



Radford mourns the loss of a beloved community icon



FILE PHOTO

Josh Green (third from left) with members of Radford City Council with the street sign naming the road in front of McHarg Elementary School after him.

Heather Bell
Editor

RADFORD – Officially, Joshua “Josh” Ennis Green was the custodian at McHarg Elementary School. That title, however, barely scratched the surface of what he did for the students, families and fellow staff members at the school during his 37-year career. “Mr. Green” had the uncanny ability to remember

the names of all of the thousands of students who attended McHarg School and even decades after they left the school, and graduated from Radford High School, he would still remember their names, asking how they were doing. And not just the students – he also remembered most of the parents’ names and always had a cheerful hello and conversation for them long after their children were grown.

Green, 70, of Radford, died Tuesday, July 29, 2025 after a battle with cancer. Born June 30, 1955, he was a member of First Missionary Baptist Church in New River. One former student, Wyatt Burdette, said it well on a social media post after Green’s passing. “Mr. Green was one of a kind,”

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Governor’s School provides unique, hands-on learning experiences at Radford University



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Anthony Chu, a rising high school senior from Virginia Beach, Virginia, speaks about his wicked problems project during a presentation event at the Virginia Governor’s School for Visual and Performing Arts and Humanities.

RADFORD - Cat King can talk all day about the importance of music in her life. To put it simply, “music is my life,” the rising high school junior emphatically claimed. King was among the 340 high school students from around Virginia who attended the Governor’s School for Visual and Performing Arts and Humanities at Radford University in June and July. Gov School, as many of the students

call it, is a three-week residential camp for rising high school juniors and seniors. It provides students with unique hands-on learning experiences through courses taught by Radford faculty. “I’m learning so much technique stuff here,” said King, a percussionist from Gloucester, Virginia, who aspires to study music therapy once she gets to college. The therapeutic aspect of music is another reason why it is so important

to King. “I have Tourette Syndrome. I’ve struggled with tics, and so music is what helped calm that down,” she said midway through the final week of Governor’s School. “So, I want to look into how music can treat other things. It’s so interesting. Music therapy is so cool.” Working with Radford music professors for three weeks showed King just how impactful and

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Tickets on sale for Wilson Fairchild concert at NRCC

Tickets are now on sale for country music duo and sons of the Statler Brothers, Wilson Fairchild, who will perform Saturday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m. at New River Community College in Dublin. Reserved seating tickets are \$42 in advance and available for purchase online only at www.nr.edu/concerts. Reserved tickets are \$45 at the door. General seating tickets are \$32 in advance and available online or in-person at the NRCC Business Office, 23 Godbey Hall, Dublin (cash and checks only for in-person sales). General seating tickets will be \$35 at the door. Sons of Harold

Reid and Don Reid of the Legendary Statler Brothers, cousins Wil & Langdon Reid formed Wilson Fairchild. Wil and Langdon are highly acclaimed songwriters. They both have been writing songs since their teenage years. Along with recording their own music, such artists as the Statler Brothers, Ricky Skaggs and Dailey & Vincent have recorded their songs, as well. Their songwriting gamut spans through the Country, Bluegrass and Gospel genres. Doors will open for the show at 6:30 p.m. The concert is part of the NRCC 2025-2026 Concert Series and in partnership with the Radford City Schools



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Country music duo and sons of the Statler Brothers, Wilson Fairchild.

Partners for Excellence Foundation, Inc. The show is a fundraiser for Radford City Schools. For more information about this concert, visit www.nr.edu/concerts. Questions may be directed

to Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625. NRCC is a Crooked Road, Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail, affiliated venue.

New River Community College



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD

City warns of wholesale power cost increase

Heather Bell
Editor

RADFORD – The August utility bills of Radford electric customers will have an increase due to the rising cost of wholesale power. The City of Radford produces three-to-five percent of its electric power needs through the city-owned Little River Dam and purchases the remaining 95-97 percent from American Electric Power. The city has had a long-term wholesale purchase agreement with AEP for nearly 20 years. That contract ends in May 2026. The city put out a request for proposals in 2023 for a new wholesale contract in anticipation of the current contract ending. “This bill reflects a small increase in the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) factor,” the city announced. “The new rate of \$0.06167, will recover expected wholesale power cost increases from Appalachian Power Company. These costs are passed onto all customers.” “The average residential customer using 1,000 kWhs will

see a \$ 5.59 per month increase to their monthly bill,” the announcement continues. “The new average monthly bill will be approximately \$ 173.02. This increase is not set by the city. It is the result of higher wholesale power rates from Appalachian Power Company, and the city acts only as a pass-through for these costs.” Radford Mayor David Horton commented on the increase in a post on social media. “No one wanted to increase our power cost to RED customers,” he said. “We have no choice but to pass this along. Please let the State Corporation Commission know if you disagree with the wholesale provider increasing costs to customers.” “Our council and staff are looking at every possible way to help stabilize the Radford Electric Department and the cost to customers,” he continued. “Energy demand is increasing from 6-8% in many places compared with a historical average of 1-2%. That is a problem that must be addressed at the federal level as more power is always an issue.”

School starts Wednesday, Aug. 13 for RCPS

Heather Bell
Editor

RADFORD – The 2025-26 school year begins for all four Radford City Public Schools Wednesday, Aug. 13. Open House will be held at all four schools on Monday, Aug. 11 at McHarg and Belle Heth elementary schools, it will be held 3- 6 p.m. At Dalton Intermediate and Radford High schools it will be held 4-7 p.m., with freshman orientation for ninth graders beginning at 6 p.m. in the RHS auditorium. RCPS Superintendent Dr. Adam Joyce welcomed everyone back to the new school year in a public statement. “I’m thrilled to kick off another exciting year with our incredible Radford City Schools family,” he said. “At Radford, excellence in education isn’t just our goal—it’s our passion. Every student. Every day.” “Being a Radford Bobcat means embracing the joy of learning, the excitement of discovery, the thrill of competition and the belief that education has the power to change lives,” he continued. “We’re here to empower every student with the tools they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. We’re proud of our vibrant Bobcat legacy - a tradition of excellence not only in academics, but also in the arts, athletics, and

community service. With a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, our students are encouraged to explore their interests, discover new talents, spark and foster camaraderie and grow into confident, well-rounded individuals. “Our commitment to excellence goes hand in hand with our dedication to creating a welcoming and safe learning environment where every student is seen, heard, and supported,” he said. “As we step into this new school year, I’m filled with hope and excitement about what we can achieve together. With the support of our amazing staff, families, and community partners, we’ll continue to make Radford City Schools a place where students shine. Thank you for trusting us with your children’s education and growth. I’m looking forward to a joyful, successful, and inspiring school year ahead when each student and staff member is given the opportunity to engage more and achieve more.” The bell schedules for the 2025-26 year are as follows: McHarg and Belle Heth: Doors open at 8:15 a.m.; tardy bell rings at 8:35 a.m. and dismissal is at 3 p.m. Dalton Intermediate and Radford High School: Doors open at 7:30 a.m.; tardy bell rings at 7:50 a.m. and dismissal is at 2:20 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 6:

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, at Market Square Park, 7- 9 p.m. This week's performer is New River Fireflies, a band of four women who met when playing together at local jams. Ginger Wagner and Kristie Caddick met at a Gillie's Restaurant jam and have played together on banjo and bass in the Indian Run Stringband ever since. Aran Garnett-Deakin is an amazing young fiddler who is a regular at the Market Square jam, local parties and other area establishments. Ash Devine is an accomplished local singer/ songwriter/ musician who often plays local jams and provides strong backup rhythm guitar for the Fireflies.

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.

Christiansburg Farmers Market
The Christiansburg Farmers Market is located at 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.

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 open during 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.

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.

Tank is a love bug. This sweet boy is fueled by attention, cuddles, and belly rubs. He also knows a couple of basic commands (sit, shake). His favorite hobbies include riding in the car, eating treats, and playing in the snow. He would do best in a home where he is the only pet. His adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.



Meet Zuri! Don't let her stunning white fur fool you – this confident gal has a dash of “tortitude.” Zuri thrives in a quiet environment and dreams of a home where she can be your one and only kitty. Ready to meet your new best friend? Come visit Zuri at the Animal Care and Adoption Center today!



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.

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.

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 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.

Saturday Aug. 16:

New River Community Fellowship Day
At New River School Yard Park, Harry L. Brown Road- New River, Va., 1- 4 p.m. Games, fun, activities and free food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome. Sponsored by The Mariah Mitchell Home Mission and Education Circle, First Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Montie E. Brown, Sr. – Pastor.

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at the NRV Superbowl, 375 Arbor Drive, NE in Christiansburg. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

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.

NRV Governor's School approved by VDOE School to be held at Radford University



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VDOE

School leaders from various NRV school divisions, along with Radford University, celebrate the approval of a newly-approved New River Valley Governor's School.

The Virginia Board of Education has unanimously approved the New River Valley Governor's School, which, according to the VDOE, is the first approved governor's school since 2009. "The half-day Academic Year Governor's School will serve gifted and advanced students in Southwest Virginia, with an emphasis on the arts and humanities," the VDOE announced. "The school will be located on the campus of Radford University and include Giles County Public Schools, Montgomery County Public Schools in Virginia, Floyd County Public Schools - Virginia, Radford City Public Schools and Pulaski County

Public Schools school divisions." Students will spend half of every school day at their respective high schools and a half-day on the Radford University campus and will take some classes with college students. Participating students could have 30 college credits after completing the program, putting them at sophomore standing at Radford. Requesting funding from the General Assembly is the next step in the process of opening the school, which organizers hope to open by next August.

Staff report

Tips for preserving summer produce safely from a Virginia Cooperative Extension expert

As summer gardens and local markets have an abundance of fruits and vegetables, preserving that bounty for year-round use at home requires careful food safety practices. Lester Schonberger, associate Extension specialist with Virginia Cooperative Extension, offers guidance on safe home food preservation methods, including freezing, canning, pickling, and dehydrating, to help Virginians make the most of their harvests. "Always start with high-quality produce from a trusted source," Schonberger said. "Select young, tender vegetables or fully ripened fruits, and wash and inspect them thoroughly before

preserving." Improper preservation can lead to serious health risks, including illnesses such as botulism, if recipes or processes are not followed correctly. Recipes from unverified sources may not have the ingredient ratios just right, which can lead to the survival of dangerous microorganisms. Schonberger recommends using only tested recipes from trusted sources such as Virginia Cooperative Extension, the National Center for Home Food Preservation, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Follow tested recipes closely — for example, when it comes to salt-to-produce ratios for fermentation and

knowing whether you're making a quick refrigerator pickle or one meant for longer preservation," Schonberger said. "Use vinegar with five percent acidity or more. Using a lower acidity vinegar can be dangerous." When it comes to dehydrating, Schonberger said different produce has different preservation needs. "Blanch vegetables before drying, and when it comes to fruit, air-drying is OK only under specific conditions — air temperatures above 85 degrees Fahrenheit, humidity below 60 percent, and bringing the fruit inside



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK VIA VIRGINIA TECH

OBITUARIES

Adams, Candy Wyms

Candy Wyms Adams, better known as Moma, Ma, Granny, Grandma, GG, Granny Girl, Granny Candy or Rose, went to be with her Lord and Savior Monday, July 28, 2025, in Charlotte, N.C.

She was born May 6, 1949, in Radford, the daughter of Evelyn Katherine Wyms and Walter Leonard Wyms. Candy attended the Christiansburg Industrial Institute, graduated from Radford High School, and completed studies at New River Community College with a focus in Secretarial Studies. She was a former employee of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant and Lake Norman Day School.

