 10 stories high. In 1890

Norfolk & Western laid tracks through it that are still used today. One day each year (this year, July 19) the railroad stops the trains so you can walk the length of the tunnel.

Kennedy's open category photo was taken inside the W. A. Young Machine Shop in Rices Landing, PA. The shop, along the Monongahela River about 35 miles downriver from Pittsburgh, opened in 1900 and serviced river boats. It had a machine shop, blacksmith shop, and a small



PHOTOS BY BILL KENNEDY

steel foundry. The shop closed in 1965, but the building was maintained and preserved by the Young family, who lived nearby. The property was acquired by Rivers of Steel in 2009, an organization dedicated to preserving the industrial heritage of Western Pennsylvania. Rivers of Steel opens the building to visitors on one Sunday each month from March to November. The machines pictured, all powered by belts driven by a single 7.5 hp electric motor, are in operating condition and are demonstrated

when the shop is open to visitors.

Club members come from throughout the New River Valley. The club's usual meeting time and place is the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. Contact Joyce Crowder at joycecrowder2@icloud.com for more information. The club is active on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2056616214622152>.

Radford Photo Club

Books from page 1



Students line up for their free book and ice cream as one of the 11 stops the Books for Bobcats bus made earlier in July.

“To make the event special and reach as many students as possible, [the planning team] decided to take a bus around town with multiple scheduled stops—thus the Books for Bobcats Bus was born,” McDaniel explained. “To make it even more fun, we added ice cream to the mix. The Radford City Police Department has always been a great partner for our schools, and they provided the freezer for the ice cream and a special vehicle to ride along. One of our School Resource Officers, Derek Conner, escorted the bus around the city and helped to pass out ice cream to everyone.”

McDaniel thanked the planning team, which included Division Literacy Specialist Jayne Cox, reading teachers Kelly Wheeler and Diane Hurst from McHarg and Holly Billings from Belle Heth, library media specialists Sarah Sells (MES) and Bethany Smith (BHES), and me (Melissa McDaniel).

“We met several times this spring to organize the event, and our library media specialists helped us select the most popular books checked out by students, ensuring we ordered titles they would be excited to read,” she said. “We also included books for older students so anyone who came could find something to read.”

The bus made 11 stops throughout the city, to Fairfax Apts., High Meadows, Ridgewood Apts., College

Park, Belle Heth, Copper Beech Apts., Willow Woods Apts., John Dobbins Park, McHarg, Hodge Field Park and Riverview Park.

“Scott Sadler drove the bus and did a wonderful job of getting us from one stop to the next on time,” said McDaniel. “He was also great with the kids.”

McDaniel said the books were purchased with grant funding designated for promoting student academic success and preventing learning loss due to extended breaks. Food Lion donated a gift card to purchase the ice cream. The Radford City Police Department provided the freezer, a vehicle and Conner. Ballpark Signs donated "Books for Bobcats" banners to hang on the bus.

The Title I teams at both schools helped organize the books for the bus. The transportation department and Gracie Duncan helped in planning the schedule and loading/unloading books. Principals and assistant principals at both schools helped load and unload books.

“We do hope to continue this next year,” said McDaniel. “We have the grant funding to make it happen one more year at least, and it was so well received that we would love to find a way to continue it for many years to come. There was a lot of excitement around our Books for Bobcats Bus! I am thankful to all of the people who helped to make it possible.”

King from page 4

bit of an anomaly - a public-school kid from southwest Virginia. We were both top students in our high school classes, wannabe football stars, student leaders in high school, Doc at Andrew Lewis in Salem, me at Christiansburg High. The type of kids UVA was seeking at the time to counterbalance a huge population of NOVA students and prep and parochial school graduates from the Northeast with college board scores off the charts. We were essentially the University's version of affirmative action in that era. Public school kids "from the rest of the state".

When I first met Doc, I called him the "Wolverine", to impress him with my knowledge of his Andrew Lewis roots (they were the Wolverines) and to embrace our shared southwest Virginia heritage.

Through serendipity for me, perhaps not as much so for Doc, we met when I joined his fraternity at Virginia - Delta Sigma Phi. We were called "\$1.65" because we were "low rent". We were not exactly the richest guys on Grounds and our house at 517 Rugby Road was not exactly a mansion. It should have been condemned. We were a hodgepodge of kids from Pennsylvania (a heavy "yinzer" influence from Pittsburgh) and New York and New Jersey and Connecticut, with a liberal dousing of Tidewater and NOVA and Richmond guys.

I knew little about fraternities in the fall of my first year - I knew my Cousin Joe had been a brother at Sigma Nu in the early 60's, the jock frat at the time, and my Dad had been in a fraternity at Emory & Henry in his college days, where I envision they gathered in a hall somewhere on campus to sing songs and wear beanies (look them up)and plan their next good deeds. But I was not prepared for "Rush" at Virginia, with 37 houses opening their doors and their kegs for the entering "first years" as we were known. I was given the "Flounder treatment" at several houses before I realized all guys in rush were not created equal.

The frats at UVA at the time were essentially beyond the reach of the University's administration - it was the way of the world. To say we were unsupervised is a gross understatement. We owned our own houses, we hosted our own parties, we sank or swam on our own financially. In 4 years I never met our faculty advisor. Organized chaos, without the organized part. When the movie Animal House came out in the 80's, we joked that we thought it was a documentary. We had the road trips and the band parties and the academic "shortcomings" of the frat in the movie. We were even put on "double secret probation" for dumping a trash can full



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Radford City Police officers assist with the Books for Bobcats event.

