



## Students, faculty, and administrators advocate for Radford University at Virginia State Capitol

A group of Radford University students along with faculty and administrators made the trip recently to the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond to advocate on behalf of the university.

Over the course of two days, the group met with House of Delegates and Senate members “to speak to them about Radford, to thank them for their support, share our experiences and tell them why we love Radford and how it has shaped us into who we are,” senior Kim Bythewood said.

As the Radford stu-

dents gathered in and around the Capitol building, they spoke in person with Virginia legislators, many of whom represent their home districts, as well as others who play important roles in the Virginia political system.

“I told my friends about it, that we were going to the Capitol to advocate on behalf of our university. It’s actually us doing it,” said Michaela Baker, a junior sociology and political science major from Charlotte. “We are the people who are doing that. It’s not like we are with other people from

the university who are doing all the talking, and we’re just standing around listening,” Baker said. “No, we do the talking, and the delegates listen to us and listen to our feedback. It’s really cool to be able to get that experience, to talk to them and to make our case for Radford University as to why it deserves their support.”

Baker also was thrilled her group had a chance to meet with Sarah Spota, the newly appointed deputy secretary of education in Virginia.

See **Advocate**, page 3



**A contingent of Radford University students, faculty, and administrators traveled to Richmond recently to the state capitol to advocate on behalf of the university.**

## SuperHero makes winning soup for YMCA’s Souper Challenge

The second annual YMCA at Virginia Tech’s Souper Challenge was won by SouperHero’s Pepperjack Crab soup with 29.8 percent of the votes.

Five local Blacksburg restaurants – Our Daily Bread, SouperHero, Next Door Bake Shop, Zeppoli’s, and Wikiteria – participated, each creating a signature soup for the sold-out event.

“As a pillar of the local food community, we strive to make exemplary cuisine,” said SouperHero kitchen manager Lonnie McFadden about his restaurant’s win.

“When we were asked to be a part of this challenge, we wanted to go above and beyond to create a unique soup that every-

one would enjoy,” said Mariah Thompson, SuperHero’s office and event manager.

Jim Parker, the SuperHero cook who prepared the Pepperjack Crab soup, said, “This has been a favorite recipe of mine for a long time and I’m glad it was so successful.”

Lauren Blakemore, the director of community engagement at the Y, said, “We appreciate partnering with such amazing local businesses to bring events like this to our community. Ticket holders expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate and thoroughly enjoyed sampling so many delicious soups.”

Ticket sales from this event

supported five local small businesses and the YMCA at Virginia Tech’s community programs including Meals On Main and Senior Connections.

The Y is now moving on with ticket sales for its second-annual Try Y’s Pi event offering participants the chance to enjoy a five-pie-slice sampler. Bakeries taking part in the event are Blacksburg Bagels with a sweet potato pie, Bollo’s Cafe and Bakery with an apple crumb pie, Halwa Bakery with a kenafa pistachio cream pie, Next Door Bake Shop with a coconut pie, and Our Daily Bread with a ginger peach pie.

Tickets for the Try Y’s Pi event are available at <https://vtymca.org/try-ys-pi/>.



**Members of Boy Scout Troop 704 volunteered to package and pass out soup to ticket holders at the second annual YMCA at Virginia Tech’s Souper Challenge.**



**Cadets gather for morning formation on Upper Quad.**

## Corps of Cadets scholarship funds help cadets focus on their futures

Cadet Nick DiNonno says learning cybersecurity is kind of like learning a foreign language. You can sit in a class and learn the fundamentals, but you can’t speak it unless you practice.

DiNonno, a junior in Army ROTC majoring in computer science in the College of Engineering with a minor in Chinese, is doing a lot of practicing these days. He and the other members of the Corps Cyber Team, a cadet organization within the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, are preparing for the National Security Agency Cyber Exercise (NCX) March 31-April 2.

NCX is a year-round program that

culminates in a three-day cyber competition that challenges participating military academy and military service college students in near full-spectrum cyber operations. In 2021, the Corps of Cadets team competed in it for the first time and took third place.

For DiNonno, the experience is critical to his future. His goal is to become a cyber officer in the U.S. Army doing the work to protect the country.

Between cyber team meetings, team practice sessions, and individual work, DiNonno’s cyber study could be considered a full-time job. Classes and homework, duties as the sergeant

See **Cadets**, page 5

## VT alumnus makes unlikely career change from contractor to pro poker player

**Jimmy Robertson**  
*Contributing writer*

In the summer of 2017, Adam Hendrix found himself facing a high-stakes decision regarding a possible career change.

He worked a well-paying, albeit mundane, position for a government contractor in Northern Virginia. The job offered steady income and nice benefits, but the drudgery of working 8 to 5 and dealing with traffic gridlock every day dulled Hendrix’s enthusiasm.

Ultimately, he decided to ante up, pushing all his chips to the center of the table and going all in on a new venture.

“It was a combination of me proving myself in online poker that I was good enough to play against these guys,” Hendrix said. “And winning at a rate that made sense to switch over, a rate that was outperforming my government contracting job.”

Hendrix bet on himself, joined the world of professional poker, and has been

adding to an ever-expanding bankroll ever since. A 2015 Virginia Tech graduate with a degree in economics and a minor in statistics from the university’s College of Science, he finished 2021 ranked No. 10 in the Global Poker Index rankings and No. 6 among American players.

His earnings nearly reached seven figures, which more than justified his decision and certainly assuaged the concerns of his parents.

See **Hendrix**, page 4



**More than four years ago, Adam Hendrix gave up a job working for a government contractor to become a professional poker player — and his gamble continues to pay off.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Now through Feb. 28:

**MFRL adult winter reading program**  
The Montgomery Floyd Regional Library’s adult winter reading program challenges patrons to read through the end of February and to keep track of their reading on the library’s Beanstack site. Earn badges with each book read and activity completed. <https://mfrl.beanstack.org/>.

**Grab-and-Go meals**  
All the month of February at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Children 18 years old and younger can come and get a weeks’ worth of meals and snacks. Each box will contain a 5-day supply. This is free to all children and teens during library hours. The meals are sponsored by Feeding Southwest Virginia.

## Wednesday, Feb. 16:

**“Just Help!” Storytime with the mayor**  
Radford’s Mayor Horton will present a special storytime about helping make the world and the community a better place. He will read Sonia Sotomayor’s new book “Just Help!” aloud. A limited supply of free copies of this book to give away will be provided. At the Radford Public Library at 11 a.m.

**American Business Women’s Association luncheon meeting**  
The American Business Women’s Association, NRV Express Chapter will hold its February Luncheon Meeting from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Dr. The cost is \$14.25. The guest speaker is Dana Hurt, who will explore the importance of friendships and the three required components to a meaningful relationship.

**Virtual Art Club: Henry Ossawa Tanner**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Learn about painter Henry Ossawa Tanner and create a portrait in his style. Pick up a curated craft kit and then follow the library’s tutorial on Facebook or YouTube.

**Library Board of Trustees Meeting**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Feb. 17:

**Talking about Books: “All That She Carried”**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is “All That She Carried” by Tiya Miles, in-person and virtually.

**SOVA Colloquium presents Mark Valdez**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 3:30 p.m. The School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech presents Art, Community, and Social Health, a series of talks/workshops by nationally recognized artists and thought leaders on the power and practice of art and culture as essential elements of healthy communities.  
Mark Valdez is a director, writer, and cultural organizer who partners with communities, organizations, civic institutions, and others using theater and creative tools to address community needs and to lift up community voices and stories. Valdez will be present via Zoom. Discussion will take place both in person and via Zoom.

**Dungeons & Dragons - Level 4**  
At the Radford Public Library from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Adventure into the world of Dungeons & Dragons. Email [duncan.hall@radfordva.gov](mailto:duncan.hall@radfordva.gov) and library staff will set everything needed to build a level-4 hero. Hybrid virtual attendance options are available for those interested.

## Saturday Feb. 19:

**High School Art Show**  
At the Radford University Art Museum at 214 Tyler Ave., Radford. An opening reception will begin at 11 a.m. Artwork by area high school students will be on display until Saturday, Feb. 26.

**Caturday**  
At the Christiansburg Library at noon. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages are welcome. Email [shodges@mfrl.org](mailto:shodges@mfrl.org) for more information.

**Teen DND**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. DND for teens.

## Sunday, Feb. 20:

**Chess Club**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up are welcome to sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

## Monday, Feb. 21:

**Radford Public Library closed**  
The Radford Public Library will be closed in observance of George Washington Day.

## Tuesday, Feb. 22:

**Is It Love? Or A Scam?**  
At the Radford Public Library at 1 p.m. Adults of all ages are looking for love and companionship and often using a dating website or app to make connections. The downside of this romantic potential is the risk of finding a phony suitor, and romance scams can even lead into other forms of fraud. Riley Ginger of the Better Business Bureau serving Western Virginia will educate attendees on romance scams.

**National Hedgehog Day**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; all day. The original celebration for this date is Feb. 2, but the hedgehog tends to live in the “shadow” of Groundhog Day. Help celebrate a little later on Tuesday, Feb. 22, all day with an adorable hedgehog craft and hedgehog bookmark. And check out a hedgehog book. This celebration is for all ages.

**Black History Month Storytime**  
Join Morgan at the Radford Public Library at 5 p.m. for a special storytime in honor of Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Two picture books celebrating this history will be read.

**Kids Candle Making**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Supplies will be provided to learn how to make a candle. Registration is required. Email [mroach@mfrl.org](mailto:mroach@mfrl.org) with any questions.

**Science Fiction/ Fantasy Book Club**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 6:30 p.m. To be discussed is “Klara and the Sun” by Kazuo Ishiguro. Call (540) 552-8246 for more information or to reserve a copy.