Above all, Candy loved God dearly. She also found joy in reading, writing poetry and crocheting blankets for her grandchildren. She enjoyed sports, music, crime shows, coffee, tea and spending time on her iPad. Most of all, she cherished laughter, storytelling, dancing, singing, and fellowshiping with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Walter Wyms and Max Snell Sr. Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Sonya Curry, Cleive L.



Adams, Sr. (Jill Adams), India French-Adams (Tiffeny French-Adams) and Lyrissa Safford; their father, Cleive E. Adams, Jr.; her grandchildren, Stephen Curry (Ayesha Curry), Seth Curry (Callie Curry), Sydel Curry-Lee (Damion Lee), Cleive L. Adams, Jr. (Jordan Adams), Nicholas (Zeke) Adams (Mercedes Boejetter), Chealcie Ayer (AleK Ayer) Mercedes Safford, Lexus Safford (Tavious Adams), Myha Lloyd, Zoe Wilson, Kyah (Buddy) Davis, Jasmine Rose, Lilee Blankenbeckler-Rose (Tyler Blankenbeckler-Rose), and Selina Rose; great grandchildren, Riley Curry, Ryan Curry, Canon Curry, Caius Curry, Carter (Juicy) Curry, Cash Curry, Cruz Curry, Daxon Lee, Daryn Lee, Dacen Lee, Jensen Adams, Micah Adams, Esther Adams, Jude Adams, Jadon (Mat Man) Adams, Landyn Perkins,

Ila Renee Ayer, Braelyn Ayer, Asaun (Punkin Head) Adams, Amon Adams, and Franklin (Frank) Rose; brothers, Jack Snell (Vicky Snell) and Neil Wyms; sisters, Lulabelle Lewis and Connie Phillips (Terry Phillips); brother-in-law, Johnny Adams (Linda A. Adams); sisters-in-law, Marilyn Clements (Richard Clements), Marsha Tyree and Lois Snell; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and close friends.

The family appreciates the outpouring of love during this time. Keep the stories coming, as they warm our hearts. We are so grateful that God chose us to stand in this sacred place.

Moma always led with LOVE and her motto for life was “Live and Let Live.”

Our prayer is that all those that she touched will carry on her legacy as an embodiment of the spirit of the Lord and in doing so draw people to Christ.

“Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true
And with thanksgiving
I’ll be a living
Sanctuary, for You”

The Adams family entrusted their care to Mullins Funeral Home, Radford.

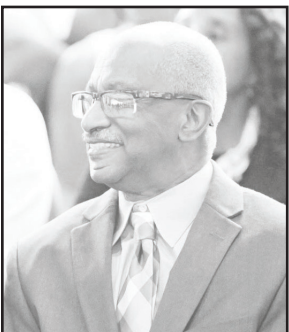
Green, Joshua “Josh” Ennis

Joshua “Josh” Ennis Green, 70, of Radford, went to be with his Lord and Savior Tuesday, July 29, 2025.

Born June 30, 1955, he was a member of First Missionary Baptist Church in New River. He worked for the Radford City School System for 37 years. During those years he interacted with every student at McHarg Elementary and made them feel loved and special. The students loved him dearly and he could still call them by name and share a story about their time at McHarg years later.

He was preceded in death by his parents Charlie Edward and Laura Sue Green.

He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Diane L. Walker-Green; son, Stefan Green; brother, Alvin Dean Green; sister,



Corrine Green; nieces and nephews, a host of relatives, special in-laws for 35 years Rochelle (Lawrence) Payne-McClellan and Stephanie (Robert) Poindexter; and the McHarg Family.

The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, calls, texts and all other acts of kindness. They would also like to thank our family and friends (who are really family members without blood lines) that

supported us during Josh’s illness. We are thankful for the care and love of the Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center and all the physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, social workers, nursing staff and administration who cared for the entire Green Family.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 2025, at First Baptist Church, 555 W. Rock Road, Radford, VA 24141. Funeral services will begin at 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers please contribute to Mr. Green’s Way Scholarship – Radford High School, 50 Dalton Dr., Radford, VA 24141.

The Green Family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Produce

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overnight,” he said. “In Virginia, using a dehydrator is usually a safer and more consistent option.”

Preserving summer’s bounty can be rewarding and safe with the right knowledge and tools. Schonberger’s tips for additional preservation methods include:

Freezing

Blanch, cool, and dry vegetables before freezing to preserve texture.

Use sugar syrup for fruits. Some fruits, such as apples and peaches, should be dipped in ascorbic acid to prevent browning.

Freeze in small, even layers at 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

For best quality, use within eight to 12 months.

Canning

Use only tested recipes from Virginia Cooperative Extension, the National Center for Home Food Preservation, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Avoid unverified recipes from blogs or social media.

Consider taking a hands-on class through your local Extension office.

Pickling

Use vinegar with at least five percent acidity.

For safety precautions, do not taste any fermentation batch that has bad or off odors. Discard it.

Follow trusted recipes closely, especially ratios of salt, vinegar, and produce.

Dehydrating

Blanch vegetables before drying to preserve color and flavor.

Because of the temperature and humidity in Virginia, use a dehydrator rather than air-drying.

Pasteurize air-dried foods to kill insect eggs and other contaminants: 160 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes in the oven or 0 degrees Fahrenheit for 48 hours in the freezer.

Store in sealed containers and shake daily for seven to 10 days to condition.

For more information on food preservation classes and local support, contact your local Extension office.

Access free Extension resources at pubs.ext.vt.edu/tags.resource.html/pubs_ext_vt_edu:food-preservation.

Virginia Tech

Learning

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therapeutic music can be, for those who are listening and those playing.

“This is the real world of music,” she said of working with Radford music faculty. “They’ve taught me so much, and these lessons are what I’m going to keep going back to.”

Throughout each weekday of Governor’s School, students participated in courses on a variety of topics. On the humanities side, some courses delved into advancing solutions to some of the world’s most difficult-to-solve problems, or wicked problems. Political Science Professor Tay Keong Tan, who is also the Radford Governor’s School director, led those courses.

Each student in Tan’s course was assigned a wicked problems project. They presented their findings at a public showcase – much like Radford’s popular Wicked Festival – on the final Thursday of Governor’s School.

Visual and performing arts students spent their days learning and training in music – vocal and instrumental – art, dance and theater. They displayed their talents – after hours of rehearsals – in the final week of the school with voice, dance and theater performances.

Students also had the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics from expert keynote speakers.

“From my past seven years’ association with the Governor’s School,” Tan said, “this is the best year in terms of the students’ engagement with academics and co-curricular activities and their irrepressible esprit de corps.”

On the weekends, students had opportunities to relax and participate in activities, making for a well-rounded time of enjoyable learning. Birthdays were celebrated, too, with a Sunday bash that featured a mechanical bull, dunk tank, games – including tossing inflatable axes – and, of course, cupcakes with red and white icing.

“Governor’s School has been really cool, and being in a college setting – living in a dorm and sharing a bathroom – has opened my eyes to what college is like,” said Chole Bernasconi, a rising high school senior from Fairfax County, Virginia, who enjoyed the Radford campus ambience, including the fireflies.

“I’ve had a lot of interesting discussions with the professors and with other students about the interests we have and what we plan to do for the rest of our lives,” she continued. “Talking with professors and learning from them helps you to be more intentional in your education.”

In just three weeks, Governor’s School students gained valuable

insight that aligned with their passions.

Anthony Chu, a rising high school senior from Virginia Beach, Virginia, had engaging discussions with Assistant Professor of Marketing Luke Liska about a video game – League of Legends – they both play. “It evolved into a more serious discussion about the economics and marketing of esports,” Chu said, standing outside a classroom in the Artis Center. “It’s really cool to be able to connect with professors here at Radford on a personal level about fun and serious topics.”

On the serious side, Blake Udpiké went to Governor’s School – after a “nerve-wracking” online audition – in hopes of rejuvenating his love for playing cello.

The rising high school junior has been playing for almost six years, but lately had entertained thoughts of quitting. His mother, however, encouraged Udpiké to try Governor’s School, where he could learn from Radford’s faculty experts.

It worked, he acknowledged with a smile while having lunch with his newfound friends in Dalton Hall. “Governor’s School has really invigorated my love for music and for cello. Being able to connect with my professors and like-minded people has been really cool and really fun.”

So many Governor’s School students came away with positive energy for their passions and for the university and its faculty. “Dr. Tan is the best teacher I’ve ever had,” said humanities student Thannesha Doshi, a rising high school senior from Virginia Beach. “All the professors here are very insightful.”

Art student Jay Kelleher gained a new perspective about how college professors connect with their students. “I thought they were going to be so mean and crack down on us,” she recalled with a laugh. “But everyone is so nice here, and they’ve done nothing but give me honest feedback that will continue to improve my art for years to come,” said the rising high school senior from Caroline County, Virginia. “They’ve given me a brand-new perspective on art.”

In the final days of Governor’s School, students were given a chance to apply to Radford University, and 105 did so at the Highlander application workshop.

“This has been such an amazing experience,” said King, who has Radford on her college wish list. “It’s given me the foundation for music for the rest of my life.”

Radford University

Riffey, Lawrence “Larry” Edward

Lawrence “Larry” Edward Riffey, 65, of Pulaski, passed away peacefully July 27, 2025, surrounded by loved ones.

Born Jan. 3, 1960, Larry was a proud graduate of Pulaski County High School, Class of 1978. He attended New River Valley Community College and dedicated an incredible 46 years of service to the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, where he most recently served as President of the Union. A respected advocate and a tireless worker, Larry took pride in protecting the rights of his fellow coworkers.

Larry also pursued his interest in real estate, working as an agent and helping others find a place to call home. When he wasn’t working, he loved traveling to some of his favorite places, including Kill Devil Hills, Outer Banks, Myrtle Beach and Sevierville, Tennessee. He was a proud member of St. Edward’s Catholic Church in Pulaski since 1967, and a lifelong fan of the Virginia Tech Hokies. He enjoyed watching the Pulaski River Turtles. Larry was a member of



the Cursillo Community. He was a friend to all, and rarely ever met a stranger.

Larry’s presence was a steady and loving force in the lives of many. He is survived by his devoted wife of 21 years, Melody Riffey; his beloved mother, Joanne “Jody” Riffey of Pulaski; son, Ryan Riffey of Belspring, and his partner Sara May and her son Johnathan of Lynchburg; Sam Williams (stepson) and his fiancée Jennifer Mitchell of Rockhill, S.C.; and his cherished grandchildren, Matthew, Gabrielle “Gabby” and Johnathan. He is also survived by his brothers, William “Skip” Riffey (Debbie) of Greensboro, N.C., and Timothy “Bo” Riffey (Laura) of Hillsville; sister Tressa Goughenour (Jim) of Greensboro, N.C.;

cousin Margaret “Peggy” O’Brien of Georgetown, Mass., as well as several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, cousins and friends who will miss his warmth, humor and generous heart.

He was preceded in death by his father, William E. Riffey Jr., and brother, Shaun E. Riffey.

Larry’s love for his family, his dogs, and his community will be remembered and honored by all who knew him. His legacy of dedication, laughter, and strength lives on in those he leaves behind.

A Celebration of Life and a Memorial Mass were held at St. Edward’s Catholic Church in Pulaski Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Humane Society of the New River Valley or First Presbyterian Church-Pulaski Daily Bread-Food Distribution Center, The American Cancer Society, St. Jude Catholic Church in Christiansburg, or St. Edward’s Catholic Church of Pulaski.

Parker, Sr., Randy Darrell

Randy Parker was a great man, husband, father, a wonderful grandfather, and will truly be missed by all that loved him. Born Nov. 5, 1948, he passed away at the age of 76, on Thursday, July 31, 2025.