Smith from page 4

pundits commenting on the solvency of Social Security and its ability to pay full benefits over time. Indeed, Social Security is currently paying out more than it is taking in, which many view as problematic. In May of this year, the Social Security and Medicare Trustees released their annual report, which predicts that by 2033 assets of the program will be depleted. It is expected that in 2033, the Social Security's Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) fund will only take in 79% of tax revenue needed for benefit payments. As a result, payments under the program could be reduced by 21%1. It's widely expected that Congress may act to shore up the program before this happens, however there are no guarantees. Planning ahead can help shield your retirement income, should Social Security be unable to fully meet its obligations.

Determine the role Social Security has in your retirement plan. It is important to understand where Social Security fits into your retirement plan. For many retirees, Social Security benefits provide key supplemental income because the program alone will not provide enough income to cover all essential and desired lifestyle expenses. Additionally, each individual's benefits will vary depending on their lifetime earnings and the age at which they begin taking distributions. If future payments

are adjusted lower to make up for the deficit of flows coming into the fund when you retire, it may be wise to plan on utilizing other means for retirement income. Take some time to determine your desired lifestyle during retirement and the associated costs, so you can craft a Social Security plan that aligns with your retirement goals.

Work with a financial advisor to adapt your retirement plan. A financial advisor can help determine the optimal payment plan for Social Security in your retirement. The age at which you begin taking distributions and where these distributions fit into the whole of your retirement plan is unique to you. An advisor can assist you in evaluating the variables that may impact the time at which you begin collecting benefits such as your health and life expectancy. With careful financial planning you can consider a variety of income producing investments that may contribute to your retirement security.

How Social Security programs morph and change in future is largely outside of your control, so plan for what you can. It is never too soon to work with a financial advisor to plot various scenarios for retirement based on factors that are unique to you. Ultimately, knowing you're prepared can help you feel more confident about retirement.

of mud on the Dean of Student Affairs one Easter's Weekend when he was out of touch enough to drive down Rugby Road in his convertible with the top down. Double Secret Probation at the time meant "no Sunday parties." Harsh.

In the midst of this chaos and rank immaturity was "Doc." He was two years ahead of me at the U. - probably the height of leadership and influence in a frat. Second year brothers were still "sophomoric" and fourth years were actually getting serious about looking for jobs or being accepted into graduate schools. So, by default, younger guys looked up to the third years. This was where Doc was in his life when I met him.

I have always called Doc the "sage" of Delta Sigma Phi and of my college years. He was the voice of reason and calm, he dispensed advice and wisdom without even seeming to realize he was doing so. Whether it was trouble with a class or your parents or your girlfriend, Doc was the great listener. I believe it is how he went from "Paul" to "Doc" during his college years. He was a psychology major who looked like Sigmon Freud, with dark beard, and a flowing mane. He looked 45 instead of 21 and his manner was the same - worldly, calm, reasoned, wise, kind.

And the voice! Doc's voice could only

be described by one word - soothing. Regardless of your personal level of angst or despair or desperation, Doc's voice remained the same. You seriously could not help but feel a little better, a little more at ease, after hearing his voice.

The "voice" was vividly brought home to me about 25 years after I had graduated from Virginia, the year my dad had died. I was in the courthouse in Christiansburg, dealing with some aspect of the estate. There was a man in a business suit with his back to me, on the telephone in the clerk's office, obviously a lawyer on a call to his office. And I heard "the voice!" It could only have been one person in the world with that voice. When he hung up I yelled, "Doc," and the guy on the phone turned around. There was no beard, no long hair. There was classy suit and tie and a clean-shaven face. But it was Doc, and he told me how wonderful it was to be called "Doc" again. We embraced.

All of this is not to say that Doc didn't have his vices - to paraphrase Tim Matheson's character from Animal House, "we all did." But he always seemed in control - a voice of kindness and compassion and gentleness, in a sea of rowdiness and debauchery and chaos. While others were falling off the porch at 517 Rugby Road, Doc stood steady. I am sure he remained that way his entire life.

Festival

from page 1

adjusted poorly to white, colonial living. Mary Draper Ingles’ return to the region about 270 years ago was also commemorated with a special brochure and tours of the elegant home of her great grandson Captain William “Billy” Ingle on the appropriately named “Ingles” Street during the festival.

Few have tried to duplicate this harrowing journey back from present day Kentucky, following the Ohio, Kanawha and New Rivers, but one woman did. But with many helpers, including a Native

American named John Arrasmith and a female descendant of Mary’s, Eleanor M. Lahr took the four-month trek along these rivers, with detours due to modern development. Her tale is told in the book “Angels Along the River,” because many people gave of their time and resources to make it happen. It has a foreword in it by James Alexander Thom, who wrote “Follow the River,” and is available in the downstairs Glencoe Mansion gift shop.

D. J. Mathews

Events

from page 2

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.

Tuesday, Aug. 12:

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.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.

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.

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.

The Changing Wave of Caregiving

NRV Agency on Aging hosts conference Friday, Aug. 8

The New River Valley Agency on Aging will be holding its 13th Annual Caregivers Conference Friday, Aug. 8, 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., in Edwards Hall, on the New River Community College Campus in Dublin.

The conference, held in partnership with NRCC and Workforce Development, is a day full of support, education and community for caregivers and is free for volunteer and family caregivers. The keynote speaker is Joseph Lugo, Director, Beard Center on Aging, University of Lynchburg. He will work to “unpack” the challenges of federal policy shifts, severe labor shortages, and the growing burden of how chronic illnesses are transforming how families access critical support, understand their implications, and explore actionable strategies to meet rising needs of caregivers with limited resources.