## Wednesday, Feb. 23:

**Lunch and Learn: listening session**  
At the Blacksburg Library at noon. This month’s lunch and learn program features both organizers and volunteers discussing some of the most impactful projects in the area and how everyone can get involved.

**Complete Your Pokédex event**  
At the Blacksburg Library; at 5 p.m. Participants can bring their rolodex and their Pokémon games and trade with other Pokémon trainers to complete their Pokédex! Find missing version exclusives, evolve a trade-evo-

# BugFest

from page 1

“It was really gratifying and fun to be able to interact with the kids,” said Daniel Frank, director of Pesticide Programs in the Department of Entomology. “They were very thoughtful and inquisitive, and I was impressed with how much interest they showed.”

At Floyd Elementary School, students hadn’t been on a field trip since early spring 2020.

“The kids were extremely excited to have this opportunity,” said Anne Esterhuizen, a fourth-grade teacher at the school. “Getting to

see all of the insects in person was a huge game-changer for these kids. Getting to see other adults from the ‘real-world’ with jobs that they may not have ever heard of before really helped to broaden their ideas about what careers are out there.”

Hokie BugFest on the Go started with a brief introduction to the world of entomology before the children rotated through stations for a close-up look at live specimens.

“I remember one child in particular, who despite his reservations,

lution Pokémon, and enjoy meeting others in the area who love Pokémon. Email trainer Sally at [sstauffer@mfrl.org](mailto:sstauffer@mfrl.org) with any questions.

**Virtual program: Radford Reads with Matthew Raidbard**

Author and former basketball coach Matthew Raidbard will join the Radford Public Library on Zoom at 6 p.m. to talk about his book, “Lead Like A Pro: Effective Leadership Styles for Athletic Coaches.” This event is free and is open to the public. Join on Zoom with event ID 897 6700 7543.

## Thursday, Feb. 24:

**Bad Art Night (for adults)**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 6:30 p.m. The staff will be setting out the random craft supplies for an evening of really awful art. Participants can come have a laugh and turn off the self-judgment and perfectionism that keeps them from truly enjoying their creativity. Registration is recommended. Adults only.

## Friday, Feb. 25, and Saturday, Feb. 26:

**Radford Public Library book sale**  
The Radford Public Library will hold book sales on Friday, Feb. 25, and Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Book topics during the sale include fantasy, science fiction, fishing, and cooking plus DVDs, CDs, and gun books. The sale will feature a free table. All hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Children’s books are half that. Funds raised assist the Lamplighters.

## Sunday, Feb. 27:

**Chess Club**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up are welcome to come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

## Monday, Feb. 28:

**Talking About Books: “The Book of Longing”**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is “The Book of Longing” by Sue Monk Kidd. Call (540) 552-8246 to reserve a copy.

**Crafternoon Delight for Adults Only**  
Learn how to knit or crochet with the library staff at the Radford Public Library at 1 p.m. Needles, crochet hooks and yarn will be available for tutorials and practice during this session of Crafternoon Delight.

## Ongoing:

**Blacksburg Aquatic Center closed for repairs**  
Repairs on the hot tub, gutters ,and deck surface at the Blacksburg Aquatic Center are ongoing. The Aquatic Center will remain closed for several more weeks. A re-opening date will be announced once it is confirmed.

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

DIGITAL ONLY

One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00

DIGITAL & PRINT

Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$72.00

PRINT ONLY

Yearly Print Only Subscription \$44.00 Radford \$53.00 Virginia \$57.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at [montcova.com](http://montcova.com) or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER, P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

Blacksburg Business License Reminder

Town of Blacksburg business license renewal forms for 2022 are due by Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Businesses are assessed an annual license tax based on prior year’s annual gross receipts.

Renewal forms and fees must be filed and paid by March 1, 2022 to avoid late filing and late payment penalties of 10% each and 10% interest.

Renewal applications were mailed in early January. If you have not received the application, email [businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov](mailto:businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov) or call 540.961.1108.

TOWN OF Blacksburg



**Dr. Megan Thomas has joined the staff of the New River Valley Community Health Center and will be serving patients in Christiansburg and Dublin and at the Student Health Center at Giles High School.**

## Advocate

from page 1

“That was a great sit-down conversation, and she let us ask any questions we wanted,” said Baker, who also participated in Advocacy Day two years ago as a freshman. “She was so kind and offered so much good advice to us.”

Baker, Bythewood, and other students also spoke highly of their experience meeting and talking with Virginia Del. Jason Ballard, who represents Radford and introduced the group during a House of Delegates session. “He is such a great guy,” Baker said, “and it’s nice to see he is making such a positive impact.”

In addition to sitting in on a House session, students toured the Capitol building.

Nineteen students were selected for the year’s Advocacy Day, a tradition that began more than 20 years ago. Before they ventured off to Richmond, a group of Radford faculty and administrators provided three training sessions, giving the students tips on greeting and talking with the lawmakers.

“The information was super helpful, and they laid out a simple presentation with a lot of data,” said Christiansburg senior sociology major Reed Yearwood, “about how the university works in terms of numbers, in terms of dollars, operational costs, and financial aid.”

*Chad Osborne  
Radford University*

# Dr. Megan Thomas joins NRV Community Health Center staff

Dr. Megan Cornwell Thomas has joined the staff of the Community Health Center of the New River Valley. She will be serving patients in Christiansburg and Dublin and at the Student Health Center at Giles High School. Dr. Thomas will be seeing patients for a full day at the Student Health Center each week, marking an expansion in the services at that location.

A graduate of Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), Dr. Thomas has extensive experience as a practitioner, teacher, speaker, and mentor. She completed an Internal Medicine

and Pediatrics residency at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Penn.

Dr. Thomas then returned to Montgomery County, serving as core faculty by supervising residents in the Internal Medicine Continuity Clinic at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery in Blacksburg and serving as the chair of internal medicine at VCOM. Throughout her career, she has mentored hundreds of students and interns and earned multiple teaching awards.

Dr. Thomas also serves on the Edward Via College of Osteopath-

ic Medicine faculty.

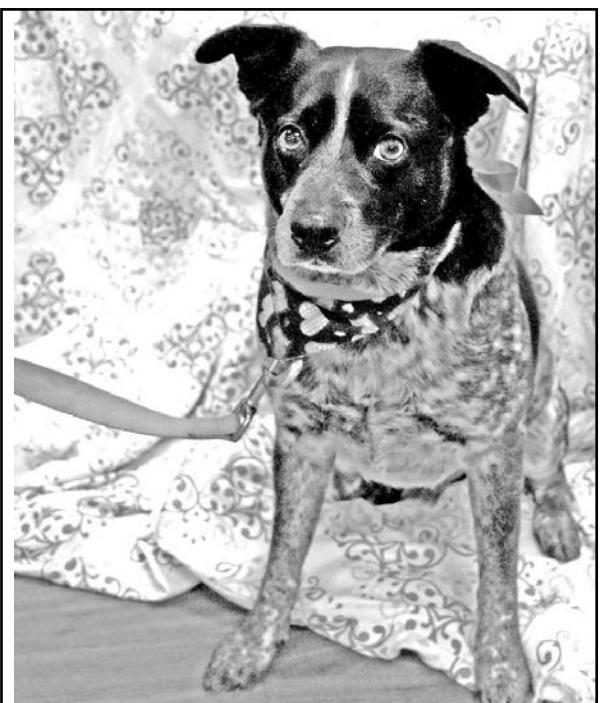
She is licensed by the Virginia Board of Medicine and is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics, the American Board of Internal Medicine, and the American Board of Osteopathic Internal Medicine.

Her volunteer work includes work with Apple Ridge Farms, academic coaching, participation in the Professional and Ethical Standards Board and Title IX, the Mountain Mission School in Grundy, and classroom presentations for students of all levels.

## PETS OF THE WEEK



**Rikki is a sweet, affectionate gal looking for her purrfect match. Once she gets comfortable in her space, she loves to be petted and will nuzzle anything and everything. Rikki is about a year old and enjoys attention from her favorite humans.**



**Rambo will need a patient home that will show him that the world isn’t such a scary place. This sweet boy can be a bit unsure and nervous, and his future humans will need to go slow with him as he learns to trust. He would do best in a home without children.**

# Professor uses starfish to create lightweight ceramics for automobile, aerospace industries

Compared to metal and polymer-based materials, ceramics can better withstand high temperatures and corrosive environments, but their brittle nature often makes them susceptible to breakage. This behavior potentially causes problems for innovators trying to create lightweight porous versions of these materials, explaining why ceramic foams are not typically used as structural components.

Facing the challenging task of developing lightweight, high-strength ceramic materials, Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor Ling Li has turned to an unexpected collaborator for design inspiration: the knobby starfish from the tropical Indo-Pacific. By investigating the complex and highly ordered mineralized skeletal system of this unusual marine species, Li and his research team discovered an unexpected combination of characteristics that may lead to developing an entirely new class of high-performance lightweight ceramic composites. Science Magazine featured their findings in a recent cover story.

Going light by going porous

Nature, through millions of years of evolution, has come up with an ingenious way of solving the problem of stronger materials possessing high densities and weighing more when the automobile and aerospace industries need strong and lightweight materials that thus combine fuel efficiency with strength: using porous materials.

Several examples of porous materials exist in nature. These include the human skeletal system, the stems of plants, and the hives of honeybees. If one places these natural

materials under a microscope, then one quickly discovers that they are filled with tiny voids or chambers. Natural growth forms these porous biological constructions very efficiently, and that formation often results in unexpectedly complex internal geometries.