Randy loved camping with his brother Danny, and spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Riley and Vernie Mae Hicks Parker; his beloved wife, Carol Parker; and his brothers,



Danny and Billy Parker. Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Angela “Angie”

Akers (Terry); his son and daughter-in-law, Randy Parker, Jr. (Afton); grandchildren and their spouses, Kelsey Akers (Justin), Terry “TJ.” Akers, Jr. (Kaitlyn), and Emma Parker; great-grandson, Dawson Akers; and many other relatives and special friends.

Per Randy’s request, no services will be held at this time.

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

Dean, Thomas Allen

Thomas Allen Dean, 57, of Elliston, passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2025.

Born Nov. 16, 1967, he was a former driver with Radford Transit, formerly employed with Spectrum, and a member of Cornersview Pentecostal Holiness Church. He was an avid drummer and loved his church family. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lana Helen Jones Dean.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Dean; daughters, Miranda



Dean and Heather Musick (Brandon); granddaughter, Victoria Musick; father and stepmom, Allen and Becky Dean; mother-in-

law, Momma J.; siblings, Angie Clevenger, Sharon Dean, Jessie Dean and Jennifer Dean; special friends, Bruce Myers and Pastor Frankie Graham; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be held at a later date at the church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Falcons Children’s Home, PO Box 39, Falcon, NC 28342.

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

OPINION

Streamlining government is noncontroversial – AI use is challenging

Last week’s paper included an opinion lauding Republicans for their quick adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to streamline regulations. That is simply wrong. Using AI is not a partisan issue. AI comes with both promises and challenges that both parties are wrestling with. It is a tool that can be useful but certainly has yet to be perfected. In fact, AI will often result in outcomes that ask the human user to double-check for accuracy – it is amazingly fast but is still quite unreliable. Readers may want to reflect on their own frustrating experiences going through phone trees to get an answer to a problem, only to be stymied by AI’s lack of understanding. Questions about AI’s reliability in making good choices are everywhere.

Virginia is now trying to streamline government by using AI to scan all regulations to identify problems, including inconsistencies and unclear

Gary Silverman

Columnist

language. Sounds good – but let’s think about this a bit more. Do we want AI to be making decisions about human lives? Should a regulation be changed to decrease the minimum size wiring in building a home? It certainly would decrease the builder’s costs – with savings probably passed down to the homeowner. But if this happened, who would be responsible for the increased number of home fires that would surely result? Should regulations change so that extra parking spaces for people with disabilities are no longer required in public parking lots? These spaces certainly are not cost efficient – but do help a segment of the public. These value questions do not

have simple solutions and opinions vary – what should we expect AI to decide for us?

Everyone wants streamlined regulations – no one is a fan of more bureaucracy. Somewhat ironic is in trying to minimize government here in Virginia by using AI, the first step was to create the Office of Transformation, adding to state bureaucracy. Surprising too may be learning when the federal government last had bureaucracy under financial control, with revenues exceeding expenditures. It was during the Clinton administration, from 1998 – 2001, with the national debt shrinking during that time. The last time the federal budget was balanced during a Republican administration was in 1960, during Dwight Eisenhower’s final year as president. At the federal level, both parties have recently expanded government much quicker than expanding revenue, which is why our national debt is the highest it’s ever

been. Of course, at the state level, having a balanced budget is required by law. Currently our state budget is healthy, reflecting the strong state and national economies during 2024.

Virginia is now engaging in an interesting experiment using AI to help government streamline and become more efficient while promoting future growth. This effort is consistent nationally, with all 50 states having introduced legislation this year to try to appropriately control the use of AI. It’s not a partisan idea – it’s important for government to figure out how AI can best be used safely and productively. Going forward, part positions may become important about how freely AI should be used, and how much care should be taken in its use without human oversight. It should be important, and interesting, to hear from our politicians and candidates their specific ideas for the best use of artificial intelligence going forward.

Delegate agrees with DOE ruling on Title IX ruling regarding bathrooms

Back in May, I wrote an article regarding the U.S. Department of Education’s (DOE) investigation into policies at five Northern Virginia school divisions that allow student access to bathrooms and locker rooms based on gender identity versus biological sex. The verdict from the DOE is in: all five of these school divisions have indeed enacted and enforced policies that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972.

The law holds that “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” The DOE’s Office of Civil Rights found that Alexandria City, Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Prince William



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

County are in violation of Title IX for allowing students to access sex-segregated bathrooms and locker rooms based on gender identity rather than biological sex. The Office of Civil Rights determined that these policies do indeed discriminate on the basis of sex under Title IX.

The policies have led to female students avoiding restrooms, witnessing inappropriate behavior, and being forced to change in front of male students. In

response, the Office of Civil Rights has issued proposed Resolution Agreements that must be followed in order for these five school districts to be brought back into compliance. They include: rescinding gender identity-based access policies, instructing schools to adopt sex-based separation in intimate facilities moving forward, and defining “male” and “female” based on biological sex in all Title IX-related policies.

The school districts in question have 10 days to accept the resolution or face enforcement action, including referral to the U.S. Department of Justice. Federal funding could also be at risk if these school divisions remain noncompliant.

Title IX was meant to protect women, not erase their rights. If a 14-year-old girl has

to change clothes for gym class, she should not be forced to do it next to a biological male. This is not just a policy correction – it is a victory for safety, fairness, and the rule of law. I am happy to see that federal law is finally catching up to common sense on this issue.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Cutting state regulations may make us poorer, sicker, and less prosperous

Did you know there’s a place in Christiansburg where on a clear day you can see the Peaks of Otter,

which by my reckoning are about 50 air miles away? It didn’t used to be like this. In the era of my youth, the skies were too polluted. Citizens of many of our larger cities breathed unhealthy air. The rivers and lakes were polluted, too. Chemicals spread on our crops were killing

the wildlife. Lots of workers were hurt on the job. Our highways were horrifically lethal.

There have been some notable setbacks over the decades, but today we live in a cleaner, healthier, safer

See **Abraham**, page 6

Dear Editor,

So, what do the Delegate Ballard and US Representative Griffith, the Trumpsie Twins, have for us lately? Medicaid and Medicare sleight of hand, energy foolishness, cell phones in schools, and health and innovation destruction. I’ll save

support of sedition for another time.

Make the able-bodied work, they say. Guess what, they do. The Rural Health Transformation Program is inadequate by half to overcome the damage to rural health and hospitals that the Big Beautiful Rip off Bill steals from Medicaid and Medicare.

No, steals from you! Did you know that most Medicaid and SNAP recipients are employed, 64% full or part-time or are caregivers (12%), in school (7%), or are disabled (10%). Well, Gary Silverman nailed this

See **Nemeth**, page 6

Dear Editor,

On Aug. 1, 2025, it was reported that U.S. hiring had slowed sharply during the month of July. Mr. Trump claimed the figures were manipulated for political reason and fired the director of Labor Statistics, Erika McEntarfer, a graduate of Virginia Tech.

Trump stated,” I have directed my Team to fire this Biden political appointee, IMMEDIATELY. She will be replaced with someone much more competent and capable.”

Trump says McEntarfer was faking the jobs numbers for political reasons.

Dr. McEntarfer has served with the federal government for the last 20 years. During that time, she has work at the census bureau, the executive office of the President and the Department of Treasury.

Erika, a Biden appointee, was confirmed with bipartisan support early this year, as she is highly respected labor economist.

McEntarfer has been the Commissioner of Labor Statistics for the last two years.

She graduated from Bard College (top producer of Fulbright Scholars) and received her doctorate of Economics from Virginia Tech.

It bothers me that Mr. Trump feels that someone who received a doctorate in Economics from Virginia Tech was not qualified and was a just a political appointee.

I hope, as a VT graduate myself, that I am not the only one who feels hurt by this accusation of Mr. Trump.

Steve Huppert
Christiansburg

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
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59					60				61		
62					63				64		

CLUES ACROSS
1. Breezed through
5. Time units (abbr.)
8. Pigeon’s murmur
11. Moves aside in fright
13. Partner to “ahh”
14. Taxis
15. Monetary units of Turkey
16. Returned material
17. Prolific Italian opera composer
18. Restaurants
20. One’s grandmother
21. Ancient Greek City
22. Italian mountain ranges
25. Data
30. Acted in an obedient way
31. Autonomic nervous system
32. Not on the up-and-up
33. Mock lightly
38. Mimic
41. Built

43. A neighborhood
45. Inflammation of the kidneys
48. Semitic fertility god
49. Temporary name of Seaborgium
50. Wise people
55. Tear down
56. ___-fi (slang)
57. Diamond weight
59. Frosted
60. Predecessor to EU
61. Makes changes to
62. Some are secret
63. Tooth caregiver
64. Old English poet

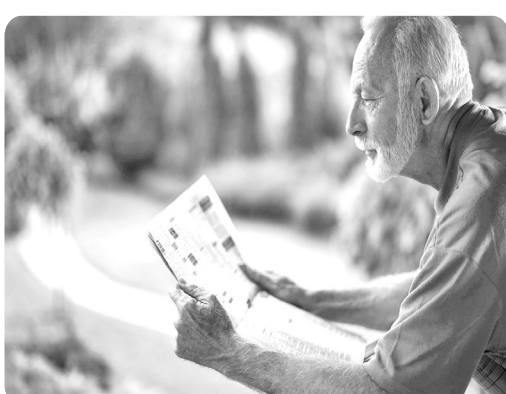
CLUES DOWN
1. Sign language
2. In style
3. Norwegian river
4. People with impaired hearing

5. Large stinging paper wasp
6. Bucharest is its capital
7. River in Ireland
8. Type of TV
9. Double-reed instruments
10. Spanish motorcycle manufacturer
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. French commune
19. Alike
23. A bachelor’s apartment
24. Foot part between the ball and ankle
25. Belonging to a thing
26. Japanese classical theater
27. Supervises flying
28. Not even
29. Capital of Saudi Arabia
34. Electronic counter-

measure
35. Consumed
36. American politician (abbr.)
37. Sun up in New York
39. Casually looked through
40. Revealed the presence of
41. Peyton’s little brother
42. Diana __, singer
44. Study of moral values and rules
45. Civil Rights group
46. Makes less severe
47. Made an emotional appeal
48. Vivacity of style
51. One who is highly skilled
52. Gets around in pursuit of pleasure
53. Famed guitarist Clapton
54. Most common Japanese surname
58. Recipe abbreviation

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Tickets available for upcoming Arts Center season

Abby Whitt
Contributing writer

The Arts Center at Virginia Tech, formerly known as Moss Arts Center, is gearing up for the start of its 2025-2026 season.

Subscription tickets went on sale at the end of June, and tickets for individual performances are on sale now.

Subscriptions are offered in the following packages: Premier Plus, Premier, Gold, Silver and Student.

The Premier Plus package includes tickets to all of the season's performances at a 25% off discount, and it includes tickets for the Broadway in Blacksburg shows before anyone else has the opportunity. It also includes an invitation to a private Season Preview event.

The Premier package also includes a 25% discount for all performances, as well as an invitation to the preview.

The Gold subscription allows patrons to build their "ideal season," the Arts Center website states, by selecting 12 or more tickets to performances at 20% off ticket prices. Patrons will also be invited to the preview.

The Silver package starts at a selection of five performances at a 15% discount.

The Premier, Gold and Silver subscription customers will each be able to take advantage of a presale period for Broadway in Blacksburg tickets before they go on sale to the public.

A special Student Subscription offer is available for those with any student with a college or university school ID, as well as those age 18 and younger: center performance tickets are \$10, and it applies to subscription packages as well.