There will be three classrooms for attendees to choose from during two breakout sessions:

Session A: “Riding the Waves: Navigating the 4 Pillars of Aging Care”

Robin Weeks, “My Pivotal Point”. Discover how to confidently manage the ever-changing tides of caregiving by focusing on four essential pillars which will include the areas of health needs, legal and financial planning, home safety and adaptations, and changing family dynamics to feel more prepared and less overwhelmed.

Session B: “Embrace New Wave of Support and Real Solutions for Caregivers”

Brooke Hall, Solutions Medical Supply Store. Discover the “new wave” of caregiver support from medications to medical equipment and learn about how integrated solutions make caregiving easier, safer, and more manageable.

Session C: “Steering the Ship in Uncertain Waters: Services and Supports for Better Caregiving”

Brooke Gill, Central and Southwest Va. Alzheimer’s Association; Allison Payne, Disability Resource Center of the NRV; and Allison Patrick, Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Panel presentations and discussion about resources and support to help caregivers identify services to strengthen their caregiving role.

Over 50 industry and service vendors will be set up throughout the day to provide information on equipment and support services designed to make caregiving an easier journey.

The conference is free for private and volunteer caregivers, and just \$35 for professional caregivers. A delicious lunch will be provided, including vegetarian and vegan options. Interested parties can visit the NRV Agency on Aging website, at nrva.org, for quick and easy registration, and to download the day’s agenda. For more information call the office at 540-980-7720.

“This event was so helpful when I was caring for my aging mother, who had dementia. It was the first time I realized I was not alone in my experience, and that there were more resources than I was aware of to help make my caregiving responsibilities a little easier.” Kelly Wimmer, New River Valley resident who attended the Caregivers Conference in 2018 and 2019.

The conference is sponsored by United Health Care, Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center, Solutions Medical Supply, AARP Virginia, Heritage Hall of Blacksburg and Lewis Gale Montgomery and Pulaski.

New River Valley Agency on Aging



Find Us Online

Radford News Journal

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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 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, 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.

LUTHERAN

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10AM, 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.

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

From Violence to Victory

Read Revelation 15:1 through 18:24

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

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

John’s visions must have been like watching a wild movie, which might have overwhelmed this first-century saint. But the “violence” he recorded had a divine

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

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Quicklook: Revelation 16:9–21

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Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia

VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316-317,20-104 Case No.CL23-1461 VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, Complainant, vs. JAMES H. HARRELL, et al, Respondents.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

TO: THE RESPONDENTS: The object of this suit is to: enforce the lien for taxes assessed by the County of Roanoke, Virginia against certain real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 015.01-03-17.00-0000 AND 015.01-03-18.00-0000. An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of James W. Harrell and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of James W. Harrell, who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before August 11, 2025, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interest in said land. It is further ORDERED, pursuant to VA. Code Ann §8.01-321, that this Order of Publication be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Salem Times Register, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in County of Roanoke, Virginia.

Entered this 14th day of July, 2025. Honorable James R. Swanson, Judge I ASK FOR THIS: Mark Kidd, Esquire VSB#24149 OPN Law 3140 Chaparral Drive Suite 200-C Roanoke VA 24018 Phone: (540) 725-4700 Fax (540)772-0126 Email mkidd@opnlaw.com Counsel for Complainant

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on August 13, 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 request of Brill Holdings, LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a special exception permit in accordance with Sec. 106-314.2 (D) (5) of the Salem Zoning Ordinance to allow non-residential outdoor uses such as restaurant operations and live music events for the property located at 1507-1511 Eddy Avenue (Tax Map #183-3-10).

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 - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

GHALY, INC., trading as 460 GENERAL STORE TOBACCO AND MORE, 1475 ROANOKE ST, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA 24073.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store License-Beer and Wine Consumed Off-Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Magdy Ghaly, Owner.

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

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

that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, August 11, 2025 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on the Board of Supervisors intent to adopt resolutions amending the FY 2025-2026 budget by more than one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget including adding carryover funding appropriated in FY 25 by appropriating Montgomery County Public School FY 25 Year-End Operating Fund Balance Carryover and Encumbrances and MCPS Capital Balances and Encumbrances, and other appropriations, not to exceed \$50 million. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Angela M. Hill County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 4366 BRADSHAW RD, ELLISTON, VA 24087.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 19, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$127,645.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 160003643. 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 September 22, 2025, at 11:15 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: PARCEL 1: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 1.063 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED "PLAT FOR DAVID E. VANDER VLIET OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.063 AC. LOT NEAR ROUTE 622 MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA" PREPARED BY NEAL H. WIRT, L. S., DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1992, DESIGNED AS PLAT NO. 92-688, WHICH PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 766, PAGE 561. PARCEL 2: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 5.153 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED, "SURVEY FOR DAVID E. & ALTHEA L. VAN DER VLIET OF A 5.153 ACRE PARCEL SITUATE IN. THE MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S., DATED JULY 24, 1995, DESIGNATED AS N.B. W-9 0-95648, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONATGOMERY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 886, PAGE 759. 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 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. 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. VA-372257-1.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

- A. Code Amendment request by Town of Christiansburg, Applicant, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Sec. 42-8 – Conditional Use Permits; Sec. 42-9 Lighting and Minimum Off-Street Parking; Secs. 42-74(3), 42-99(3), 42-134(3), 42-161(3), 42-189(3), 42-224(3), 42-255(3) – Corner Lots; Secs. 42-33, 42-68, 42-93, 42-128, 42-155, 42-183, 42-218, 42-249, 42-281, 42-305, 42-226 – Permitted Uses of the Christiansburg Town Code. The request is to alphabetize permitted uses and parking requirements, to clarify corner lot frontage requirements, and to clarify what "reasonable conditions" may be imposed on a Conditional Use Permit.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - City of Radford

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia

VA Code§§ 8.01-316, Case No. JJ004782-10-00 Radford City J&DR- Juvenile Division

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re: MALDONADO, KERON J.