Li and his team are investigating natural lightweight ceramic structures with the goal of developing new material design principles for addressing the mechanical weakness of ceramic foams and architected materials.

“Our overall goal is to learn and take inspiration from nature to develop novel porous materials,” Li said. “Nature offers many good material lessons for designing porous materials that are both strong and damage-tolerant.”

Starfish skeletons: A natural architected ceramic lattice

In his work, Li and his team turned their eyes to the skeleton of the knobby starfish. Widely distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific region, the species’ dried skeletons are often used for home decoration. These starfish feature cone-shaped projections that rise from their dorsal surface and discourage predators.

While observing samples of these starfish skeletons, Li and Ph.D. student Ting Yang (co-first author of the paper and now a post-doctoral fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), made an observation that piqued their interest: At the microscale, the starfish skeleton exhibited a lattice architecture with very regular arrangements of branches quite different from the porous structures of the cuttlebone and sea urchin spines previously studied.

In fact, the unique skeletal organization of this starfish exhibits the highest structural regularity ever reported from this group of invertebrates. Such regular lattice-like structures display remarkable similarities with space frame truss structures commonly employed in modern human construction projects. The body of the starfish naturally demonstrates high strength and flexibility. Uncovering the underlying principles of this structure may help solve the challenges of making stronger porous ceramics.

What the team found was unexpected. As in other starfish species, the skeleton of the knobby star consists of many millimeter-sized skeletal elements called ossicles. These ossicles connect with soft tissue, allowing the animal to be flexible and move. Li and his team discovered that each ossicle is constructed of a microlattice structure so uniform that it can be described mathematically, composed of branches connected through nodes in similar vein to the structure of the Eiffel Tower. Even more interesting, the team found the uniform structure of the microlattice, because



**To solve the problem created by the brittle nature of ceramics, VT assistant professor Ling Li and his research team have turned to the knobby starfish from the tropical Indo-Pacific. The result is a new class of high-performance lightweight ceramic composites.**

of the alignment of its atoms, is essentially a single crystal structure at atomic level.

“This unique material is like a periodic lattice carved from a piece of single crystal of calcite,” Li said. “This nearly perfect microlattice has not been reported in nature or fabricated synthetically before. This is new. It’s grown as a single piece.”

This structure allows a starfish to reinforce its skeleton strategically in particular directions, offering enhanced protection. In addition, it appears the animal can thicken branches along selected directions and

in particular regions, improving its mechanical performance in a similar manner to how the human body possesses the ability to alter the local geometry of its porous bones to adapt to physical activity.

Patricia Dove, an expert in biomineralization, a University Distinguished Professor, and the C.P. Miles Professor of Science in the Virginia Tech Department of Geosciences, said this biological discovery could have a major impact on the field of bio-inspired innovation.

“Starfish and other echinoderms living in highly predatory sea floor environments are revealing a world of materials innovations that are critical to survival,” Dove said. “Using little more than seawater and some organic components, biology directs the formation of remarkable skeletons such as those in starfish. This novel study of the underlying mechanical engineering properties has tremendous potential as a frontier for new materials design.”

### What Does Game Time Mean?

★ Bowling for all ages

★ Laser Tag

★ Arcade (some of newest games on market)

★ Spin Bumpers

**Activities for all ages in a safe,  
healthy and fun atmosphere**

**575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg  
540-382-5525 • www.nrvsuperbowl.biz**

- Forestry Mulching/Brush Cutting
- Right of Way & Land Clearing
- Stream & Pond Services
- Light Excavating/Grading
- Pipe & Culvert Cleaning
- Rock & Stump Removal
- Crane Services
- Bucket Truck Services
- Underground Utilities
- Storm Water Management
- Site Prep • Small Job Specialty

## APX Services LLC

540-566-6920

OPINION

Virginia gas prices rose by another 8.4 cents last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia rose 8.4 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.36/g Monday, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 21.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 95.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.83/g Monday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.16/g. The national average price of gasoline rose 4.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.47/g Monday. The national average is up 16.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 97.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

“The jump in gasoline prices has continued unabated as oil prices continue to push higher, reaching \$94 per barrel last week on continued concern over the possible imminent threat that Russia may invade Ukraine,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “Not only are oil prices up, but the bulk of the nation is starting the multi-month transition to summer gasoline, further adding to the rise at the pump. In addition, cold weather in Texas last week caused some power outages at major refineries, further weighing on markets,” said De Haan. “I see no other potentials in the short term but additional price increases unless Russia does an about-face on Ukraine. Even then, we’ll still see seasonality push prices up, so motorists should be ready to dig deeper.”

*GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy’s survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.*

WalletHub: Virginia is seventh-best educated state in America

As the personal finance website WalletHub declares, for millions of Americans, a good education is the ticket to a better future.

To determine which state’s citizens are the most educated, WalletHub compared all 50 states. Virginia emerged from the survey as the seventh-best educated state in the country.

WalletHub notes that college opens doors to more career opportunities, higher earnings and new social connections, among other benefits, according to the website. But how much schooling one receives also matters to some extent. Generally, the higher the level of education one completes, the higher their income potential and the lower their chances of unemployment become.

One of the biggest difficulties for education in the past two years, according to WalletHub, has been the COVID-19 pandemic, and colleges currently face the struggle of balancing campus safety with returning to in-person classes. Amid these struggles, some states are able to provide safe, quality education more than others.

In its study, WalletHub compared all 50 states across 18 metrics that examined the key factors of a well-educated population: educational attainment, school quality and achievement gaps between genders and races.

How educated is Virginia? The commonwealth’s ranking in some of the website’s key metrics was as follows with 1 being the most educated and 25 being average:

Percentage of high-school diploma holders, 28; Percentage of associate’s degree holders or college-experienced adults, 8; Percentage of bachelor’s degree holders, 6; Percentage of graduate or professional degree holders, 4; Average university quality, 24; gender gap in educational attainment 1.

According to WalletHub’s survey, the 10 most educated states are 1. Massachusetts 2. Maryland 3. Connecticut 4. Colorado 5. Vermont 6. New Jersey 7. Virginia 8. New Hampshire 9. Minnesota 10. Washington.

At the opposite end of the rankings are the 10 least educated states: 41. Tennessee 42. New Mexico 43. Nevada 44. Oklahoma 45. Kentucky 46. Alabama 47. Arkansas 48. Louisiana 49. Mississippi 50. West Virginia.

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: [www.ourvalley.org](http://www.ourvalley.org)

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

[editor@ourvalley.org](mailto:editor@ourvalley.org)

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

[communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

[lhurst@ourvalley.org](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

[advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto:advertise@ourvalley.org)

Give us your view:

[editor@ourvalley.org](mailto:editor@ourvalley.org)

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Home Country: When it’s winter in Alaska, it could be 40 below

**Slim Randles**  
*Contributing writer*

Dear Editor:

Been thinking about some good results of this pandemic, and I think I found one. I went into the bank wearing a mask the other day and asked that nice lady for money. And I didn’t get shot!

You know, it didn’t really seem like the day was so auspicious. It was cold. There was snow on the ground there on the baseball diamond. But then, it’s winter in Alaska ... Anchorage, actually, and it should be cold.

First Saturday in March, 1973. More than 40 dog teams were there, getting lined out and harnessed by mushers and their handlers. I was one of those dog

mushers. We had a couple of world champions to race against and a lot of folks like me ... called “recreational” mushers by the big shots in racing. In my case, my cabin was more than 12 miles from pavement, and dog sledding was how we got to the car.

We kept looking at each other and silently asking, “Are we really going to do this?”

Are we really going to drive these teams 1,100 miles across Alaska and end up in Nome?

Well, yes. Most of the teams got there. I didn’t. I crushed an ankle about halfway to Nome ... and was flown by helicopter back to a hospital in Anchorage.

But at least I was part of it. “It” was the very first Iditarod Dog Sled Race. I had seven dogs, which was the minimum allowed,

and I had to borrow someone’s house pet to get the seven. The next year the minimum was nine dogs, so my one distinction is being the only guy to start the race with seven dogs.

There are still some old people up in that country who’ll know who you’re talking about if you mention “Seven-Dog Slim.” And as the teams leave Anchorage for this winter’s long, cold, camping trip, you mushers and dogs can count on good luck prayers from ol’ Seven-Dog Slim.

Be careful and take care of your dogs. It’s a very long way to Nome.

*Brought to you by “Dogsled, A True Tale of the North” by Slim Randles, now an Amazon.com book.*

Hendrix

from page 1

“They were always supportive,” Hendrix said. “The conversation was data driven. I tried to explain to them the differentia-

tion between poker and blackjack. People always think they’re similar, but they’re very, very different. In one, you’re in control of your cards, and you have to beat your opponent, whereas in blackjack, you’re strictly playing against the house.

“I had to show them my online play, and over 1,000 individual tournaments, how I was doing,” Hendrix said. “I think they saw that I was very passionate about it, and they always told me to be responsible about it. If it’s not working out, or if you’re not taking it seriously as a job, then come back to your degree and do something in that. I always took that to heart and treated this as a business.”

Hendrix first picked up the game as a child when he and relatives played for small change at his grandmother’s home in Homer, Alaska – Hendrix’s birthplace. But he somewhat lost touch with it while bouncing around the world. His father worked in the oil and gas industry, and his job took the family to places

such as Aberdeen, Scotland, and Cairo, Egypt.

Hendrix attended an international school in Cairo starting in the ninth grade and ultimately graduated from that school. He thought about going to college and playing soccer at the Colorado School of Mines, but the death of a good friend led to him realizing that he wanted to be near family. The combination of being near relatives in eastern Tennessee – his parents went to the University of Tennessee – and Blacksburg’s small-town vibe made the university a perfect fit.