A limited number of tickets for Broadway in Blacksburg performances will also be available to students at the \$10 price point.

The Arts Center notes: The "Broadway in Blacksburg" performances are not eligible for subscription discounts, and tickets purchased for those performances do not apply to the Gold or Silver subscription plans.

The season kicks off with a free performance from Kiki Valera y su Son Cubano on Friday, Sept. 5, followed by The Hot Sardines on Friday, Sept. 19, and Step Afrika! on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The rest of the season through May 2026 includes:

Oct. 2 — Abel Selacoe, Cello and Vocals



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY DANIEL

Taylor Lane (at center) strikes a pose as Velma Kelly, surrounded by the ensemble of "Chicago." A universal tale of fame, fortune, and all that jazz, the musical is part of the Center for the Arts' new season lineup.

Oct. 11 — Chris Thile
Oct. 14 — Ballet BC
Oct. 22 — "An Evening with Roz Chast"
Oct. 30 — La Santa Cecilia
Nov. 6-7 — Hotel Modern
Nov. 9 — 360 Allstars
Nov. 17 — "Tina — The Tina Turner Musical"
Dec. 6 — Roanoke Symphony Orchestra
Dec. 14 — Blacksburg Master Chorale
Jan. 22 — Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Jan. 28 — Julia Bullock, Soprano; Seth Parker Woods, Cello; Conor Hanick, Piano
Jan. 30-31 — Tim Etchells with Bert and Nasi

Feb. 10 — Cirque Mechanics
Feb. 20 — Danish Radio Big Band
Feb. 23 — "Chicago"
March 17 — Irish Baroque Orchestra
March 28 — Stephanie Lake Company
April 3 — Bill Frisell
April 7 — National Geographic Live featuring explorer Muhammed Muheisen
April 15 — The Takacs Quartet
April 23 — "Algeria Moves!"
May 9 — "An Evening with Kelli O'Hara"
Find additional details about each performance online at www.artscenter.vt.edu.

Warm Hearth Village resident performs at Carnegie Hall

BLACKSBURG – Warm Hearth Village resident Genne Gwynne recently returned from an extraordinary musical journey that took her from the heart of the New River Valley to one of the most prestigious concert stages in the world — Carnegie Hall.

Last month, Gwynne joined several hundred choristers from across the United States, including fellow members of the Blacksburg Master Chorale, to rehearse and perform Mozart's Requiem in D minor. The June 22 concert was held at Carnegie Hall and featured a collaboration with the New England Symphonic Ensemble under the direction of esteemed conductors. The event brought together voices from around the country to breathe life into one of classical music's most enduring masterpieces.

Gwynne, a lifelong music lover, also sang in a recent performance of Requiem at the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech. That production featured the Blacksburg Master Chorale and all of Virginia Tech's choral ensembles.

"I've loved singing ever since I can remember," said Gwynne. "But I never dreamed I'd have the opportunity to perform in a world-class venue such as Carnegie Hall. The experience was especially sweet because I grew up in a small rural town that had zero interest in community singing — it's wonderful to now be living in a part of the world that celebrates the performing arts."

The Warm Hearth Village community is bursting with pride over Gwynne's achievement, which reflects not only her personal dedication, but the vibrant and supportive environment in which she lives.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

WHV resident Genne Gwynne, back row, second from left, performing at Carnegie Hall.

"Warm Hearth is more than a senior living community — we are a village full of talent, character, and encouragement," said President & CEO, William Lester. "Our residents come from many walks of life and bring with them stories, passions, and talents

that continue to grow and thrive here. Genne's story is a shining example of what's possible when you're surrounded by a community that lifts you up."

Warm Hearth Village

Virginia Tech convenes leaders in aviation to discuss future of flight

What if your next regional flight didn't require a trip to a major airport? What if you could lift off from a local parking lot or grassy area the size of a soccer field, quietly, quickly, and sustainably, then land closer to your destination than ever before?

That forward-looking vision was on display in Blacksburg this month as Virginia Tech convened leaders in aviation, transportation, and national security to explore the future of direct air mobility and smart airspace. The event followed the first public test flights of Electra's hybrid-electric EL2 ultra short takeoff and landing aircraft.

The gathering underscored Virginia Tech's growing role as a national hub for transportation innovation, where research, real-world testing environments, and deep partnerships with government and industry come together to advance the next chapter of flight.

While getting an innovative aircraft off the ground is a milestone, launching an industry around it — regulations, infrastructure, trust — is also a big challenge. Both goals were front of mind for the panelists at the Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport, where more than 130 people heard from experts in aviation policy, commercial operations, defense, and technology.

The event highlighted Virginia Tech's connection to the innovation: Electra used three university-affiliated sites — Kentland Farm, the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, and the Corporate Research Center — for six successful test flights of its two-seat EL2 prototype aircraft on July 13 and 14. The company's senior vice president for product development, JP Stewart, is a Virginia Tech aerospace engineering graduate.

The July 14 panel included experts in airspace regulations, transportation innovation, national security, and commercial airline operations — areas that would be profoundly impacted by the widespread use of planes like Electra's, which can take off and land in just 150 feet.

Using eight small electric motors powered by a hybrid-electric propulsion system featuring a combination of battery packs and a turbogenerator, the aircraft demonstrated blown-lift technology that enables takeoff and landing in extremely short distances, even without conventional runways. A full-scale, nine-passenger version known as the EL9 is in development.

"More than 50 airline partners have already committed to buying the EL9 because they see its potential to



PHOTO BY ANNA WEHR FOR VIRGINIA TECH

(From left) Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership Director Tombo Jones speaks on the Future of Flight panel alongside Virginia Department of Aviation Director Greg Campbell, Virginia Department of Aviation Advanced Air Mobility Program Manager Scott Denny, Electra Senior Vice President for Product Development JP Stewart, Surf Air Mobility Chief Operating Officer for Airline Operations Louis Saint-Cyr, and NAVOS Air Chief Procedure Designer Ty Le Roy.

unlock new forms of regional air connectivity," Stewart said. "What sets the EL9 apart is its hybrid-electric propulsion system, which dramatically reduces noise, operating costs, and emissions, and enables access to new places that you'd never expect an airplane to go. We call this direct aviation — point-to-point regional travel that bypasses congested hubs and opens service to underserved smaller cities or remote areas without traditional airport infrastructure."

Virginia Tech is a proven hub for insights on the development, deployment, and impact of technology on transportation due to the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP), Virginia Tech National Security Institute, and the university's land-grant emphasis on

applying research to real-world innovation that benefits its region. Wing, which like Google is a subsidiary of Alphabet, worked with MAAP on the first U.S. trials for drone delivery service nearly six years ago.

"At Virginia Tech, we're deeply committed to advancing technologies like electric and hybrid aircraft and shaping the future of smart, integrated airspace," said National Security Institute Executive Director Eric Paterson, who helped arrange the Future of Flight panel in collaboration with the university's Innovation and Partnerships team. "It's an exciting time, with incredible opportunities for innovation and collaboration across industry, government, and research."

Virginia Tech

Local expert says replying to the wrong text could cost you

Don't believe everything you read — especially if it's a text message like these:

"Notice: Your vehicle was identified as having an unpaid toll. Click now to pay your balance."

"We attempted to deliver your package today but were unsuccessful. Please schedule a redelivery or provide payment for a small fee through the link."

"I'm a recruiter, and I have a job offer for you. Just provide your social security number for a background check."

Think you can't be taken in? It's more likely than many people believe.

Last year, U.S. consumers reported losing \$470 million to scam text messages like these, according to the Federal Trade Commission. That's four times more money lost than in 2020.

Chances are the scams will continue. Virginia Tech data privacy expert Murat Kantarcioglu said he believes evolving artificial intelligence technologies could make text and other scams seem even more realistic and trick more people in the future.

"It's easy for scammers to use publicly available information from social media to automate highly targeted and convincingly written text messages," Kantarcioglu said. "A simple post from New York City could trigger a fake parking ticket message claiming to be from the Department of Motor Vehicles."

He warned that these scams may become even more sophisticated, incorporating realistic-looking images like a car resembling yours allegedly caught running a red light. "More alarmingly, AI can now generate synthetic audio that mimics the voice of a loved one, opening the door to emotionally manipulative scams such as fake emergency calls demanding money," he said.

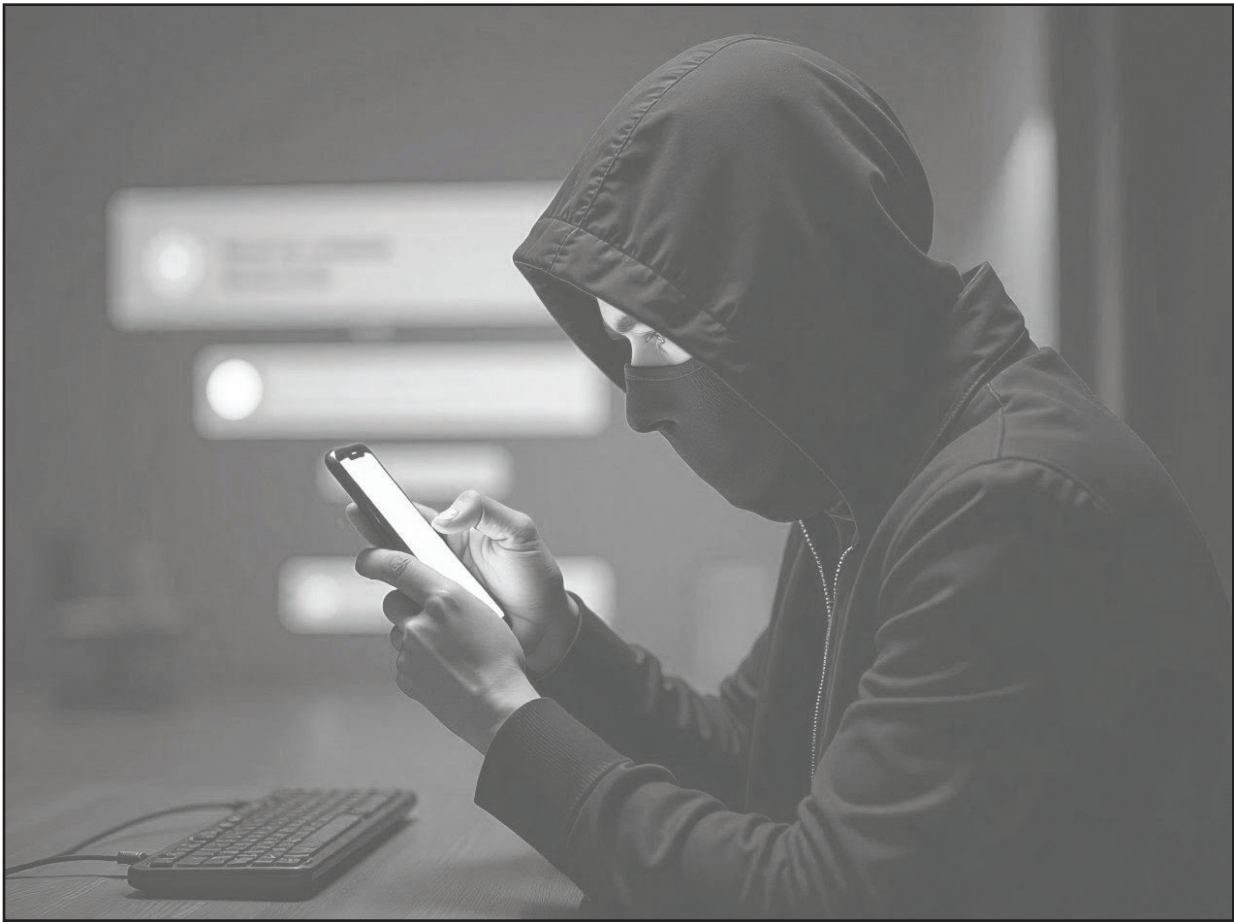
Luckily, Kantarcioglu suggests proactive steps smartphone users can take to protect themselves, their finances, and their information.