The object of this suit is to: TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS REGARDING THE ABOVE-NAMED CHILD. It is ORDERED that the defendant ANTARIO MADDOX and/or the UNKNOWN FATHER of the above-named child appear at the above-named court located at 619 Second Street, Radford, Virginia 24141, and protect his interests on or before AUG. 26, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M. July 16, 2025

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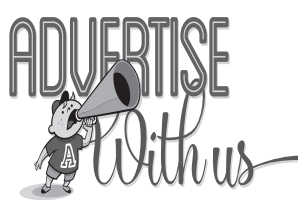
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RADFORD SPORTS

Auburn's McGlothlin all-county/all-city POY



Blackburg's Brice Abbott is the all-county/all-city team's first basement.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Some familiar faces head up this year's all-county/all-city baseball team of the year. Auburn won this year's Class 1 state championship, and the team leads the list of honorees.

Zac McGlothlin is this year's player of the year, and his coach Eric Altizer is the coach of the year.

Auburn senior first-baseman/pitcher McGlothlin is also the Class 1 Player of the Year, and Auburn head coach Altizer was the Class 1 Coach of the Year.

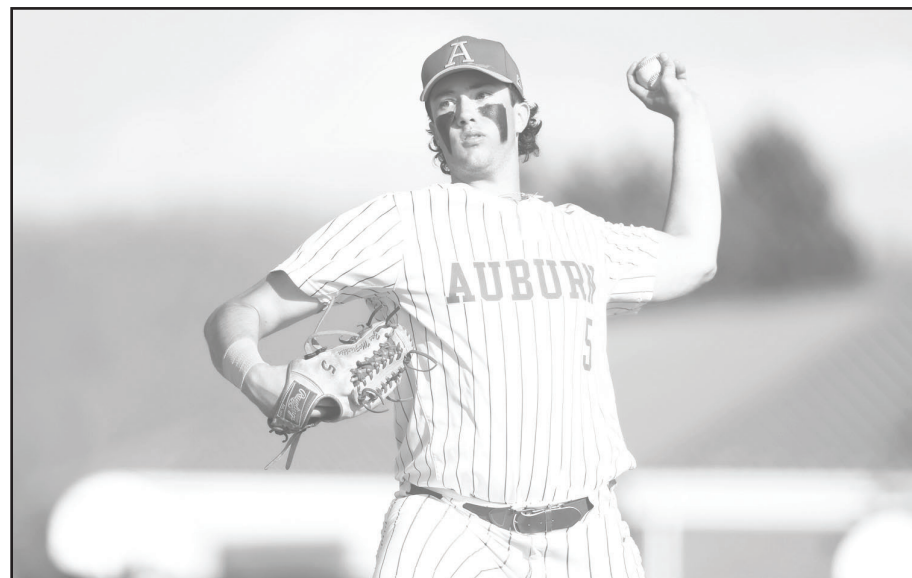
McGlothlin, a versatile 6-0, 180-pound first baseman and left-handed pitcher, posted impressive numbers this spring. As an offensive threat, McGlothlin batted .471 (40-85)

with 40 RBI, three home runs, eight doubles, and one triple.

A big-game pitcher, he posted a 6-0 record with two saves, 1.70 ERA, 38K, and only 13BB. In Auburn's run to the state title, McGlothlin went 4-0 in the postseason, earning wins in the Mountain Empire District championship game, the Region C title game and pitching the Eagles to victories in the state quarterfinals and semifinals.

A second-team all-state selection last year at first base, he remains uncommitted with plans to attend New River Community College in the fall.

For the fourth time in his 20 seasons, Auburn's legendary coach, Eric Altizer, led the Eagles to a state championship with a convincing 10-0 win over Fort Chiswell in the Class 1



FILE PHOTOS

Auburn's Zac McGlothlin is the 2025 all-county/all-city baseball player of the year.

finals. His team ended the season on a 17-game winning streak and a 26-1 record.

Altizer has a career record of 303-123 during his two stints as Auburn's head coach, from 1999 to 2008 and 2016 to the present. His teams won state titles in 2017, 2019, 2021, and this season. It's Altizer's third time receiving the state coach of the year award (2017, 2019, and 2025).

McGlothlin was honored as both first base and as a pitcher. He shared the first base spot with Blackburg's Brice Abbott.

Blackburg's Jack Mann was this year's honoree at second-base. He was joined around the infield by Christiansburg shortstops Gavin Dow and teammate Sam Szeffc. At third base was Marshall

Tate of Eastern Montgomery.

The outfield had its share of firepower in Radford's Hayden Joyce, Auburn's Jared Lavergne, and Eastern Montgomery's Caleb Jones and Colton Conner.

The pitching staff is loaded with McGlothlin leading the way along with Rocco Fizzano of Christiansburg, Szeffc of Blackburg, Josh Givens of Auburn and Colton Conner of Eastern Montgomery.

Behind the plate, Blackburg's Major Marshall and Auburn's Matthew Altizer shared the spot.

The utility co-players of the year were Ethan Weyman of Christiansburg and Trevor Williams of Radford.

The designated hitter is Brody Hensel of Auburn.

Tech football coach accused of tampering

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

News has leaked this weekend a Virginia Tech assistant coach is being accused of tampering in the recruitment of a player from North Carolina Central.

The incident took place in 2024 and involved a running back that was on the active NCC roster. Current Central coach Trei Oliver made the comments during a Pigskin Preview.