While at Tech, he came across some friends playing poker in a community room at now-demolished Thomas Hall, where he lived. He tried his luck and ultimately won big that night. That rekindled his interest in the game, and he later joined a poker club started by one of the guys, playing once a week.

He gradually played more frequently, particularly at nights throughout his college days while remaining on top

of his studies. In 2015, he graduated and found a position working for the government contractor in Northern Virginia, but poker was never far from his thoughts.

Hendrix quit his job in July of 2017 and joined the world of professional poker. He headed to the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, and at his first tournament, he joined a tournament playing Pot Limit Omaha 8 or Better. Out of 850 players, he finished second for \$137,992.

“That really propelled my career and made my parents somewhat see or feel more comfortable about the profession I was going into,” he said.

Today, Hendrix plays in tournaments all over the country, everywhere from Las Vegas, where he and another player rent a home on “The Strip,” to California to Cherokee, N.C. (home of the Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort). His schedule varies, but he has played seven days a week in tournaments that last 10- to 12-hour days.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
11					12						13	14	15
16					17				18				
19				20	21			22	23			24	
25						26					27		
28					29					30			
				31	32				33				
34	35	36	37					38					
39						40	41	42					
43					44					45	46	47	48
49				50					51	52			
53			54					55					
56		57					58				59		
60					61	62					63		
			64								65		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Remain as is

5. Functional

11. News magazine

12. Popular treat

16. Area units

17. Artificial intelligence

18. Marten valued for its fur

19. Forms of matter

24. Home of the Dodgers

25. Bordering

26. Part of the eye

27. It might be nervous

28. Visualizes

29. Crest of a hill

30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)

31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)

33. Not easily explained

34. Song in short stanzas

38. Detonations

39. Intestinal

40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri

43. Balmy

44. New Mexico mountain town

45. Gobblers

49. Insecticide

50. Golf scores

51. Has its own altar

53. “Pollock” actor Harris

54. Being livable

56. NHL play-by-play man

58. “The Great Lakes State” (abbr.)

59. Unpainted

60. Swam underwater

63. Native American people

64. Containing salt

65. Exam

CLUES DOWN

1. Small bone in middle ear

2. Long, angry speech

3. Move out of

4. Male organ

5. Two-toed sloth

6. Making dirty

7. Article

8. Oil company

9. Emits coherent radiation

10. Amounts of time

13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)

14. Forbidden by law

15. Drains away

20. Not out

21. Sea patrol (abbr.)

22. Bird genus

23. Gratuity

27. \_\_\_ and feathers

29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)

30. Hot beverage

31. Pouch

32. It followed the cassette

33. Large northern deer

34. Ones who offer

35. Famed genie

36. Bequeathed

37. Skeletal muscle

38. Atomic #56

40. Silk garment

41. They deliver the mail

42. Equally

44. Check

45. Light-colored breed of hound

46. Drug that soothes

47. Railroads

48. Most slick

50. Jacket

51. A radio band

52. Hello

54. His and \_\_\_

55. Supporter

57. Popular software suite (abbr.)

61. Railway

62. NY coastal region (abbr.)

Submit letters to the editor to [editor@ourvalley.org](mailto:editor@ourvalley.org)



# OBITUARIES

## Tickle, Robert Edward “Ed”

Robert Edward “Ed” Tickle, 88, of Christiansburg, passed away Friday, Feb. 11, 2022. He owned Mr. Ed’s Grocery Store in Fairlawn and was an avid racing fan.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents, Garnett and Artie Tickle.

Survivors include his sister, Rose Ann Tickle of Rocky Mount; a nephew, Michael Agee and his wife, Dee, and their children, Crystal and Evan; a niece, Cindy Runyon and her husband, Dale, and

their daughter, Stephanie; and special friend Brittney Sowers and her family.

The family will receive friends from noon until 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Greg Harrell officiating. Interment will follow in the Montgomery Cemetery on Highland Road in Dublin.

The Tickle family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Fontenot, Eula Bertrand

Eula Bertrand Fontenot, 92, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, of Blacksburg, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her children, on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022.

Eula was born Feb. 25, 1929, to the late Orelis and Etis Bertrand in Mamou, La. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 71 years, Joseph Paul Fontenot.

She is survived by her six children, Beatrice (Thommy) Mills of Blacksburg; Karleen Fontenot of Blacksburg; Sue (Tim) Haeberle, of Spring, Texas; Debbie (Joe) Pallini of Tomball, Texas; Paul (Jeannette) Fontenot of Bel Air, Md.; and Linda (Tim) Winder of Glen Allen, Va.; Eula is also survived by her 15 grandchildren: Kara Mills (Daniel Pinckney), Elizabeth Guinn (James Thomas), Caroline (Matt) Harbert, Hunter (Jennifer) Haeberle, Heather Haeberle, Kelly (Toug) Tanavin, Michael (Diana) Pallini, Matthew Pallini, Joe (Leathy) Fontenot, Dana Fontenot, Adam Fontenot, Emily Winder, Kevin Winder, Eric Winder, and Katie Winder. Seven great-grandchildren also survive: Brandon Pinckney, Lauren Pinckney, Rowan Harbert, Gavin Harbert, Hannah Haeberle, Madeline Tanavin, and Jaxon Fontenot. She is also survived by two sisters, Glenda Manuel and Delores Stagg, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Eula resided in Blacksburg from 1956 until her death and was a strong supporter of the Hokies and a proud pioneer season-ticket holder at Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum. She was an active member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church where she was in-



involved in many ministries, including Communion Minister, Ladies Guild, Bereavement Food Ministry, and Assistant Director of Religious Education.

Eula had many interests, including cooking. She also enjoyed traveling the world, having traveled with her beloved husband to four continents and extensively around the United States.

Above all else she was a devout Catholic, a strong family woman, and a great friend to everyone. She looked forward to the family’s annual beach vacation in North Myrtle Beach.

The family would like to thank the many special caregivers who provided her loving care and companionship and the nurses and staff at Showalter Center.

A private rosary service and funeral mass will be held at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Blacksburg, with the Rev. John Asare officiating. Interment will follow in Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley. There will be no visitation. The funeral mass will be available for viewing on [facebook.com/stmarysblacksburg](https://facebook.com/stmarysblacksburg) beginning at 11 a.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 1205 Old Mill Rd., #3705, Blacksburg, Va. 24060 or The Joseph P. Fontenot Appreciation Club, American Society of Animal Science, P. O. Box 7410, Champaign, Ill., 61826-7410 (217) 356-9050, which provides graduate student travel to the National and Southern Section ASAS meetings.

## Pat and Howard Yates

The funeral for Pat and Howard Yates, who died on Dec. 27, 2021, will be held at noon on Feb. 19, 2022, at Victory Restoration Church, 190 Bishops Gate Road in Christiansburg.

The family requests that masks be worn. Arrangements



are by McCoy Funeral Home.

No visitation will be held.

The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Pat and Howard’s name to the Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Road, Pilot, VA 24138.

## Elmore, David Allen

David Allen Elmore, 48, of Christiansburg, died Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, at home after a lengthy illness. He was a member of Victory Restoration Church in Christiansburg.

David was loved by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Katherine E. Elmore; a son, Robert M. (Robbie) Elmore; his parents, John and Arneda Elmore; his brother and sister-in-law, Jason and Sheila Elmore, and their children, Jordan, Averie, and Dylan; his cousin, Robert and Brenda



Mash; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Jane and Ron Putnam; and very special friends Luke Williams, Roger Allen, Jr., and Chuck Estep.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Jamie Hutton and Jason Elmore officiating. Burial will follow in Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg.

The family will receive friends Thursday from 1 p.m. until service time at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Cadets

from page 1

major (top-ranking junior) for the corps’ 1st Battalion, and other responsibilities round out one busy schedule.

His Emerging Leadership Scholarship allows him to do that. These Corps of Cadets scholarships provide \$2,000 a year for four years, as long as cadets meet academic and fitness standards.

“I don’t have to stretch myself so thin,” DiNonno said. “Because of the scholarship, I can focus on my education and the things that matter.”

Endowed Emerging Leader Scholarships currently support about 850 cadets. Supplementing that is the VTCC Scholarship Annual Fund, which provides additional need and merit-based support to help cadets overcome the costs of tuition and education-related expenses.

This academic year, the VTCC Scholarship Annual Fund is providing an additional 21 Emerging Leader Scholarships to first-year cadets, such as Patrick Droney, who’s majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering.

Giving to the VTCC Scholarship Annual

Fund is just one way alumni and friends can support today’s cadets and the corps’ leader development program during the university’s upcoming Giving Day, which runs for 24 hours starting at noon, Feb. 23.

“The most memorable part of my freshman year so far has been the football games, especially the big ones like North Carolina and Notre Dame,” Droney said. “Getting to make the tunnel for the team while jumping around to ‘Enter Sandman’ has to be one of the coolest experiences I’ve ever had, and I can’t wait for games to start up again in the fall.”

Even more importantly, donations to the VTCC Scholarship Annual Fund can help provide emergency scholarships to cadets who experience unexpected financial need during the semester, said Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, the commandant of cadets.

“The scholarship fund is enormously important to us because it provides a financial lifeline to cadets who suddenly find themselves struggling to stay at Virginia Tech,” Fullhart said. “At this critical time as the nation continues to deal with the pandemic and rising inflation, this type of fund is more important than ever.”

## Nester, Velma Ruth Alderman

Velma Ruth Alderman Nester, 73, of Christiansburg, previously from Radford, passed away surrounded by family after her long battle with metastatic breast cancer on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022.

Velma was born on Oct. 24, 1948, in Shorts Creek, Carroll County, to the late Orby Kyress Alderman and Betty Ruth White Alderman.