Beware misused contact information

According to the Pew Research Center, 98 percent of Americans own a cellphone of some kind, making text message scams a convenient way for criminals to reach a broad audience.

"Text messages also tend to capture users' attention more effectively than emails, making them an attractive channel for scammers," Kantarcioglu said.

He explained that it's easy for fraudsters to find phone numbers, and scam texts often drop the names of big companies or trusted entities to tempt users into providing bank account, Social Security, or credit card



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Last year, U.S. consumers reported losing \$470 million to scam text messages, according to the Federal Trade Commission. That's four times more money lost than in 2020.

numbers. "Some text links can even install malware that goes on to harvest sensitive information without tipping off the owner of the device."

Check your sources

Kantarcioglu recommends that users never respond to text messages from unverified sources or take an action like clicking a link or providing information based on a text message alone.

"Scammers can craft messages that appear realistic either because they have background information or they can simply get lucky," he said. "You may have actually used a toll road two days ago or ordered something online, making the message seem legitimate."

So, don't trust the message at all. Instead, verify it through a separate, trusted channel — for instance, by

calling your toll road provider directly to check your balance.

Report the scam

Victims of scams may hesitate to make a report when they've been scammed. In fact, according to the FTC, the vast majority of frauds are never reported.

"Victims may hesitate to come forward due to embarrassment, but reporting the crime can help prevent further harm and protect the others from similar scams," Kantarcioglu said. "Notify your credit card company or bank as soon as possible, and then report the scam to law enforcement."

Virginia Tech

Radford University welcomes new chief of staff for president

Radford University has announced James "Ryan" Bowyer, M.S. '12, as the new chief of staff in the Office of the President.

He will report directly to President Bret Danilowicz and will begin his role at Radford on Aug. 10.

Bowyer returns to his alma mater as the university prepares to launch an ambitious six-year strategic plan in January 2026. Among his many responsibilities, he will play a critical role in ensuring that the new plan is communicated effectively and implemented efficiently, as well as monitor progress to help ensure the plan's primary goals are achieved. He will also manage Cabinet operations, provide guidance and oversight for institutional initiatives and serve as a key liaison between Danilowicz and senior university stakeholders and external partners.

"Being an alumnus of Radford and having served as a chief of staff, Ryan is prepared to advance our goals immediately," said Danilowicz. "He cares deeply about people and community, which makes him an incredible fit with our university's culture of care and regional focus."

Bowyer currently serves as senior vice president for administration and chief of staff at Emory & Henry University, where he leads the administrative

management and strategic oversight of the Office of the President, among other responsibilities, ensuring execution of presidential priorities and timely decision-making. He also has served as senior vice president for student experience and strategy, executive director of strategic initiatives and associate provost and dean of students at Emory & Henry. Before joining Emory & Henry in 2018, he worked in several roles of increasing responsibility at Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina.

"This position is deeply personal to me," Bowyer said. "The two years I spent at Radford earning my master's degree were transformational and guided me into a successful and fulfilling career in higher education. I am truly excited to return home to the New River Valley while serving an institution for which I care deeply."

Bowyer earned a B.A. in history and a B.A. in Middle Eastern/Islamic studies from Emory & Henry and an M.S. in curriculum and instruction from Radford University. He is on track to complete an Ed.D. in higher education administration from the University of Southern Mississippi in December 2025.

Radford University

Local expert discusses implications of Trump's plans for artificial intelligence

President Donald Trump intends to unveil an Artificial Intelligence Action Plan aimed at keeping the United States at the forefront of AI development. Toward that end, the president is expected to sign three new executive orders addressing data center development, financial resources, and perceived political bias.

Virginia Tech communications expert Cayce Myers, versed in the legal issues surrounding AI, shared analysis of the Trump administration's AI strategy and its goals.

What might the Trump administration's AI investments look like?

"The president's recent visit to Pennsylvania, where he highlighted companies' \$92 billion investments to promote AI initiatives in the state, shows how the administration is positioning itself alongside tech leaders to make the U.S. the global leader in artificial intelligence. These investments including infrastructure such as hydroelectric dams and data centers underscore the perceived political and business stakes of the global AI competition between the U.S. and China."

Does any part of the action plan suggest political aims?

"The Trump administration has fused AI development policy with other political issues, specifically around perceived political bias. Some news outlets have reported that the administration will release an executive order mandating that federal AI contractors' AI outputs



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Cayce Myers

remain politically neutral and not produce results that may be perceived as promoting political viewpoints or engaging in 'woke' perspectives. Though controversial, this order falls in line with the position the administration has taken on issues of left-leaning political bias within technology and media writ large."

What effects might this order have on the development of the technology?

"It likely will change the way some AI is developed, raising questions around how AI systems can guarantee certain types of biased outputs won't be produced. This will also have a direct impact on the type of output generated for users of AI platforms that receive federal contracts. It also underscores how artificial intelligence chatbots and outputs are not viewed as apolitical technology but rather are framed as systems that are increasingly scrutinized for their own intentional or unintentional political perspectives."

Virginia Tech

Nemeth

from page 4

issue in his column in this newspaper. Oh, but the Trumpsie Twins say we can't afford the increasingly "rampant federal debt and deficit." However, we apparently can afford the tax break for the richer than rich to the tune of \$2.0-4.0 trillion in added national debt. There are no clean legislative hands when it comes to deficit, but, just sayin', the highest ever occurred under Trump. Medicare and Medicaid fraud is corporate and criminal, not everyday citizens. Fixing it is an enforcement and compliance issue, not skimming the innocent, so you can thump your chests over useless, needless, costly legislation—we are not fooled by these red herrings.

The Trumpsie Twins certainly do sing the fossil fuel tune. The Delegate's piece on energy is bereft of anything useful. In America, we are for growth, innovation, the new ways into the future. Sure, you say, but the Twins do everything possible in the way of preventing a cleaner, cheaper future, by throwing up legislative road locks to renewable energy, taking away even minimal incentives to anything not coal, a known loser, oil, and gas. Why not the American way, boys? We, taxpayers and others pump \$757 billion per year into fossil fuel subsidies. Federal money for

renewables dependent on a free source of energy was \$100 billion in 2024. Come on, man, you people just stole all the climate data so the models won't be run and predictions will go unmade.

Cell phones in schools is just another diversion from the big steal of America. Of course, phones shouldn't be on in class, but every school district had and has the ability and authority to put the cells away during school hours. Is this bill just to make the Delegate seem to look good, seem busy. Yep, more useless, non-issue bravado.

Finally, consider how people of this virtually seditious ilk are deleting investment in the future. I must assume Trumpsie Twins support firing a huge chunk of the smartest, most productive scientific, engineering, and health research workforce in government and academia the world has ever known. I further see that extorting universities and others out of legally formed contracts is just dandy. This to say nothing of the silence in the face of charlatans running this nation's public health system and trying to do away with vaccine science.

*John C. Nemeth
Former CEO & Exec. Dir., Sigma Xi,
The Scientific Research Honor Society
Christiansburg*

Abraham

from page 4

and more affluent country.

I'll sum up the reason in one word: regulations.

When Delegate Jason Ballard argues, "Cutting state regulations is good for business and personal growth," he's only partly right. While nobody likes or supports "redundancies, contradictions with state code," or other obstacles to health, safety, or prosperity, there are reasons regulations were put into law in the first place, and we'd be sicker, poorer, and weaker as a nation if we obliterated them.

Ballard's arguments vilify the essential work of legislators who write them and regulators who enforce them, protecting us from companies that in the name of profits would do us harm. Worldwide, nations with poor regulatory frameworks have unbreathable air, undrinkable water, poisoned landscapes, and dangerous worker and transportation networks.

Well-structured regulations protect consumers and citizens, promote fair competition, and ensure environmental health and sustainability. In business, regulations prohibit monopolies and ensure a level playing field, benefiting consumers through lower prices, better products and more innovation. Regulations ensure stable, predictable ecosystems where companies can better invest and plan. Regulations protect workers, too; OSHA regulations have prevented an estimated 712,000 worker deaths since its inception in 1970.

Consumer regulations prevent us from being scammed or defrauded and keep our products safe. Regulations limit pollution and encourage sustainable practices, leading to a healthier environment. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates

that safety standards and regulations have prevented more than 860,000 deaths nationwide between 1968 and 2019.

Parenthetically, Del. Ballard's argument that, "regulatory reforms in the state building code have cut the average construction cost for new homes by at least \$24,000," is all well and good, but it seems hypocritical and ironic when the two signature economic policies of the current president (in his same party) — expelling foreign workers and placing tariffs on almost everything we buy — are both highly inflationary. It's difficult, with the political situation in flux (e.g. the on-again, off-again tariffs) to predict the exact increase, but the combined impact is expected to be significant and will add tens of thousands of dollars to the price of a new home, probably far more than any savings from fewer regulations.

Regulations have caught the ire of conservatives for decades, but we'd be sicker, poorer and weaker if we blindly eviscerated our regulatory structure.

Virginian James Madison said in Federalist No. 51, "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." Instead, humans are inherently flawed and prone to ambition and too often criminal self-interest. A well-designed and appropriately implemented regulatory framework helps us live together in a safer, saner, more stable, more competitive, more sustainable and more equitable state and nation, and thus should be appreciated rather than berated.

I hope our kids and grandkids can enjoy the clean air and fresh water regulations have brought us.

*Michael Abraham
Christiansburg*

Green

from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

Mr. Green had an uncanny ability to remember the names of every child who attended McHarg Elementary School during his 37 years of service at the school.

said Burdette. “He transformed from elementary school janitor to our very own hallway superhero. That man knew how to light up every face around him.”

RCPS School Board Chair Gloria Boyd, who was a teacher at McHarg during Green’s tenure, remembers her friend as a person who embodied “heart.”

“Josh served our schools in a custodial role for many years, but really he was so much more,” she said. “He embodied commitment and heart as he walked the halls of McHarg greeting students, teachers and staff always with a smile.”

“I will remember how welcoming and helpful he was to me when I came to Radford to teach in 1999,” she continued. “If I came in early or during the summer there was a boombox in the hall playing gospel music while he was working in the classrooms. When my students were lined up waiting for lunch or bathrooms, he often waited by and teased with the students, always making them laugh. He made everyone feel special.”

“To know Josh Green was to love him,” she said. “He blessed the lives of every student, teacher, staff member and administrator who came through McHarg. He might tease, but sometimes he would correct a student behavior, always with love.

Josh was so humble in moments of honor or recognition. Mr. Green’s Way serves as a reminder. If we live our lives the way he did... what a wonderful world this



FILE PHOTO

Josh Green receives a plaque in his honor after his retirement from Radford City Public Schools

would be.”

The accolades that have poured out for Green from the community all describe a humble, loving joyful man.

“Mr. Green is a legend in Radford,” said former RCPS School Board Chair and parent. “He knew every student’s name, past and present. He knew their families and their stories. He knew their dreams and their hearts. On paper, he was a custodian at our little elementary school, but in reality, he was the heart and soul of our Bobcat community.”

Radford Vice Mayor Seth Gillespie was one of those thousands of students who attended McHarg during the Mr. Green years.

“Radford lost another treasure,” he said. “There wasn’t a child that walked through McHarg whose name Mr. Green didn’t know. Everyone loved Mr. Green and Mr. Green loved everyone. Mr. Green followed you through life and wanted to see you do big things. Always asking how my family was, and what I was up to, he cared. Radford has lost some giants in this community, but what an example they have set.”