Oliver claims the coach was trying to recruit his running back, J'Mari Taylor, into the transfer portal. According to Oliver, the back later transferred to Virginia.

"Virginia Tech was actually on my sideline recruiting my running back. So, thank god they didn't get him. He went to UVA. He got \$400,000 though. \$400,000. So, he is starting at UVA now

and I hope he kicks Virginia Tech's butt."

Taylor shined with the Eagles in 2024 and had the fourth-best season by a running back in school history with 1,146 rushing yards. He was the program's first 1,000-yard rusher since 2005 and scored at least one touchdown in every game enroute to 15 total. The Tech assistant has not been identified, but the specific game of record was the Nov. 15 game against Howard.

Virginia Tech released a statement on the matter on Friday.

"This is the first time the issue has been brought to our attention, and no concern has previously been shared with us through any formal channel."

"Virginia Tech takes all NCAA rules seriously and is committed to conducting our program with integrity. We are reviewing the matter internally and will address any findings appropriately."

Pry remains optimistic about season

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech's Brent Pry says this year's football team has a lot to prove, especially after falling after so much optimism.

His comments came at this past week's ACC Media Days.

Pry really likes this year's group of players.

"I like our quarterback. I like our guys. I like the direction we're going. This team right now is the closest to the vision I have for Virginia Tech football, for what I want us to be and who I want us to be. We're closer than we've ever been," he said.

He is also encouraged by the leadership being seen from both players and two new coordinators. "We made some upticks in some really important areas in our program. We needed to have the type of off-season that we're having."

Pry said Virginia Tech's roster is deeper. "I'm also excited and encouraged by the type of off-season we've had. When we reflected on the 2024 year, it was evident to me that we needed to be a more mentally and physically tough team."

Pry was joined at media days by players, Kelvin Gilliam Jr., Jaden Keller, Kyron Drones and Donavon Greene.

"I couldn't be more excited about the team that we have the opportunity to be. Excited about the opener," Pry said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Brent Pry (back row in middle) took four players to this past week's ACC media days.

Virginia Tech opens August 31 against South Carolina.

"We've got a lot to prove in Blacksburg, and we've still got this preseason camp to attack and make sure we make the most of it," Pry said.

During the off season, Pry added Phil Montgomery as the offensive coordinator and Sam Siefkes as the defensive coordinator.

Montgomery's impressive resume spans over two decades in the collegiate ranks, including head coaching experience at the University of Tulsa (2015-2022) and offensive coordinator stints at Auburn, Baylor and Houston. Known for his innovative offensive schemes, Montgomery has consistently developed high-powered offenses and mentored elite quarterbacks, including Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III, Bryce Petty and Case Keenum. He most recently served as the co-offensive

coordinator for the Birmingham Stallions, where he helped lead the team to a 2024 UFL Championship.

Siefkes, a highly regarded defensive mind with coaching experience at numerous levels of football, brings an impressive resume including successful stints in the NFL, FBS, FCS, and Division III.

Siefkes arrives in Blacksburg after serving two seasons as linebackers coach for the Arizona Cardinals, where he helped mentor linebacker Kyzir White, who ranked 15th in the NFL in tackles with 137 in 2024. He also worked alongside safety Budda Baker, who ranked second in the NFL with 164 tackles and earned Pro Bowl honors. Under Siefkes' guidance, the Cardinals finished 2024 ranked among the NFL's top defenses in several categories

"Yeah, first of all, I'm

See Pry, page 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK MATTOX

Members of the Blacksburg High School golf team hoist the national invitational championship trophy this past week at the Pinehurst N.C. country club.

Blacksburg team wins national invitational

Blacksburg, Virginia hoisted the team trophy while Rory Asselta of New Jersey took home the individual medalist honors at the 2025 PGA Boys High School Golf National Invitational, spanning three days and 54 holes at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club's Nos. 5, 6 and 8.

The Virginia team was made up of members of this past year's state champs from Blacksburg High School.

State champions from around the country were invited to the event, but ironically could not be recognized as their high school team because of a VHSL ruling.

Virginia (BLK) shot a 13-under 851, earning a nine-stroke victory over Utah (LPK) and North Carolina (PNC), which tied for second with 4-under 860 cumulative totals. South Carolina (TLH) finished fourth with 3-under 861, and Utah (CRC) and New Jersey (SJR) tied for fifth at 2-over 866 for the tournament.

"The environment here is pretty unbeatable," said Virginia (BLK)'s Pierce Campbell, a recently-graduated senior who went 73-71-76 for the tournament. "You're playing for a national championship that doesn't come around that often and at such a special place like Pinehurst."

"In the first round, we played really well with a couple of guys under par and Jake [Albert] shooting really low," Campbell continued. "We followed it up on No. 8 with not our best performance, but we hung in there. We had a one-shot lead going into today and knew we had to do something special, so we just hung in there, played good golf and got it done."

Virginia (BLK)'s team previously competed in the National Invitational in 2022 - which marked the last time the event was held at Pinehurst - where it finished eighth as a team but celebrated its own Jake Albert earning individual medalist honors. Albert, also a recently-graduated senior, shot a course record on Pinehurst No. 5 with a 62 in the first round Sunday.

"I honestly didn't know what the course record was, and I didn't think

I got it," said Albert. "It means a lot knowing I have this at such a historic course."

New Jersey (SJR) freshman Asselta carded a one-stroke, 16-under 200 victory over Albert. Albert missed a birdie putt on his final hole to force a playoff with Asselta.

"My last two rounds were really good," said Asselta, who went 65-66-69. "I didn't make a bogey, so today I told myself to just keep doing the same thing... Make birdies on gettable holes, and that should do it. When it started to rain, that was right after I missed a two-footer for par on No. 10. It started looking bad, but I bounced back with a birdie on No. 11."