She was a graduate of Hillsville High School, Wytheville Community College, and Radford University. For 37 years, Velma was a human resources manager with Kollmorgen/Inland Motor of Radford. Colleagues at Kollmorgen were like second family, where she built lifelong cherished friendships.

Velma married Vander Maurice Nester in 1967. Eventually, Radford became their permanent home where they raised their daughters, Wendy and Kari.

She was an adoring grandmother to her three grandchildren: Kean, Indira



and Jennabelle.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Vander Maurice Nester; and her brothers Gaylon Alderman and Carlos Alderman. She is survived by her daughters, Wendy Nester Curtis (Jeremy) and Kari Nester Edward (Steven Lee); grandchildren Kean Vander Eckert, Indira Rose Edwards, and Jennabelle Mercedes

Curtis; her siblings, Martin Alderman, Guida Alphadean Alderman Nester, and Wanda Alderman Mullins; brother and sister in laws Elsie Alderman, Brenda Alderman, Wayne Nester, Allen and Jill Nester, Sonja and Dennis D’Souza, and Timmy and Joyce Nester; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Memorial services will be for the immediate family in the summer of 2022 by request of the deceased. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

## Wilson, Peggy Graham

Peggy Graham Wilson, 86, of Radford, passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ninian and Lula Mae Graham; her husband, Bernie Allen Wilson; five sisters; and a brother.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Gloria and Dwight Boyd, Elaine and Bill Austin, and Lisa and Michael Davison; grandchildren Russ Boyd (Sarah), Laura Farmer (Will), Lindsay Van (Andrew), Sam Austin, and Mallory Austin; great-grandchildren Campbell, Landen, Violet, Karrigan, Graham, Eleanor, Autumn, Winnie Joy,



and Cooper; and many special nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends from noon until 1 p.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at Unity Christian Church in Radford. Services will begin at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Wendy Wilson and the Rev. Dr. Gina Rhea officiating. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Unity Christian Church.

The Wilson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).



# MINERAL MADNESS SAVINGS!

Valid Now Through 3/31/22 *plus* Special Financing Available!  
See store for details.









YOUR CHRISTIANSBURG SOUTHERN STATES IS YOUR LIVESTOCK HEADQUARTERS

For the New River Valley

885 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, VA 24073 • (540) 382-2984  
Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm • Saturday: 8:00am - 3:00pm

SOUTHERNSTATES.COM





# Class project engineers a love story

Group projects are designed to teach you the keys to successful teamwork, but two Construction Engineering and Management alumni found their partner for life.

Linley Pierson '21 and Brandon Wade '20 first met in Introduction to Construction Engineering and Management. CEM Program Chair and Assistant Professor of Practice Ashley Johnson placed them together in a housing community group project. Johnson said she groups them based on their StrengthsFinder results and their approach to assignments. Pierson's top strength was a relationship builder while Wade was a strategic thinker.

"They spent a lot of time doing group projects, group work and team things, so I could see that they were sitting close to each other, so it just kind of seemed like they were friends or knew each other," said Johnson.

The project brought the pair closer together through studying and getting ready for presentations together. Often, they found themselves at the library for group projects ahead of their other partners, which left them more time to get to know each other.

"Brandon just wanted to do the CAD (computer-aided design), and I just wanted to talk about my problems, so we kind of became friends from there," Pierson recalled.

Despite having more classes together, becoming lab partners, and sitting with each other, they were still just friends. They once again found themselves in Johnson's class, but this time they could pick their own group partners.

"No matter what, we would always be in a group together so we were always hanging out," Wade said.

While taking Johnson's Scheduling and Estimating, they decided to go on a date. It was in true Virginia Tech style with a Hokie basketball game and trip to PK's Bar & Grill.

"I think we were both kind of nervous because we didn't really consider it a date, but we both knew it was a date," said Pierson. "I would say that I didn't know how he felt, and I'm not sure if he knew how I felt."

But the butterflies calmed down after that, and their relationship continued for the rest of their time at Virginia Tech.

"It seemed obvious to me ... they were closer than any of my other students," said Johnson.

As they looked ahead to graduation, suddenly the decision for where to move involved two opinions.

"I remember those discussions and I was like 'that's really sweet that you're thinking about that and doing it that way,'" said Johnson.

They now live in Nashville, Tenn., working in the industry in which they



Linley Pierson and Brandon Wade tie the knot in front of friends and family. Courtesy Jade Sutherland Photography.

met. Linley is a Project Engineer for J.E. Dunn, and Wade works with 3D modeling as a Project Engineer for R.C. Matthews Contractor.

As they look back on their time at Virginia Tech, both of them point to Johnson's classes as their favorite. While Wade enjoyed learning the scheduling and estimating side of construction Pierson treasures her time in her intro-

duction-level course not only because it led her to her now husband, but because she was able to learn more about the industry she now calls her own.

"It made me feel rounded and like this is where I want to be and this is what I want to do," said Pearson.

Written by Ashley Wills

# Analytics in sports: There's a stat for that

For which batters should the New York Mets put on the infield shift?

Paul Sabin has a stat for that.

Why is LeBron James still playing near his peak at an age when most other NBA greats have already retired?

Sabin has a stat for that, too.

Whereas most sports fans see athletes, X's and O's when watching a game, Sabin – an ESPN sports data scientist who received his Ph.D. in statistics from Virginia Tech in 2019 – is all

about the numbers.

He shared his analytical insights at 1 p.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 16 as the keynote speaker in "Nerds and Jocks Unite – What's Next in the Sports Analytics Revolution?" part of the Northern Virginia Technology Council Data Science Speaker Series in partnership with Virginia Tech.

"In some sense, sports analytics has become a loaded term," said Sabin, "but it's really the idea of deriving insights from data and using data to make better decisions

when it comes to scouting, drafting, in-game decisions like going for it on fourth down or trying for a 2-point conversion, and so forth."

Analytics has become so sophisticated that in today's NBA game, player-tracking technology allows teams to gather 25 data points per second for each player on the basketball court.

"What's next is not just using player tracking data for game strategy, but advancing frontiers in sports science and injury prevention," Sabin said. "I think we'll see

huge strides in that, and players like Tom Brady playing until the age of 44, or Serena Williams, or LeBron James playing not too far from his peak at an age when Michael Jordan was wrapping up his career."

At ESPN, Sabin is one of just four data scientists. "Our motto is to serve sports fans anytime, anywhere, so we're always trying to create good content and storytelling," he said. "It's our job to educate fans, to provide content and context for games."

Sabin has produced and hosted alternative ESPN broadcasts that focus more on data, statistics, even gambling odds, for a few NFL and MLB games – a trend likely to continue and grow.

"There's no other sports media network that has a team like us that is as ingrained in production and broadcasts," he said.

Much of the nation's fascination with analytics can be traced to the 2011 movie "Moneyball" starring Brad Pitt as the Oakland A's general manager who was among the first to adopt a data-first strategy over eye-based scouting.

At the time of the movie's premier, Sabin, a native of Montgomery County, Md., was an undergraduate statistics student at Brigham Young University. He and his group of friends "all chose sports projects when we had a choice to

do research," he said. "I don't think I would have been able to have gotten a Ph.D. if I couldn't have worked with sports data. The subject became a lot more tangible when I could apply it to sports."

Today, those friends have all found careers in sports: one is director of analytics for the Sacramento Kings, another worked for the Cleveland Cavaliers and Detroit Pistons.

Ready for graduate school in 2014, Sabin desired to move back East, and a BYU professor connected him with David Higdon, head of Virginia Tech's Department of Statistics, part of the College of Science.

While Higdon's research focused on more traditional applications such as a company's customer orders and supply chain issues, the professor has become a huge cheerleader of Sabin's career.

"When I started in statistics, people just didn't collect data in this way [for sports]," said Higdon. "Sports analytics was only just starting then and no one was having a career."

Higdon is working to ensure Virginia Tech keeps up with this demand. He's approved one-time classes like "Baseball Statistics" as well as independent study projects for stats students who helped the Hokie softball team design better batting orders.

"So far it's been a one-off thing, and the next step for us in our department is how to make this more permanent," Higdon said. "I think we're going to try to crack that nut over this next year."

Through Higdon, Sabin was invited by Virginia Tech statistics professor Thomas Woteki, who is director of the Academy of Data Science, to speak to the Northern Virginia Technology Council.

I got my Ph.D. about 100 years ago," Woteki laughed. "Nobody ever envisioned a statistician having a career in sports. If I had foreseen that I would probably be a very wealthy man."

"Analytics affects every part of sports business from evaluating strategy during a game to the back end with social media engagement and the return on investment from your business partners," Woteki said. "Everyone understands sports as a fan or spectator, but that same impact is pervasive in almost every line of business. We're all providers of information these days whether we intend to be or not because of the devices we carry around. That's how Facebook makes money by providing this information to advertisers."

Still, what makes sports exciting isn't the increasing reliance on data and statistics, but the unquantifiable human element.



Precision Fabrics, manufacturer of high-performance fabrics for highly technical applications is currently seeking quality people for multiple positions at our weaving facility.

## Openings:

Precision Fabrics Group is currently seeking experienced Weaver and Loom Technicians as well as other support positions for our facility located in Vinton VA.

## About Us:

Precision Fabrics was founded in 1988 as a spin-off of Burlington Industries. The Company has evolved from a traditional textile company into an engineered materials business, focused on highly technical, high-quality fabrics. The success of our business is built upon the loyalty and quality of our workforce. The average seniority of a Vinton employee is 20 years! We are looking for employees who have a career in mind!

## The Positions:

The successful candidate for any of the positons will have basic math skills and a mechanical aptitude.