Green’s family will receive friends 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025, at First Baptist Church, 555 W. Rock Road, Radford, VA 24141. Funeral services will begin at 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers please contribute to Mr. Green’s Way Scholarship – Radford High School, 50 Dalton Dr., Radford, VA 24141.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY CRAIGIE RIFFE

(Left to right) Evelyn Riffe, Lily Brunner, Mia Leahy, Mr. Green (and his full-sized candy bars), Mary Jane Luckett and James Riffe on Halloween 2018.

STOLEN PROPERTY - REWARD OFFERED

A \$5,000 reward offered for information leading to return of stolen property and individuals complicit in this criminal conspiracy. Stolen from a home on Bill Street in Pulaski, Va. on or about Sept. 15, 2024.

- Single action revolver 22 cal. with vinyl carrying case. Black. Serial #17D00727
- .380 Automatic with laser sight, new in box.
- Ammo can, military style. Green with 45 cal., 9 mm, 357, 38 and shotgun ammo.
- AM-FM boom box with CD and tape player, black
- Camelbak – M.U.L.E. backpack with water tube, black
- DVD storage case, holds 50 each. All seasons of Stargate SG-1 and Stargate Atlantis and other DVD, black
- CD storage case, holds 50 each, rock and country, black.
- Binoculars, black case with red interior, name inside lid
- Army and Navy command coins and one 9-11 coin.
- Mark V diving helmet, copper with brass viewports
- Zippo lighter collection
- Polish pottery, service for six. Large plates, salad plates, bowls, cups and saucers. Blue with flower pattern. Stored in plastic tote. Clear with blue lid.
- Craftsman toolbox, single tray, gray outside, red interior. Held General Mechanic tools.
- Digital multimeter
- Two five-gallon buckets, Wise Emergency

- Food, freeze dried.
- Hip flask with “Green Bay Packers” raised logo, name, date of 2004.
- Two red kerosene lanterns, “Hurricane Lanterns”
- One Coleman dual fuel lantern, “Double Mantle”
- 1 MSA, Cairns, fire helmet, yellow, Front Shield, NAS Iceland Driver, F.D.
- 1 Steel trophy, made of old engine parts, wood base with plaque, retirement award, 25 to 35 pounds.
- 37 mm Anti-tank shell casing brought home as a souvenir from the first Gulf War.
- 5 gal. plastic buckets, galvanized steel pails, plastic shelving white. Paint rollers and brushes with steel roller pans.
- 2 pewter mugs, U.S. Navy emblem, NAB Little Creek
- 45 RPM records in carrying box, blue and white.
- Stuffed gorilla, three feet tall, brown and tan, won with my late wife at the carnival.
- Dragon figurine, approximately 8 feet long, 4 feet tall, maroon in color, brought back from Korea.
- Two pictures in 8x10 frames. One of my father in WWII Army Air Corp, Pilot uniform one of myself in dress uniform from 1977.

Please contact: Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office at 540-980-7810 and reference Case Number 253-3271. You can also go to the Sheriff’s website, go to Crime Stoppers. Radford Police Department tip line 540-731-3624

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 steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

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

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.

Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price’s Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmcl.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

PRESBYTERIAN

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

Rev. Dr. Morgan Whitfield, Jr., will lead worship at 10 am through Labor Day. Phone 540-639-2585. Email: pcofradford@gmail.com. Website: www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ to all in this community and beyond.

UNITED METHODIST

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

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Stolen Hearts

Read 2 Samuel 14:1 through 15:37

Absalom, King David’s son, did not have an easy life. He fled from home after killing his half brother for raping his sister. Eventually he was allowed to return home, but his relationship with his father was strained. Absalom undermined his father’s authority by promising that he would be a more compassionate ruler than David.

Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel (2 Samuel 15:6).

Just as Absalom worked to

steal the hearts of the people from David, so the devil works to steal the hearts of people from God. The devil tries to get people, even Christians, to doubt God’s justice or care and make them think they would be better off without God. God never promised that hard times wouldn’t come, but He has promised to be with believers and help them make it through trials. Knowing He will never leave or forsake believers can help us dispel doubts and keep our hearts true to God.

Prayer for Today: Lord, help me guard my heart so I will never doubt Your love and care for me.

Quicklook: 2 Samuel 15:1–6

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



Marketplace



ourvalley.org

The Fincastle Herald

The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Help Wanted

Help Wanted Mailroom, Delivery Drivers, Press Room

We need PART-TIME mailroom workers to help process the newspapers. Drivers to deliver to post offices and businesses. Press room help with printing the newspapers. Stop by our office in Salem at 1633 West Main Street to fill out an application or send your details to customerservice@ourvalley.org

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

BVM1 LLC., trading as CIRCLE K, 2500 Tyler Road, Montgomery County, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer, OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAY PATEL, OWNER

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

Legals - Montgomery County

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 25, 2025 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia to hear citizen comments on the Boards' intent to consider an Ordinance establishing Voter Satellite Offices in the following locations to be used in Montgomery County, Virginia for absentee voting in person for the November 4, 2025 General Election only: Blacksburg Community Center Multi-Purpose Room 725 Patrick Henry Drive Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Shawsville Middle School Cafeteria 4179 Oldtown Road Shawsville, Virginia

Auburn High School Cafeteria 1650 Auburn Drive Riner, Virginia BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Angela M. Hill County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by DW, LLC, Property Owner and Applicant, to rezone property located on the north side of Brammer Lane NE, and adjacent to the east side of 2500 Brammer Lane NE, consisting of approximately 2.57 acres, identified as all of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) - 13D, Parcel ID 021972; a portion of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) - 13F, Parcel ID 025070; a portion of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) - 13D1, Parcel ID 300315; and a portion of Tax Parcel 80 - (5) - 1, Parcel ID 033688; from Agricultural District (A) to General Industrial District (I-2). The property is designated as Industrial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Lauren-Ashley Elizabeth Potts and Dustin Storm Potts, Property Owners and Applicant, to allow for a single-chair beauty parlor as a major home occupation on property located at 450 Hemlock Street NE, identified as Tax Parcel 529 - ((19)) - 3 (Parcel ID 024689), consisting of 0.331 acre, in the Two-Family Residential (R-2) District. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

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

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Promote your upcoming auctions statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audience. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$350 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-844-746-2332

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is the most advanced gutter protection for your home, backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-614-6667 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 20% off! Seniors and military save an additional 10%. Restrictions apply. see representative for warranty and offer details

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

STATEWIDE ADS

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.

FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF*

For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free

1-877-591-9950



*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 15WH1109600

Handyman Services

Any and all deck building and repair, staining, ramps and pressure washing. Any and all other home repair needs. Call James at 540.583.2468

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Apartments for Seniors

Accepting applications for Trolinger & New River House Apartments at Warm Hearth Village- 1- & 2-bedroom apartments for those age 62 and older or barrier-free apartment with a qualifying mobility disability. Located on the campus of Blacksburg's only comprehensive retirement community, residents have access to our fitness center, walking trails, programs and events, transportation and many other amenities. Smoke-free community. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements for credit and background check.

Subsidized Apartments for Seniors

Accepting applications for Trolinger & New River House Apartments at Warm Hearth Village- 1- & 2-bedroom apartments for those age 62 and older or barrier-free apartment with a qualifying mobility disability. Located on the campus of Blacksburg's only comprehensive retirement community, residents have access to our fitness center, walking trails, programs and events, transportation and many other amenities. Smoke-free community. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements for credit and background check.



Warm Hearth Village

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

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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 - City of Salem

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

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Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

BVM1 LLC., trading as CIRCLE K, 2500 Tyler Road, Montgomery County, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer, OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAY PATEL, OWNER

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

Legals - Montgomery County

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 25, 2025 at 7:15 pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia to hear citizen comments on the Boards' intent to consider an Ordinance establishing Voter Satellite Offices in the following locations to be used in Montgomery County, Virginia for absentee voting in person for the November 4, 2025 General Election only: Blacksburg Community Center Multi-Purpose Room 725 Patrick Henry Drive Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Shawsville Middle School Cafeteria 4179 Oldtown Road Shawsville, Virginia

Auburn High School Cafeteria 1650 Auburn Drive Riner, Virginia BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Angela M. Hill County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by DW, LLC, Property Owner and Applicant, to rezone property located on the north side of Brammer Lane NE, and adjacent to the east side of 2500 Brammer Lane NE, consisting of approximately 2.57 acres, identified as all of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) - 13D, Parcel ID 021972; a portion of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) - 13F, Parcel ID 025070; a portion of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) - 13D1, Parcel ID 300315; and a portion of Tax Parcel 80 - (5) - 1, Parcel ID 033688; from Agricultural District (A) to General Industrial District (I-2). The property is designated as Industrial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Lauren-Ashley Elizabeth Potts and Dustin Storm Potts, Property Owners and Applicant, to allow for a single-chair beauty parlor as a major home occupation on property located at 450 Hemlock Street NE, identified as Tax Parcel 529 - ((19)) - 3 (Parcel ID 024689), consisting of 0.331 acre, in the Two-Family Residential (R-2) District. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

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

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RADFORD SPORTS

Auburn stacks up all-county/all-city awards

Wilson player of year, Booth pitcher of year

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Auburn High softball program continued its run into the state playoffs this season with a runner-up finish.

In doing so, the team claimed three top all-county/all-city honors.

Sophomore Hope Wilson broke or tied five school records, including setting a new high for home runs in one season with 15 and RBI's with 59. Both previous records were held by a grad she knows so well - her older sister who just finished playing at Radford University. She fell two short of the state record of 17 homeruns.

Auburn Coach Tim Smoot said there really no holes in this lineup, and Wilson worked as hard as any player he has ever

coached.

Wilson also tied the record for hits in a season with 49. She finished with .563 batting average and 12 doubles. She was named the all-state Class 1 first-team catcher, and all-region and all-Mt. Empire District player of year.

For her effort, Wilson is this year's all-county/all-city softball player of the year.

She is joined on the first-team by pitcher Machenzie Booth, who picked up 17 wins against five losses. Booth is this year's all-county/all-city pitcher of the year.

Booth finished the season with a 2.04 earned run average with 157 strikeouts and 27 walks.

The senior, who is headed to Lynchburg University in the fall, was a first-team pitcher for Class 1, all-

region and all-Mt. Empire District. She was also the all-region pitcher of the year. She was the workhorse for the Auburn program and carried the team throughout the playoffs. This included beating a tough J.I. Burton team 8-0 in the state quarterfinals, and beating Rappahannock 4-3. Booth then pitched well in the 3-0 state championship loss to Eastside. Booth also took Jefferson Forest (the Class 4 state runnerup) to eight innings earlier in the regular season.

Their coach, Tim Smoot, is the 2025 all-county/all-city softball coach of the year after leading the team to an overall 22-5 mark.

Wilson and Booth were joined on the all-county/all-city team by four other teammates.

Johnnie Gaynor was named to group at designated hitter, Ariel Mullins at outfield, Leah Wimmer at third base and

Samantha Anderson at second base.

Christiansburg's Aubrey Davis was named to the team as an outfielder and is this year's all-county/all-city newcomer of the year and one marked to watch over the next few years. Davis as a sophomore hit .321 on the season with five doubles and five homeruns. She also finished 3-1 on the mound and was named all-River Ridge District first team, and was also named to the all-county/all-city team as a pitcher.

Christiansburg's Tyleigh Dillard received the honor at first base, along with teammates Reagan Smith at utility player, Addison Reasor at shortstop and Sophia Russell at outfield.