"It's so cool to come down here," he continued. "We had a great season up in New Jersey, and this is such a cool way to end the season."

Asselta receives exemptions into the 2025 Junior PGA Championships next week at Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex at Purdue University and the 2026 North & South Junior Amateur at Pinehurst Resort.

Highlighting the final round was a hole-in-one from junior Rithik Rajendran of Georgia (MLT) on Course No. 8, who aced the fifth hole from 140 yards with his pitching wedge. Rajendran finished 83-79-79 241 for the tournament.

Georgia (RVA) captured the 2025 PGA Girls High School Golf National Invitational held on Pinehurst Nos. 1, 6 and 7 last week (July 14-16) where individual medalist honors went to Michelle Lee of Texas (AHT) after she defeated Kallyn Black of Georgia (RVA) in a playoff. This marks the first of three consecutive years that the event will be played at Pinehurst and the seventh edition of the PGA High School Golf National Invitational since its debut in 2019, which features golfers who won their respective high school state championships as a team or as an individual from large, small, private or public schools. It was previously held at Pinehurst from 2020-22.

Courtesy of the PGA

ACC still might lose schools to other conferences

Marty Gordon
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The Atlantic Coast Conference is still hearing backroom conversation about schools wanting to jump ship to what they see are better situations.

Commissioner Jim Phillips took a moment to address the elephant in the room during this past week's ACC football media days. The matter included lawsuits by both Florida State and Clemson.

“The legal disputes within the conference were brought to resolution at the beginning of March. The ACC Board of Directors was amazing in its leadership, dedication, and patience through a challenging process,” said Phillips.

“The settlement provides long-term stability for the league with the potential for all members to benefit from additional revenue opportunities. Leading in the distribution of revenue based on success, and now with an additional revenue distribution model that is based on viewership, the ACC has been innovative in its approach to conference revenues. As part of the modernization of college athletics, these new models allow us to maintain distributions for all ACC members that are above most other conferences while also providing flexibility for competition at the highest level of revenue.”

Phillips said without question there's still significant work to be done, but the conference collectively it is a better place.

“With that said, we also need congress to act. We'll continue to push for federal legislation that will support our efforts

to ensure a uniform, stable, and legally sound future. Recently a bipartisan group of congress members sponsored the SCORE Act, designed to address issues that threaten college sports, but could not be solved in the legal settlement in June. Creating a national standard as opposed to state-by-state differences codifies the student-athlete's right to earn money for their NIL and is of paramount importance in ensuring that all institutions are operating under the same law,” he said.

On the field, Phillips pointed out ACC Football has the strongest nonconference schedule in the country with 26 nonconference games against Power 4 opponents, including Notre Dame, which is eight more than any other league.

“Whether looking at the nonconference games against teams ranked in the final 2024 CFP rankings or ESPN's 2025 Way-Too-Early Top 25, our league is leading the way,” he said.

Phillips also fielded questions about the possible expansion of the College Football playoffs.

“Fairness and access should also be part of the equation. We have a really good playoff right now. It's the five and seven model. I'm open to 5-9 and 5-11. I always look to our championships to try to have as much access as possible. Within reason, it has to make sense. I think 5 and 7 allows about 9 percent of those who play college football at the FBS level a chance to get into the playoff, and it goes up about a percent and a half. So I think you get to nearly 12 percent if you go to a 5 and 11 model,” he said.

Radford U to induct five into Hall of Fame

Radford University Athletics has announced five new members that will be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame in October.

The Class of 2025 will include Mike Jones (Men's Basketball), Javonte Green (Men's Basketball), Yvette "Pebbles" Smith (Women's Basketball), Rachel Wiechecki (Volleyball) and Vincent Wyatt (Men's Track and Field). The five-member class will be the 22nd to be inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's induction ceremony will once again help kick off Homecoming Weekend festivities and will be held inside Kyle Hall Oct. 10.

Mike Jones: Men's Basketball - 2011-21
One of the winningest men's basketball coaches in program history, Jones built the Highlanders back into a powerhouse achieving new heights in the New River Valley. Guiding two Big South Players of the Year, a Freshman of the Year, and 18 all-conference selections, Jones storied tenure brought a Big South Tournament title, NCAA Tournament appearance, the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament win, the program's first-ever NIT appearance, plus two regular season championships to the Dedmon Center. The Highlanders made a habit of taking down power conference foes under Jones, collecting wins over Northwestern, Texas, Notre Dame, Georgetown, Oregon State, Virginia Tech and Penn State. His 174 wins and 99 Big South wins both rank second-most in program history while he also became the first Highlander men's basketball coach to record five 20-win seasons.

Javonte Green- Men's Basketball - 2011-15
Green earns the Hall of Fame nod as one of the most electrifying forces on the offensive and defensive ends to ever play inside the Dedmon Center. During his Radford career, Green caused chaos for opponents setting the single-season and career program records for steals which still stand to this day. His 1,911 points and 1,064 rebounds both ranks second-most in program history, with Green becoming the first and one of just two Highlanders to ever crack



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in their Radford career. After the 2014-15 season, Green was named the conference's Defensive Player of the Year earning four total all-conference nods across his career. Green is one of just four Highlanders to earn two NABC All-District team honors. Following his excellent Radford career, Green brought that same exhilarating talent onto the international stage with an ongoing six-year career in the NBA playing with the Boston Celtics, Chicago Bulls, New Orleans Pelicans and most recently the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Yvette "Pebbles" Smith: Women's Basketball - 1981-85
A pivotal member in Radford Women's Basketball's history bridging the success of past and present teams, Smith helped guide Radford into the Division I era during her time as a student-athlete. Captaining the offense throughout her career, she led the team in assists in four straight seasons setting the program record with 467 assists in her career, a mark that stands the test of time and still ranks top 3 to this day. Her 205 career steals also rank top 10 in program history, leading the team on the defensive end of the court during her freshman and senior seasons. Smith champions the legacy of greatness in Radford's women's basketball program to this day as a friendly face on the sidelines of every home game.