- Most positions are 7pm – 7am and a 3-2-2 schedule
- Excellent attendance is a must.
- Most support position/entry level positions start at \$15.68/hr
- Salary for Weavers is currently \$19.50/hr
- Salary for Maintienance Technicians \$19.50/hr - \$21.42/hr

## The Facility:

Precision Fabrics facilities are non-smoking; Health and Safety are of utmost importance. To support the health and well-being of our employees we have a Nurse Practitioner on site. We also have an award winning safety program. The lunchroom contains market style vending, microwaves, icemaker, TV and free Wi-Fi access. We also have indoor and outdoor areas for employees to enjoy on breaks. The manufacturing areas are climate controlled.

Our Vinton VA plant is located at 323 West Virginia Avenue, Vinton VA 24179. (From I581, take Elm Ave toward Vinton. (Elm turns into Bullitt Ave, then into Dale Ave and then finally West Virginia Ave –just stay straight) The "Welcome to Vinton" sign is in our front yard.

## Why Should You Apply?

Precision Fabrics offers employees a competitive benefit package including:

- Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance
- Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability and Accident Insurance
- 401K with employer match
- Advancement Opportunities
- Life Insurance
- 80 hours of vacation after 90 days
- Referral Bonus
- Retention Bonus - \$300 after 120 days, \$1200 after 1 year

## Interested?

To apply, submit an application or send resume to sharon.pandolfini@precisionfabrics.com. Contact Human Resources at 540-343-4448 X1130 or 540-339-2337 if you have any questions.



Paul Sabin, center backgroud, is an ESPN sports data scientist who received his PhD in statistics from Virginia Tech in 2019.





# Marketplace



THE FINECASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

## Yard Sales - Botetourt County

### Large Items Sale: Exercise Bike, Chipper/Shredder, Leather Recliner, Bikes

Items available for view from 9 am to 2 pm Feb 19/20  
Call 540-750-6142 to confirm time/location (Troutville area)  
Shipping/delivery unavailable unless asking price paid in full  
Cash only

### LiveSTRONG Recumbent Exercise Bike

Mod no LS6.0R, manual included; condition - as is, very light use  
Price: \$150.00

### Troy Bilt Chipper/Shredder

Mod No CS 4325, 250 cc Briggs & Stratton engine 5 bushels, Reduction Ratio 10-1; max 3" branches, 13 ga hopper 10" x 4" tires; owner's manual included; condition - never used, no fluid in engine  
Price: \$300.00

### Smith Brothers of Berne, NC - Recliner (pressback)

Style/model 705-33; deep red leather; moderate usage, good condition  
Price: \$150

### Bicycles - 1 men's, 1 women's

2009 Specialized Globe, Carmel 7/4 700C; #P9CA30910; black Usage: men's - light, women's none; condition - needs minor work  
Price \$60 each, \$100 for both

## Yard Sales - Craig County

### Indoor Yard Sale

61 Meadow Ave New Castle  
Friday Feb 25 & Saturday Feb 26 9-5  
New and used Cat furniture and cat cages, Large selection of DVDs and CDs  
Household Wall Art  
Variety of dishes and glasses  
Old piano (for free)

## Yard Sales - Salem

### Estate Sale

2913 Elderwood Off Texas Hollow Signs posted  
Fri 2/18 & Sat 2/19 10am-2pm  
Sun until 3pm  
Chestnut Victorian Dresser  
Wardrobe Combo, Homemade Oak Cupboard  
Large Country Table  
Wurlitzer Piano, Keyboard  
Dining Furniture  
Glass & China  
Collectibles & More

## For Sale - Firewood

### FIREWOOD

Mixed Hardwood.  
Call 540-529-2745  
Delivery in Botetourt only

## For Sale - Misc

### FOR SALE

Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

## MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

## Help Wanted - Clerical

### National Bank

is currently seeking candidates for full-time Teller positions in Montgomery County, Pulaski County and the City of Radford. We offer a professional working environment along with great schedules. The successful candidate must enjoy a team atmosphere and be committed to providing outstanding customer service. We are looking for someone who has the desire to work closely with customers to help them succeed and reach their financial goals. The proper applicant will manage traffic flow in an efficient manner. Prior retail experience is a definite plus. National Bank offers full-time employees a benefits package that includes health, dental, life, and long-term disability insurance and excellent retirement plans. Interested applicants should complete an application found on our website at [www.nbbank.com/job-openings](http://www.nbbank.com/job-openings)

## Help Wanted - General

### Quality Inn Radford

Hiring Full-Part Time Front Desk Clerk/Night Auditor and Housekeeping. Apply in Person. Ph-540-639-3000

## Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email [lhurst@ourvalley.org](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

## Legals - Botetourt County

### ABC NOTICE

Garrett's Bistro and Spirits LLC, trading as Garrett's Bistro and Spirits, 19386 Main St, Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia 24066.

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

Daniel Garrett, Member

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## Legals - City of Radford

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317, 20-104  
**Case No. CL21006521-00**  
Radford Circuit Court  
619 SECOND STREET, 24141  
KESSINGER, JOSEPH L. v. KESSINGER, PATRICIA G.  
The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN A DICORCE FROM THE BOND OF MATRIMONY  
It is ORDERED that PATRICIA G. KESSINGER appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before APRIL 5, 2022.

February 8, 2022  
Angel Turpin  
Deputy Clerk

## Legals - City of Radford

### Notice

ESTATE of Charlie Preston Hall (11/27/1935 – 03/09/2021) Seeks Biological Children or Possible Heir(s) of Mr. Hall's estate to contact 540-392-8445.

## Legals - Montgomery County

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE § 8.01-316  
**Case No. JJ018698-15**  
Montgomery County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court MCDSS  
/v.  
Charles E. Barkley, Jr.  
The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Charles E. Barkley, Jr. legal parent of James Barkley a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonably likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time, failed to maintain continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition.  
It is ORDERED that Charles E. Barkley, Jr. appear at the above-named Court and protect her interests on or before March 14, 2022.

2-1-22  
Amie Blankenship  
Clerk

And being the property conveyed to James W. Dean and Betty Jane Dean Family Trust, from James W. Dean and Betty Y. Dean (Also known as Betty Jane Dean), husband and wife, by Deed dated September 1, 1994 and recorded September 30, 1994 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 853, Page 634.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Plat Book 71 at Page 234.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: James W. Dean and Betty Dean Family Trust, whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before March 7, 2022 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

## Legals - Montgomery County

### VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **Case No. CL21001960-00**  
Complainant, v.  
JAMES W. DEAN AND BETTY DEAN FAMILY TRUST, Respondent(s).

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 287- A 87 Account No. 004809

All that certain lot or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin the west side of Water Street Extended, at the northeast corner of the Lot, now or formerly owned by, Pauline Bowles Dillon; thence, with the line of said lot S. 49 degrees 20'E. 80 feet to an alley, a corner; thence, with said alley N. 49 degrees E. 200 feet to Water Street, Extended, a corner; thence, with said Water Street Extension, N. 38 degrees 20'W. 80 feet to the point of beginning.

And being the property conveyed to James W. Dean and Betty Jane Dean Family Trust, from James W. Dean and Betty Y. Dean (Also known as Betty Jane Dean), husband and wife, by Deed dated September 1, 1994 and recorded September 30, 1994 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 853, Page 634.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Plat Book 71 at Page 234.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: James W. Dean and Betty Dean Family Trust, whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before March 7, 2022 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC  
P.O. Box 31800  
Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 545-2500  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2378  
TACS No.: 742177

Entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk  
Judge

## Legals - Town of Vinton

### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the **Planning Commission** of the Town of Vinton, Virginia hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on **Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. The Planning Commission will also hold a dinner on February 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by a work session at 6:30 p.m., prior to the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments concerning:

An ordinance repealing in its entirety the Vinton Town Code, Appendix B - Zoning Ordinance as adopted by Ordinance 634, enacted December 19, 1995, with amendments, and adopting by reference the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Vinton, Vinton, Virginia.

Further information concerning this public hearing may be obtained in the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, (540) 983-0605, between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing.

Given under my hand this 3rd day of February, 2022.

Anita J. McMillan  
Planning and Zoning Director  
Secretary, Vinton Planning Commission

NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend the meetings. Please call (540) 983-0605 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that proper arrangements may be made.

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment to the Town of Vinton's FY 2021-2022 budget to appropriate funding as follows:

1. From the FY21 Federal and State Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)/Road Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) for the Gus Nicks Boulevard Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project in the amount of \$403,912.00.
2. From the FY20 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for the Hardy Road Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project in the amount of \$497,911.00.
3. From the General Fund \$307.00 transfer to the Stormwater Fund for local matching requirements.

Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson  
Town Clerk

## STATEWIDE ADS

### AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landonc@vpa.net" landonc@vpa.net

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-877-636-0738

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-833-688-1378

### STATEWIDE ADS

### RECRUITMENT

HIRING? We can help you fill your open positions! Promote job listings regionally or statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Advertising Solutions reaching potential candidates. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landonc@vpa.net" landonc@vpa.net

### STATEWIDE ADS

# BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

**DRFAME**  
ALLERGY  
ASTHMA

540-404-9598  
1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153  
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM

**SENIOR FOR SENIORS**  
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Cell: 540-293-4271

**ROOF LEAKS?**

**CIRCLE R ROOFING OF VIRGINIA**

Call for a FREE Estimate  
Rob Gendreau • 540.784.0500

**embrace**  
homeloans

Robin Jewell  
Senior Loan Officer / NMLS# 235597  
540.309.5013  
rjewell@embracehomeloans.com  
www.embracehomeloans.com/robin-jewell  
5044 Keagy Road, Suite H100  
Roanoke, VA 24018

Embrace Home Loans, Inc. (NMLS ID#2184) is licensed in VA.  
(www.nmlsconsumeraccess.com)

**FOX RADIO 910**  
Roanoke and 104.3 FM  
CBS SPORTS RADIO

**The Radio Home of the World Champion Atlanta Braves**

www.foxradioroanoke.com  
(540) 343-7109

**Lisa Martin, REALTOR®**  
Serving the industry for 30+ years  
Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains  
**Premier, REALTORS**  
(540) 597-0480  
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com  
1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101  
Daleville, VA 24083

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices**  
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

**MHC**  
Monroe Health Center

**Craig County Health Center**  
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA  
Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356

\*Physical Exams \* X-ray Services  
\* Laboratory Services \* Acute Care  
\*Mental Health Services \* Well Baby Checks  
**ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

**CARPET RE-STRETCHING!**  
**STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS**

Repairs • New Sales • Expert  
540-776-9591  
Cell: 540-353-7908  
Licensed & Insured  
carpetroanoke.com

**Sunflooring Inc.**  
**STEVE SMITH**

With over 40 years of experience

Specializing in Hardwood Floors,  
Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring,  
Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile,  
Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank  
540-556-3100

**CUSTER'S PLASTERING AND DRYWALL**

- No job too large or small
- Repair work, new construction, etc.
- Quality Work At A Reasonable Price

Call 864-6498

**THE CLASSIFIEDS-**  
Where the Deals Are!

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

**ZACH HAMMONS REALTOR®**  
CELL 540-915-8392  
OFFICE 540-966-1277  
zhammons@mkbrealtors.com  
www.mkbrealtors.com

25 Wendover Road,  
Daleville, VA 24083

**MKB REALTORS**  
DALEVILLE

**SOUTHERN TRACE ROOFING**

**Roof Replacement & Repair**  
540-966-0688  
PO Box 630  
Daleville, VA 24083  
www.southerntracellc.com

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**  
Opportunity is knocking loud and clear.

**SITUATIONS WANTED**  
Find a job in your special field, or find the help you need.

WE NOW OFFER NEW TAILLIGHTS! COME CHECK OUT OUR PRICES!

**Price is Right**  
Auto Parts + Supplies

We sell used cars, bedliners, wheels, truck covers & boxes.  
Plus many other new & used parts - for every make of car!

**Robert Cox**  
341 Walnut Avenue  
Vinton, VA 24179

**Sonny Arrington**  
800-982-8778  
Phone: (540) 982-8777

**Absolutely Best Real Estate Experience Ever!!**  
-J&M T.

540.342.9600  
Dayna@PatrickTeamHomes.com

**Patrick Team HOMES**  
Farms & Unique Properties  
RE/MAX All Stars • Daleville, VA

**AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE**  
Get rid of the old rattletrap while it still runs

**HOMES FOR SALE**  
House-hunting couldn't be easier.

**WE BUY USED VINYL RECORDS**  
We pay top dollar for good classic rock vinyl records

**WE BUY CAMERAS**  
We buy 35 mm and medium format cameras

**JOHN'S CAMERAS & RECORDS**  
213 Draper Rd. NW, Downtown Blacksburg  
Mon-Fri 1:00-6:00 • Sat. 11:00-3:00  
540-552-2319 • johnhasrecords@gmail.com

**ADVERTISE!**

**389-9355**

**ADVERTISE!**

**THE CLASSIFIEDS-**  
Where the Deals Are!

To place a classified ad,  
call 540-389-9355



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

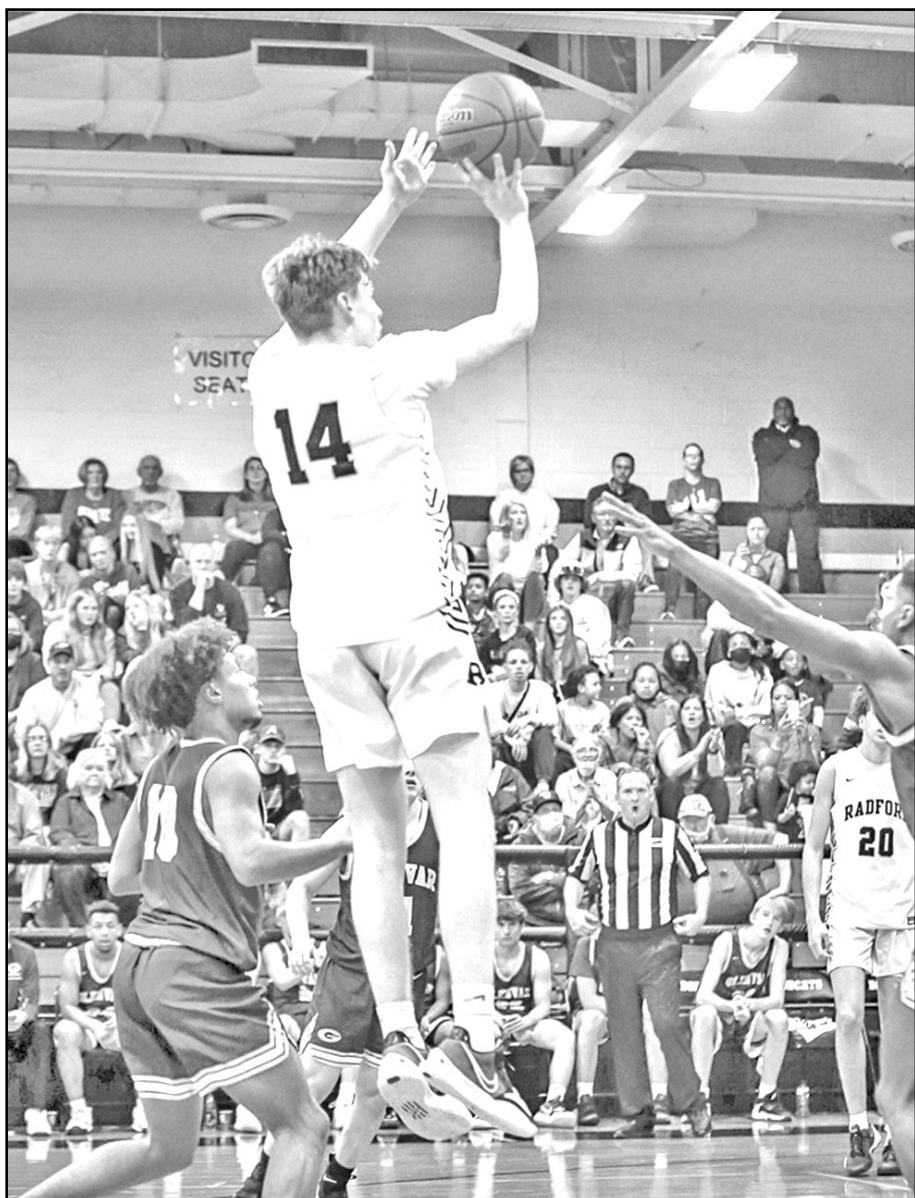
## Radford boys edge past Glenvar



Senior Nate Wesley scores on a layup in Radford's Friday's 58-55 defeat of Glenvar. Wesley finished with 12 points as the Bobcats improved to 14-4 overall and 9-1 in Three Rivers District play.



Landen Clark scoops and scores against Glenvar for two of his eight points.



Gavin Cormany pulls up for an easy jumper in Radford's final game of the regular season. He finished with 13 points.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Christiansburg finishes third in Region 3D wrestling

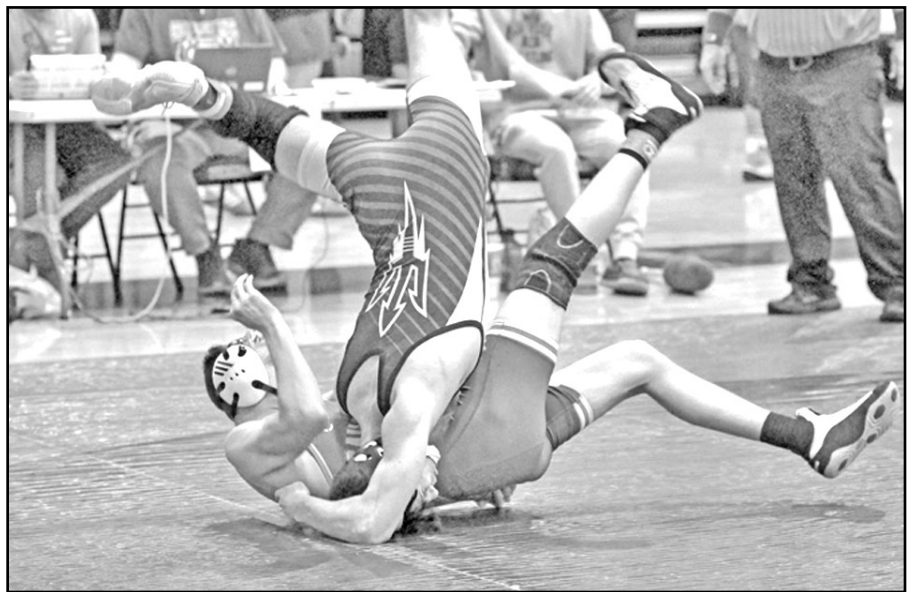
**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Christiansburg brought home three Region D wrestling wins Saturday. Parker Ferrell claimed the 220 championship while Aiden LaComa was the 285 heavyweight winner, and Luke Robie took the 152 weight class.