Eastern Montgomery's Mary Miller joined Blacksburg Clara McMahon at the pitcher position. Blacksburg's Aubrey Hudgins was named as co-utility player of year.



Hope Wilson (right) broke the single season homerun record for Auburn. The previous record holder was her sister, Abby (left). Hope is the 2025 all-county/all-city softball player of the year.



FILE PHOTOS

Auburn's Machenzie Booth recorded 17 wins from the mound this season and is this year's all-county/all-city pitcher of the year.

Clemson favorites in ACC, Tech picked 11th

Defending ACC Champion Clemson has been selected as the preseason favorite to win the 2025 Atlantic Coast Conference football title, following a vote of more than 180 media members credentialed for last week's ACC Football Kickoff in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Tigers are coming off a strong 2024 campaign in which they posted a 10-4 overall record, went 7-1 in conference play, and captured the ACC Championship title. Clemson also made its seventh College Football Playoff appearance and finished the season ranked No. 11 in the final AFCA Coaches Poll and No. 14 in the AP Poll. In the media voting, Clemson was picked to repeat as ACC Champion on 167 ballots. Miami received seven first-place votes, followed by Florida State with four, while SMU and Georgia Tech each garnered two. Virginia Tech received one first-place vote.

Clemson led all teams with 3,083 points, while Miami (2,679) and SMU (2,612) were second and third, respectively. Georgia Tech (2,397) was picked fourth, while Louisville (2,370) came in fifth. Duke (1,973) was picked to finish sixth in the preseason predictions, ahead of Florida State (1,920) in seventh, North Carolina (1,611) in eighth, Pitt (1,571) in ninth, NC State (1,505) in 10th, Virginia Tech (1,412) in 11th and Syracuse (1,381) in 12th. Rounding out the preseason poll were Boston College (953) in 13th, Virginia (871) in 14th, California (659) in 15th, Wake Forest (576) in 16th and Stanford (426) in 17th. The 2025 ACC Football Championship Game will kick off in primetime at 8 p.m. ET on ABC on Saturday, December 6, at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Atlantic Coast Conference

Hokies eliminating part of ODU series

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Old Dominion and Virginia Tech have announced changes to their future football schedule.

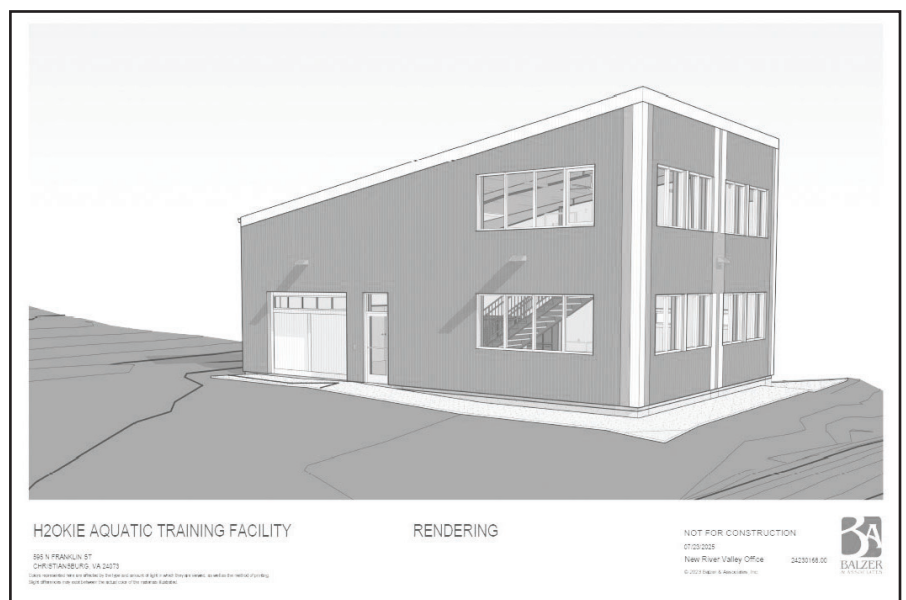
Under the new agreement, the Hokies and Monarchs will meet in Blacksburg in 2025, 2026 and 2030. However, the two schools have agreed to cancel the 2028 game in Blacksburg, as well as matchups previously scheduled in Norfolk for 2027, 2029 and 2031.

Virginia Tech director of athletics Whit Babcock cited the changing nature of college football as a reason for the change.

"As we continue to evaluate and align our future non-conference schedules with the evolving landscape of college football, we've made a

strategic decision—mutually agreed upon by both programs—to alter the number of games in the series," said Babcock. "We're grateful for the competitive games we've shared, and we appreciate the flexibility and partnership from Old Dominion as we work to adapt in this new environment."

As part of the agreement, Virginia Tech has committed to hosting a men's basketball game against Old Dominion in Blacksburg no later than the 2027-28 season. Virginia Tech and Old Dominion have met six times previously on the gridiron with the Hokies holding a 4-2 advantage in the series, including a 37-17 win in Norfolk last season. This year's game will take place at Lane Stadium on September 13, at 7 p.m., and will be televised by ACC Network.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF H2OKIES

H2okies to build training facility in Christiansburg

Marty Gordon
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The New River Valley's H2okie swim program is moving forward with a new training facility located on a lot to the rear of the Christiansburg Aquatics Center.

Scott Baldwin is the head coach and director for H2okie aquatics, and this past week expressed some excitement about the announced 1,500 sq. ft. project.

This facility is only for 'out of water' conditioning and a supplement to assist in the group's in-water training. No competitions will be held here, just practice type activities.

Baldwin said H2okies need to expand its services.

"Currently we are only able to service the older (high school and middle school) swimmers through an agreement with another local fitness facility," he said. "The convenience of having the ability to run our dryland (out of water strength and conditioning) on site of the CAC complex is such a game changer for parents to be able to have a one stop situation."

The facility will cost approximately \$800,000, with the organization using reserves for 1/3 of the cost, 1/3 through local financing, and 1/3 through a capital campaign drive they are currently running.

The facility will be located at Mill and Depot streets and includes a long-term agreement with the town of

Christiansburg that stretches over 30 years.

H2okies currently serves 250 swimmers, and this new facility will allow for an additional 50-75 swimmers by utilizing both the gym space and the water space at the same time.

The construction should take approximately six months using local builder Kessler Construction.

"Once we have enough committed fundraised dollars, the NRVA INC Board of Directors will green light the project to begin," Baldwin said. "As far as a start of construction date, we are needing to walk step and step with the other major projects currently going on at the CAC. The solar project is wrapping up at the end of the month, and the much-needed HVAC replacement and upgrade is starting August 1, and we'll need to dance around their needs a bit. But If I had to guess, I'd say we could break ground as early as the end of the year."

In 15 years of working with the town, according to Baldwin, the group has developed a great partnership in many areas, and this project is just another one.

"This dryland facility will strengthen our membership and in turn helps us run bigger and more frequent events out of the CAC thus benefiting all of our local businesses in the tourism industry. We love our working partnership with the CAC and believe it has been a model of how a public-private partnership can work to benefit a community," he said.



Blacksburg kids participate in Youth Track League



Blacksburg Youth Track League coach Spencer McGehee leads his budding track stars through warmup exercises prior to their championship meet this past week at the BHS track.



Julien takes the "baton" from teammate Caleb during the 4x100 relay. The teams used random items for the baton, including bananas, ping pong paddles, and sub sandwich rolls.



Kirby Chang clears a set of hay bales during the 1000-meter steeplechase race during the Youth Track League meet.



Logan Hamrick takes his turn in the long jump competition during last week's Youth Track League meet.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Hokies sports back on The Bear

Virginia Tech Athletics and Playfly Sports have announced WBRW “The Bear” will be back as the radio home for Tech athletics.

The multi-year partnership will bring fans across the New River Valley live broadcasts of Virginia Tech football, men’s and women’s basketball, and baseball games as well as coaches shows.

As Virginia Tech’s flagship station, The Bear will air Hokie football, men’s basketball, women’s basketball and coaches shows on 105.3 FM. In addition, Hokie baseball will be aired on WRAD 101.7 FM.

This agreement renews a proud 30-year tradition of Virginia Tech Athletics being heard on WBRW The Bear.

“We’re proud to bring Virginia Tech Athletics back to The Bear,” said Mike Chiumento Regional Vice President for New River Radio. “It’s a tradition that connects generations of Hokie fans across the New River Valley. For us, it truly feels like coming home.”

Familiar voices will return to the

airwaves, led by Bill Roth, who enters his 31st season as the radio play-by-play voice of Virginia Tech football. He’ll once again be joined in the booth by Hall of Fame broadcaster Mike Burnop, now entering his 43rd season as color analyst for both football and men’s basketball broadcasts.

Zach Mackey will return to the sidelines for football and is set to begin his fourth year as the play-by-play voice of Virginia Tech men’s basketball. Virginia Tech alum Evan Hughes will continue his play-by-play duties for Virginia Tech women’s basketball and baseball.

“We’re excited to once again call The Bear the radio home of VT Athletics throughout the New River Valley,” said Sam Schauf, General Manager of Virginia Tech Sports Properties. “This partnership not only reignites a longtime relationship but ensures we reach our dedicated fans where they call home.”

The Virginia Tech Sports Network will broadcast football, men’s basketball

and Tech Talk Live on more than 35 radio affiliates statewide. Broadcasts are also available on Sirius XM satellite radio and streamed live on Hokiesports.com and the Hokiesports app. Fans can find the complete list of listening options on Hokiesports.com. Virginia Tech Sports Properties is the locally-based, exclusive multimedia rightsholder for Virginia Tech Athletics. As a part of the Playfly Sports Properties portfolio of nearly 40 collegiate and high school state association properties, the Virginia Tech Sports Properties team connects brands to Virginia Tech’s passionate and deeply rooted fanbase. Through broadcast, in-arena, experiential, and technology-based marketing and media solutions, Playfly Sports Properties’ fully scalable platform provides marketers unparalleled access to the most highly engaged audiences on a local and national level. Playfly Sports Properties is a division of Playfly Sports. Playfly Sports is a sports media, marketing and technology business

centered around the team, league, brand, and network. Believing in 'Fandom as a Service' and focusing on a consultative, data driven approach to REACH, ENGAGE, MONETIZE AND MEASURE FANDOM gives the company’s partners and brands a competitive advantage. Playfly connects more than 2,000 brand partners with approximately 83% of all U.S. sports fans. Through the proprietary platform the business delivers scalable, data-oriented marketing, technology, and media solutions with capabilities including exclusive MMR management, sponsorship sales and activation, streaming, consulting, ticket/premium sales, all along with new revenue-driving platforms and technologies. Founded in September of 2020, Playfly Sports is now home to approximately 1,000 team members located across 43 U.S. states dedicated to maximizing the impact of highly passionate local sports fans.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Sports notes: Eastern Montgomery recognized by VHSL

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The Virginia High School League has announced its 2024-25 Claudia Dodson VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award, which recognizes member schools that have established policies and procedures that make sportsmanship a priority and an expectation within the school and school community.

The Stay in the Game Award recognizes those schools that did not have a player ejection during the fall, winter, and spring season.

Eastern Montgomery High School was honored with both recognitions.

“I consider the Dodson SEI Award to be the Virginia High School League’s most prestigious award,” said VHSL assistant director Chris Robinson. “It’s the only award that the entire school is graded on.”

The award was renamed in 2007 to honor the memory of Claudia Dodson, a VHSL Assistant Director from 1971 to 2002 and a 2003 National High School Hall of Fame inductee, who passed away in 2007.