Rachel Wiechecki: Volleyball - 2011-2014
One of the greatest offensive players to ever step foot in the Dedmon Center, Wiechecki broke the program record for kills (1,465) and set the single season record for kills (504) which still stands today. Her marks for digs (1,461), double-doubles (63), aces (151), solo blocks (250),

and points (1,723) all also rank top 10 in the record books all while leading the team to back-to-back regular season titles in her final two campaigns. For her efforts, she was named the Big South Attacking Player of the Year in 2013 on her way to leading the team to the 2013 Big South Tournament Title and Tournament MVP nod. Wiechecki was a two-time Big South first-team all-conference nod and was named to the conference's all-decade team for 2010-19. She is one of just two Highlanders to ever earn AVCA All-Region honors.

Vincent Wyatt: Men's Track and Field - 2011-2014
An incredible student-athlete breaking records at all levels, Wyatt enters the Hall of Fame as one of the most decorated track and field athletes to ever compete at Radford. The 2014 All-American and first-ever Big South Men's Track Athlete of the Year claimed 10 individual titles, set the Big South record (13.60) for the 110m hurdles in the finals of the NCAA outdoor championships, and placed sixth for the highest-ever finish by a Radford student-athlete at the NCAA Championships. Wyatt was also a Big South champion for the 60m hurdles and advanced to the semifinals of both the USATF indoor and outdoor national championships. Following the conclusion of his 2013-14 campaign, Wyatt was selected to compete for Team USA at the NACAC U23 Championships. His prestigious career saw program top-10 indoor and outdoor marks for the 60m hurdles, 110m hurdles, 4x400m. His marks for the 110m hurdles and 60m hurdles set Big South records, with both still ranking top three all-time among all Big South student-athletes.

Storming field, court to bring tough sanctions

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The Atlantic Coast Conference is changing the way fans see sporting events, and storming the court and field could be null and void.

ACC members will enhance event security plans to ensure that student-athletes, coaches, and game officials have an opportunity to safely leave the competition area after basketball and football contests.

The ACC also announced this past week schools will also provide public reports on the availability of student-athletes to participate in each Conference game in football, men's and women's basketball and baseball. “Our enhanced health and safety initiatives reflect our continued responsibility to lead with integrity, prioritize the well-being of our programs and fans, and modernize our operations to meet the evolving needs of today's collegiate landscape,” said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. The elevated expectations for event security plans in men's and women's basketball and football will require that only student-athletes, coaches, officials, and authorized personnel are allowed in the competition area before, during, and at the conclusion of any competition. Further, visiting team personnel and officials must have the opportunity to safely exit the competition area before spectators may access the competition area following a contest. These plans must be reviewed by an independent third party by the start of the 2026-27 academic year. Breaches of the event security policy will result in a fine that increases for each occurrence over a rolling two-year period – first occurrence: \$50k; second occurrence: \$100k; and third and subsequent occurrences:

\$200k. Occurrences accumulate per school rather than per sport. Any fines will be put into the Weaver-James-Corrigan-Swofford Postgraduate Scholarship account. On the second point before each conference game, a team will disclose any student-athlete whose availability for the upcoming game is in question. A student-athlete can be listed on the Availability Report if their status is uncertain for any reason (e.g., injury or illness, academic or other eligibility issue, personal or family matter, etc.); however, only the status and not the specific reason will be publicly reported. This policy is intended to help protect student-athletes and staff members from outside entities seeking to obtain inside information about availability and participation, including but not limited to injuries. It will also reinforce to athletes and staff the sensitivity of such information. In football, a report will be submitted two days before each Conference game (e.g., Thursday before a Saturday game) with an update on the day before the game and on game day. In basketball and baseball, reports will be submitted the day before each Conference game and on game day. For each report submitted before game day, student-athletes will be designated as Available, Probable, Questionable, or Out for the upcoming game. Game Day Reports will be submitted two hours before each game. For this report, student-athletes will be designated as Available, Game Time Decision, or Out. All availability reports and the full conference policy will be available to the public and media on the ACC's website – www.theACC.com. Failure to follow the availability reporting policy will be subject to review and potential penalties under the Conference's sportsmanship procedures.

Spring co-ed tournament champs named



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The team of Henry Heath is the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation's Spring co-ed softball tournament champs.

Hole in one at Auburn Hills



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF CLUB

Bill Fortney found the bottom of the green for a hole in one at Auburn Hills this past week on #11.

AUGUST 5th 6:35 PM
2-For -1 Tuesday

AUGUST 6th 6:35 PM
Bark in the Park

AUGUST 7th 6:35 PM
Classic Cruisers Night

AUGUST 8th 6:35 PM
Knight in Shining Armor

AUGUST 9th 6:35PM
Dinos at the Diamond

AUGUST 10th 1:05PM

ACC 2025-26 championship events announced

The Atlantic Coast Conference has announced the dates and locations for its 27 ACC Championship events for the 2025-26 academic year.

“Coming off another highly successful year, we are thrilled to announce our 2025-26 ACC Championship schedule,” said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. “We anticipate an exciting year of ACC competition, and we look forward to returning to several familiar venues while also traveling to some new facilities. We thank our schools and partners who help to facilitate these tremendous events and make indelible memories for our schools, student-athletes and fans.”

The 2025-26 ACC Championships schedule begins Friday, Oct. 31, with Louisville hosting the ACC Women’s and Men’s Cross Country Championships.

As previously announced, the 21st annual ACC Football Championship Game returns to Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the 15th time in 16 years and will be played in primetime Saturday, Dec. 6.

For the first time, the Ally ACC Women’s Basketball Tournament heads to Gas South Arena in the Greater Atlanta area, March 4-8. The New York Life ACC Men’s Basketball Tournament returns to Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina March 10-14, marking the 15th tournament to be played in the Queen City.

The 2025-26 championship schedule concludes May 19-24, with the ACC Baseball Championship at Truist Field in Charlotte. It marks the fourth tournament at Truist Field and the sixth in the Charlotte region.

The ACC sponsors 28 sports, with 15 women and 13 men. No Power 4 conference sponsors more than 28 sports or 15 women’s offerings. ACC Volleyball determines its champion based on regular-season results.

2025-26 ACC championships schedule:

M/W Cross Country – Oct. 31, 2025
Host: University of Louisville- E.P. “Tom” Sawyer Park (Louisville, Ky.)
Ally ACC Women’s Soccer – Nov. 2, 6 and 9, 2025
First Round: Campus Sites
Semifinals and Final: WakeMed Soccer Park (Cary, N.C.)
Tournament Format: Six teams (top two teams receive a first-round bye)

Field Hockey – Nov. 4, 5 and 7, 2025
Host: University of Louisville- Trager Stadium (Louisville, Ky.)
Tournament Format: Eight-team bracket

Men’s Soccer – Nov. 5, 9, 13 and 16, 2025
First Round and Quarterfinals: Campus Sites
Semifinals and Final: WakeMed Soccer Park (Cary, N.C.)
Tournament Format: 15-team bracket (No. 1 seed receives a first-round bye; Seeds 2-8 host first-round

games; No. 1 seed and top remaining seeds in each bracket host quarterfinal games)

Football – Dec. 6, 2025
Bank of America Stadium (Charlotte, N.C.)

M/W Swimming and Diving – Feb. 17-21, 2026
Host: Georgia Tech- McAuley Aquatic Center (Atlanta, Ga.)

M/W Fencing – Feb. 21-22, 2026
Host: Duke University- Cameron Indoor Stadium (Durham, N.C.)

M/W Indoor Track and Field – Feb. 26-28, 2026
The TRACK at New Balance (Boston, Mass.)

Ally ACC Women’s Basketball – March 4- 8, 2026
Gas South Arena (Duluth, Ga.)
Tournament Format: 15-team bracket (Seeds 5-9 receive first-round bye; Seeds 1-4 receive double-bye)

Wrestling – March 8, 2026
Host: Virginia Tech- Cassell Coliseum (Blacksburg, Va.)

T. Rowe Price Men’s Basketball – March 10-14, 2026
Spectrum Center (Charlotte, N.C.)
Tournament Format: 15-team bracket (Seeds 5-9 receive first-round bye; Seeds 1-4 receive double-bye)

Gymnastics – March 21, 2026
First Horizon Coliseum (Greensboro, N.C.)
Championship Format: 6-teams qualify (Seeds 5-6 compete in the first session; Seeds 1-4 compete in the second session)

M/W Tennis – April 14-19, 2026

Cary Tennis Park (Cary, N.C.)

Women’s Golf – April 16-19, 2026
Porters Neck Country Club (Wilmington, N.C.)

Men’s Golf – April 23-27, 2026
Shark’s Tooth Golf Club (Panama City, Fla.)

Women’s Lacrosse – April 22, 24 and 26, 2026
American Legion Memorial Stadium (Charlotte, N.C.)
Tournament Format: Eight-team bracket
Men’s Lacrosse – May 1 and 3, 2026
American Legion Memorial Stadium (Charlotte, N.C.)
Tournament Format: Four-team bracket

Softball – May 6-9, 2026
Host: University of Virginia- Palmer Park (Charlottesville, Va.)
Tournament Format: 12-team bracket (Single elimination; Seeds 1-4 receive a first-round bye)

M/W Outdoor Track and Field – May 14-16, 2026
Host: University of Louisville- Owsley B. Frazier Cardinal Park (Louisville, Ky.)

Rowing – May 15-16, 2026
Lake Wheeler (Raleigh, N.C.)

Baseball – May 19- 24, 2026
Truist Field (Charlotte, N.C.)
Tournament Format: 16-team bracket (Single elimination; Seeds 5-8 receive first-round bye; Seeds 1-4 receive double-bye).

ACC

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Pry

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excited about the coordinator hire we’ve made. Coach Siefkes is young, but he has some really good experiences. At the college level, tremendous success at Wofford, a couple of different ways, and then in the NFL, not just that he was in the league, but the defensive minds that he spent time with while coaching there. Then the additions from the transfer -- we needed a shot in the arm in our secondary with some depth, some safety-type bodies, some guys that can track the ball and tackle. We helped ourselves there.

The opener against South Carolina adds even more intrigue as former Tech coach Frank Beamer’s son is Shane, who coached in Blacksburg and grew up in the shadows of the Hokies story.

“It’s challenging. South Carolina is a hell of a football team. They’ve recruited well. They’ve got a ton of momentum. They’ve got a dynamic edge guy. They’ve got an ultra talented quarterback. We’ve got our hands full. But we’re up for the challenge, and we’re working every day to be the best team that we can be to go down there and play a good brand of football,” Pry said.

The coach called South Carolina arguably a top 10 group and admits it will be a dogfight.


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