ACC championship tickets

The countdown is on! Tickets for the 2025 ACC Football Championship Game are officially on sale now through both Ticketmaster and theACC.com. Kickoff is scheduled for 8 p.m. on ABC on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina. Tickets for the 2025 ACC Football Championship Game begin at just \$65. Premium seating for the 2025 ACC Football Championship Game is also available, offering fans an unforgettable way to experience the action. This year’s exclusive offerings include all-inclusive seating in the Gridiron Club and The Vault, featuring first-class hospitality,

enhanced gameday amenities, and on-field access after the game.

RU golfers honored

The 2024-25 Cobalt Golf All-America Scholars for NCAA Division I were announced Tuesday afternoon with five Highlanders earning All-American Scholar honors including Benson Blevins, Channing Blevins, Tate Corbett, Bobby Dudeck and Louie Stott. To be eligible for Cobalt Golf All-America Scholar nomination, an individual must be a sophomore, junior or senior both academically and athletically in NCAA Division I, II, III, and NAIA, or receiving their Associate's Degree and in their last year of athletic eligibility in the NJCAA. In addition, they must participate in 50% of their team's competitive rounds, have a stroke average under 76.0 in NCAA Division I, under 78.0 in NCAA Division II, under 79.0 in NCAA Division III, under 78.0 in NAIA, and under 77.0 in NJCAA, and maintain a minimum cumulative career grade-point average of 3.2. A recipient must also be of high moral character and be in good standing at their college or university.

New cross country coach

The Radford University cross country and track and field program announced Monday morning that Anne Akagi-Koons has joined the program as a Cross Country and Track & Field Assistant Coach. Akagi-Koons spent the last season with the Charleston Southern Buccaneers as a volunteer coach helping mentor the women's cross country team to tie their best conference finish in program history and place second for the third straight year. Prior to her time coaching with the Buccaneers, she competed as a student-athlete for five years, claiming the program records for the 800-meter and 1500-meter events. Akagi-Koons was a six-time all-conference selection in Big South Track and Field and a three-time

all-conference selection for cross country.

Love on watch list

Virginia Tech placekicker John Love has been named to the watch list for the Lou Groza Award which goes to the nation's top kicker.

Love (5-11, 180) kicked in all 13 games last season, connecting on 16 of his 18 field goal attempts for an 88.8 success rate. He was a perfect 42 of 42 on PATs on his way to earning All-ACC Honorable Mention accolades. The Spartanburg, South Carolina product was 5-5 from 40-49 yards and 3-4 from 50-plus yards. He nailed a then career-long of 57 yards against Miami and was named ACC Specialist of the Week. Love was named ACC Specialist of the Week a second time after hitting on field-goal attempts from 44, 31 and 28 yards against Virginia. He also set a new career-long with a 60-yard field goal against Minnesota in the Duke's Mayo Bowl.

The Groza Award is named for National Football League Hall of Fame kicker Lou “The Toe” Groza, who played 21 seasons with the Cleveland Browns.

Groza won four NFL championships with Cleveland and was named NFL Player of the Year in 1954. Although an All-Pro offensive lineman as well, Groza ushered in the notion that there should be a place on an NFL roster for a kicker.

Hokies ranked 14th

Virginia Tech women’s soccer checked in at No. 14 in the United Soccer Coaches (USOC) National Pre-Season Poll.

It is the highest pre-season ranking for the Hokies since 2015 (No. 13).

The Hokies advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight in 2024 and finished last year’s campaign ranked No. 7, the highest end-of-year ranking for Tech since 2013. Tech’s 14 wins were also the most in a single season since 2015.

The Hokies earned the No. 5 seed in the ACC Championship in 2024. Finishing the conference slate at 6-2-2, the Hokies earned 20 points – the most since 2013 – to finish fifth in the ACC standings.

Tech returns several key starters

See Notes, page 12



KANNAPOLIS CANNON BALLERS VS SALEM RED SOX

AUGUST 6th	6:35 PM
<i>Bark in the Park</i>	
AUGUST 7th	6:35 PM
<i>Classic Cruisers Night</i>	
AUGUST 8th	6:35 PM
<i>Knight in Shining Armor</i>	
AUGUST 9th	6:35PM
<i>Dinos at the Diamond</i>	
AUGUST 10th	1:05PM



PHOTO BY CRAIG NEWCOMB FOR VIRGINIA TECH

The Virginia Tech Helmet Lab recently updated its rating system for bicycle, youth and varsity football helmets.

Updated ratings from the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab identify safest football and bike helmets

It's now a little harder to earn a five-star rating from the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab.

The lab recently updated its helmet rating system to include new thresholds for bicycle, varsity football, and youth football helmets. According to the researchers, the new grading scale is simply the result of the helmet industry's growth toward performing better on the tests.

"Helmet manufacturers have made impressive strides over the past decade, and the improvements we've seen are real," said Steve Rowson, the lab's director. "Just like vehicle safety ratings that raise the bar as cars get safer, we've updated our thresholds to preserve the meaning of a top score as overall helmet performance improves."

The updated ratings can be found on the Helmet Lab's website.

Since its debut 15 years ago, the STAR (Summation of Tests for the Analysis of Risk) system has been used to calculate a helmet's performance. The lab conducts a series of impact tests and then then assigned a corresponding number of

stars, with five being the best.

Rowson said the lab had reached the point where the majority of helmets tested were achieving a five-star ranking. The rating adjustment will help differentiate most high-performing helmets and restore the rating's original meaning as a marker of the top available protection.

As a result of the new thresholds, a number of helmets achieving a five-star rating in each area has lowered:

Bicycle helmets from 167 reduced to 38

Varsity football helmets from 33 reduced to 11

Youth football helmets from 26 reduced to 6

"While the bar for a five-star helmet is now higher, any helmet earning four or five stars continues to offer strong protection and remains a recommended choice," Rowson said. "Overall, helmets are simply performing better and consumers should still feel confident choosing any four- or five-star helmet."

Travis Williams for Virginia Tech

Prices Fork Road speed limit changes in effect

The Town of Blacksburg is taking steps to make streets safer for all modes of transportation.

Recently, the town lowered speed limits on Prices Fork Road from North Main Street to Old Glade Road. This section of Prices Fork Road is reduced from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

Community members will notice updated speed limit signage with orange flags throughout this project area. To learn more about this initiative and to ask questions, please visit: <https://letstalkblacksburg.org/street-speed-limits>.

Town of Blacksburg

Notes

from page 11

from last year's NCAA Quarterfinals appearance.

Lauren Hargrove is back for her fifth year after starting all 23 games in goal. She finished the 2024 campaign with a 0.78 GAA and nine shutouts.

Tech promotes Watts
Virginia Tech soccer

head coach Mike Brizendine has announced the elevation of Matt Watts to associate head coach Friday morning. Watts enters his second season in Blacksburg in 2025.

Watts came to Blacksburg, following eight years in charge of Nova Southeastern (DII), posting a 64-44-14 record with the Sharks. His tenure was highlighted by a Final Four run in 2021, while his program claimed its first Sunshine State Conference (SSC) title in the same year.

RU replacements

The Big South Conference announced today the additions of New Jersey Institute

of Technology (NJIT) and Bryant University as associate members in the sport of tennis, effective with the 2025-26 season. NJIT will join in both women's and men's tennis, while Bryant's men's program joins the conference. The additions increase the Big South's tennis sponsorship to six women's and men's participants, allowing the conference to retain its automatic qualification into the NCAA Championships in both sports.

The announcement comes months after Radford University eliminated its tennis programs.

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OPS	DDS	SCOP												

Hokie men face no real challenge out of conference

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The upcoming Virginia Tech non-conference men's basketball schedule was released this past week and includes no big splash or big names.

Four mid-majors dot the calendar with one interesting matchup against Providence as part of the 2025 Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Series.

The Hokies will also have three games in the Bad Boy Mowers Battle 4 Atlantis in Paradise Island, Bahamas, and a road test against South Carolina in the ACC/SEC challenge.

The South Carolina game could be one the most interesting ones, as the Gamecocks are loaded with as many as three returning starters but is coming off only seven wins this past season.

The Hokies will play a home exhibition vs. Duquesne on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. The matchup will be one day after Tech football squares off with Cal in Lane Stadium.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Kyrone Drones (left) and Pop Watson (right), both return at quarterback this season for Virginia Tech.

Tech QB room full of talent

As the Virginia Tech football team continues its summer workouts, all eyes are undoubtedly fixed on a pivotal offensive nexus for the Hokies—the quarterbacks' room.

Now supported by new offensive coordinator Philip Montgomery and seasoned quarterbacks coach Brian Crist, the signal callers have been united by intense offseason training. This week's Position Preview places a magnifying glass on a room that promises to be exciting for the fans of Hokie Nation.

Kyron Drones returns for his third season at Virginia Tech following two years under center in Blacksburg. After stepping into the starting job during the 2023 season, Drones has continued to own the role, relying on a combination of explosive arm power, deep-ball accuracy, running ability, and quick thinking inside the pocket. His 2,085 passing yards and 22 total offensive touchdowns as a redshirt sophomore in 2023 were a big part of the Hokies' run to the Military Bowl, a game in which Drones ran for a bowl-record 176 yards and earned MVP recognition.

2024 was a similar story for the then-redshirt junior. While injuries hampered the tail-end of Drones's year, his 1,562 passing yards and 10 passing touchdowns through nine starts displayed why the Hokies have full faith in his ability as a signal-caller.

Returning alongside Drones in the quarterback room is William "Pop" Watson III, who stepped into the starting position in the final two games last season. Watson had his best collegiate showing in the 2024 iteration of the Smithfield Commonwealth Clash, accruing over 300 yards of total offense while finding the end zone twice (one passing, one rushing) en route to a bowl eligibility-clinching 37-17 home win against Virginia. His ability to escape defenses as a mobile quarterback is largely supported by the quarterback's 5-foot-11 frame, giving Watson the ability to scramble and make big plays when the Hokies need it most.

Competing for the QB2 spot alongside Watson will be former Oklahoma State

quarterback Garret Rangel. After Rangel announced his entrance into the transfer portal last season, Head Coach Brent Pry and the Hokies quickly scooped up the 6-foot-2, 205-pound quarterback, giving Tech another veteran to work with in the quarterback room. Rangel threw for more than a thousand yards and 16 TDs over three seasons in Stillwater.

Rangel is an exciting pickup for the Hokies. As a former four-star quarterback out of high school, he was recruited by Montgomery during his tenure as the head coach at the University of Tulsa (2015-22). Now that the pairing is reunited in Blacksburg, fans should keep their eyes peeled towards enticing competition for the QB2 position.

Rounding out the 2025 edition of the quarterback room are a pair of dual-threat true freshmen, Charlotte, North Carolina's A.J. Brand and Fort Worth, Texas product Kelden Ryan. Both quarterbacks will benefit from firsthand exposure to the Hokies' quarterback competition, a valuable learning experience as they navigate their first seasons in Blacksburg.

Brand enters the quarterback room with an impressive list of accolades to his name. As a four-year varsity starter at Irmo High School in Irmo, South Carolina, the 6-foot-2 freshman accounted for a staggering 11,889 total yards and 151 total touchdowns in his high school career. Moreover, Brand was recognized as the 2024 South Carolina Gatorade Player of the Year after a senior season that saw 2,600 passing yards, 2,029 rushing yards, and 57 total touchdowns.

Comparatively, Ryan found success as a four-year varsity letterwinner and two-year captain. His 39 total touchdowns (25 passing, 14 rushing) and 2,353 passing yards in his senior season at DeSoto High School were enough to lead the Eagles to an 11-2 record. The 6-foot-2 signal caller was ranked as the No. 16 dual-threat quarterback by ESPN.com.

Virginia Tech Athletics

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