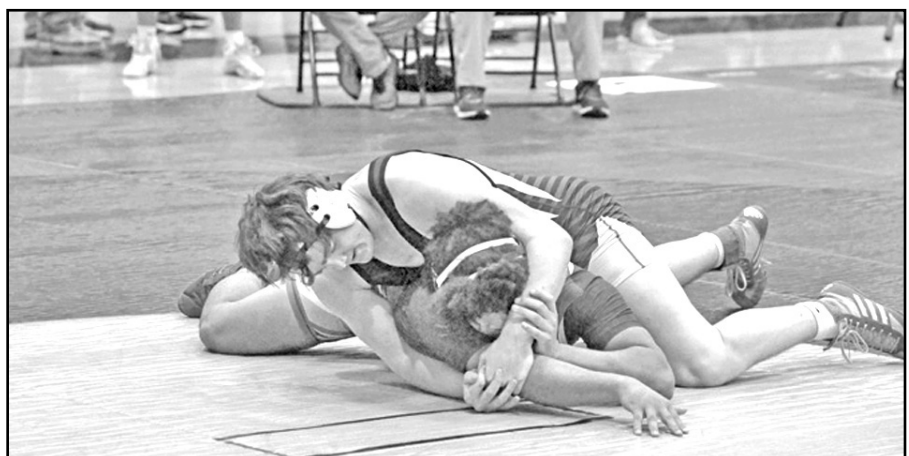
But it wasn't enough as Staunton River took the team title with 244 points. Lord Botetourt was second with 222, and Christiansburg finished third with 192.5 points.

Two Blue Demons were runners-up. Jake Baier (160), J.J. Pociask (170), Evan Mefford (120), Jacob Manieri (138), and Bowman Altizer (182) gave the former region champ third places. They all will compete at this week's state tournament at the Salem Civic Center.

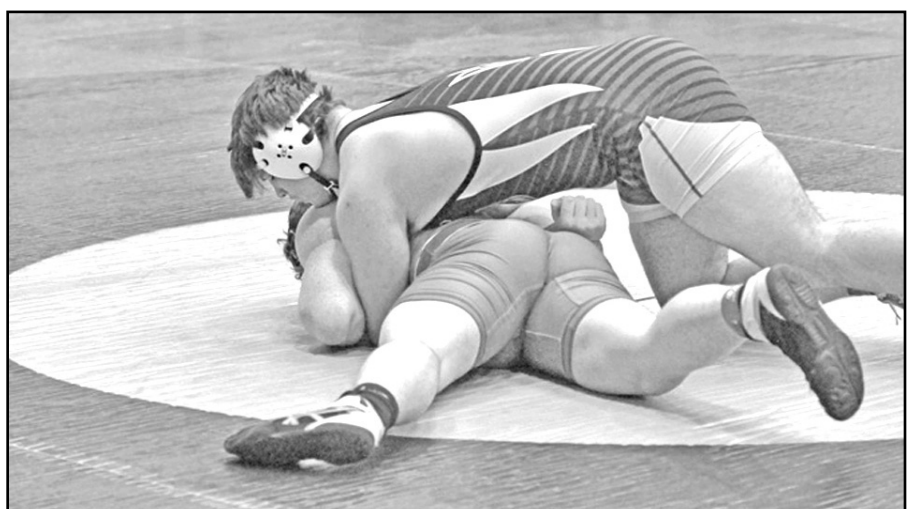
Meanwhile Radford will send three wrestlers to the State Class 2 event in Salem. Dawson Martin (182) and Charlie Davis (220) claimed regional titles. Taven Williams (152) finished second for the Bobcats.



Christiansburg's Luke Robie won the Region 3D championship at 152, defeating Trent Gallimore of Lord Botetourt.



Parker Ferrell claimed the Region 3D championship at 220 for the Blue Demons with a win over Zayvion Estes of Magna Vista.



Aiden Lacoma at 285 made it three region 3D championships for Christiansburg with a win over Lord Botetourt's Titus Hopkins.

## Auburn's Chris Neal to play soccer at Mars Hill

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Auburn High School boys' soccer player Chris Neal has announced he will continue his playing days at Mars Hill University, a private school in North Carolina.

"Mars Hill seems to be my ideal college to further my academic and athletic career and develop as a player and a person," Neal said this past weekend.

Neal was named all-district and all-region as a freshman and as a junior.

He competed with the Target Cup travel soccer team after being selected as a CCL United candidate. He also won a state championship in 2018 with the Auburn cross-country team, followed by a runner-up medal in 2019 for both soccer and cross country. He is currently one win away from a CCL Premiership league title with VBR Star, and that game will take place next weekend.

Mars Hill has an enrollment of 1,355 students and is a Division II member of the National



FILE PHOTO

Auburn High School soccer player Chris Neal has stood out for the school for the past three seasons and will now take his game to the next level at Mars Hill University.

Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and a member of the South Atlantic Conference.

"My goal is to come out of my college career as the best player I can possibly be," Neal said. "I want to become a key player for Mars Hill, and I would love to eventually be an All-American athlete."

At Mars Hill, Neal plans to major in integrated health sciences with a phys-

ical therapy concentration.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

STET	USABLE
TIME	NONPAREIL
ARES	AI SABLE
PARTICULATES	LA
EDGING	IRIS TIC
SEES	KNAP TACH
BALLAD	SCAGS EERIE
ILEAC	SPAAK
DAFT	TAOS TOMS
DDT	PARS CHAPEL
ED	HABITABILITY
RIMER	MI BARE
SNORKELED	OTOS
SALINE	TEST



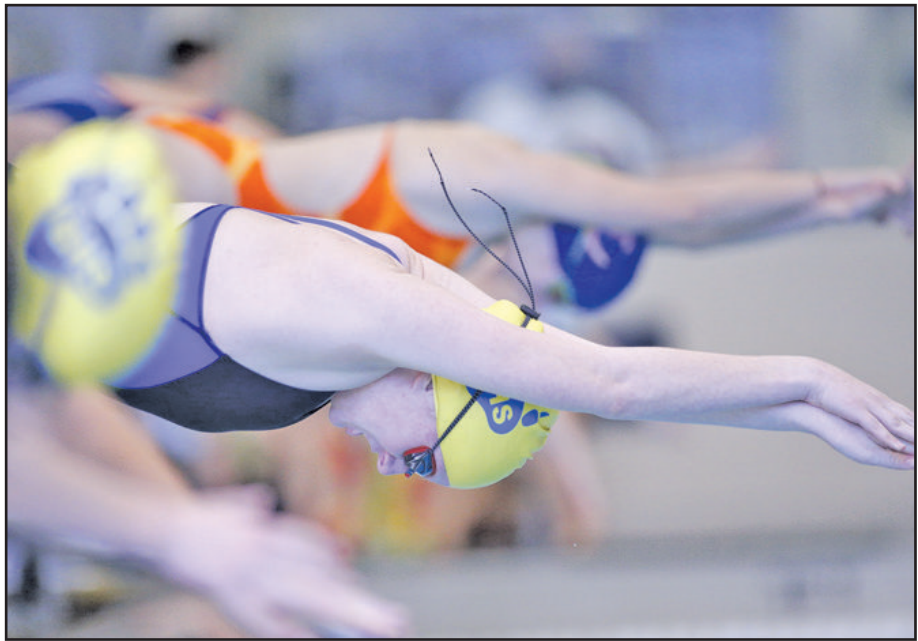
# Blacksburg girls second, boys third in Region 4D swimming



Blacksburg's Ella Semtner performs a forward somersault pike dive at the Region 4D diving championship. Semtner placed second in the competition this past week in Christiansburg.



Blacksburg's Jack Nussbaum swims the breaststroke in the 200-yard medley relay at the Region 4D meet. The Bruins placed fourth in the event. The Bruin boys placed third in the team standings, and the girls were second overall.



Blacksburg's Lauren Highfield swam a season best and placed 8th in the 50-yard freestyle at the Region 4D championship meet.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Andrea Leng gets started in the 200-yard freestyle relay at the Region 4D championship. The Bruins girls placed second in the event just behind Western Albemarle.

# Hokies: Nothing but net in past month

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Get your popcorn ready as the Virginia Tech men's basketball team has won five straight games and is auditioning for March Madness after a 71-59 defeat of Syracuse Saturday afternoon in Cassell Coliseum.

Coach Mike Young's pre-game ritual includes sitting on the Hokie bench with a box of popcorn watching his team warm up. Thus, his optimism remains high across the board when it comes to the team's success. Also, his snack is lightly salted with a touch of butter.

Fans might find that taste to their liking as the basketball team tries to continue this run. Young has said Virginia Tech's popcorn is the best but admits Boston College has the best road popcorn. It's something, he said, he has been doing since his time at Wofford (for over 20 years) but the ritual has drawn more attention only since he moved to Tech.

The university even used his pre-game ritual as a fundraising tool. Those who gave at least \$25 this past month to the Hokie Club received a special custom Mike Young pop-

corn bucket.

But we regress for the moment to what is really happening in Blacksburg. On the court, the Hokies trailed only once in Saturday's game.

The five straight wins is Tech's longest winning streak in ACC play since the Hokies won five in a row to end the 2015-2016 season. The streak also moved the Hokies to 4-0 in February.

Mutts on fire  
Justyn Mutts recorded the second triple-double in program history Saturday night. He scored 12 points, claimed 14 rebounds, and dished out 11 assists, including eight in the first half.

The Hokies (15-10, 7-7) were led by Keve Aluma, who had 20 points, two steals, and two blocks, and by Hunter Cattoor, who tacked on 14 points, seven rebounds, and two steals.

Mutts and Aluma have both achieved the 1,000-point milestone this season, and they were both honored before Saturday's game. This marked the first time a pair of teammates accomplished that feat at the Division I level since Mississippi State's Aric Holman and Lamar Peters did it in 2019.

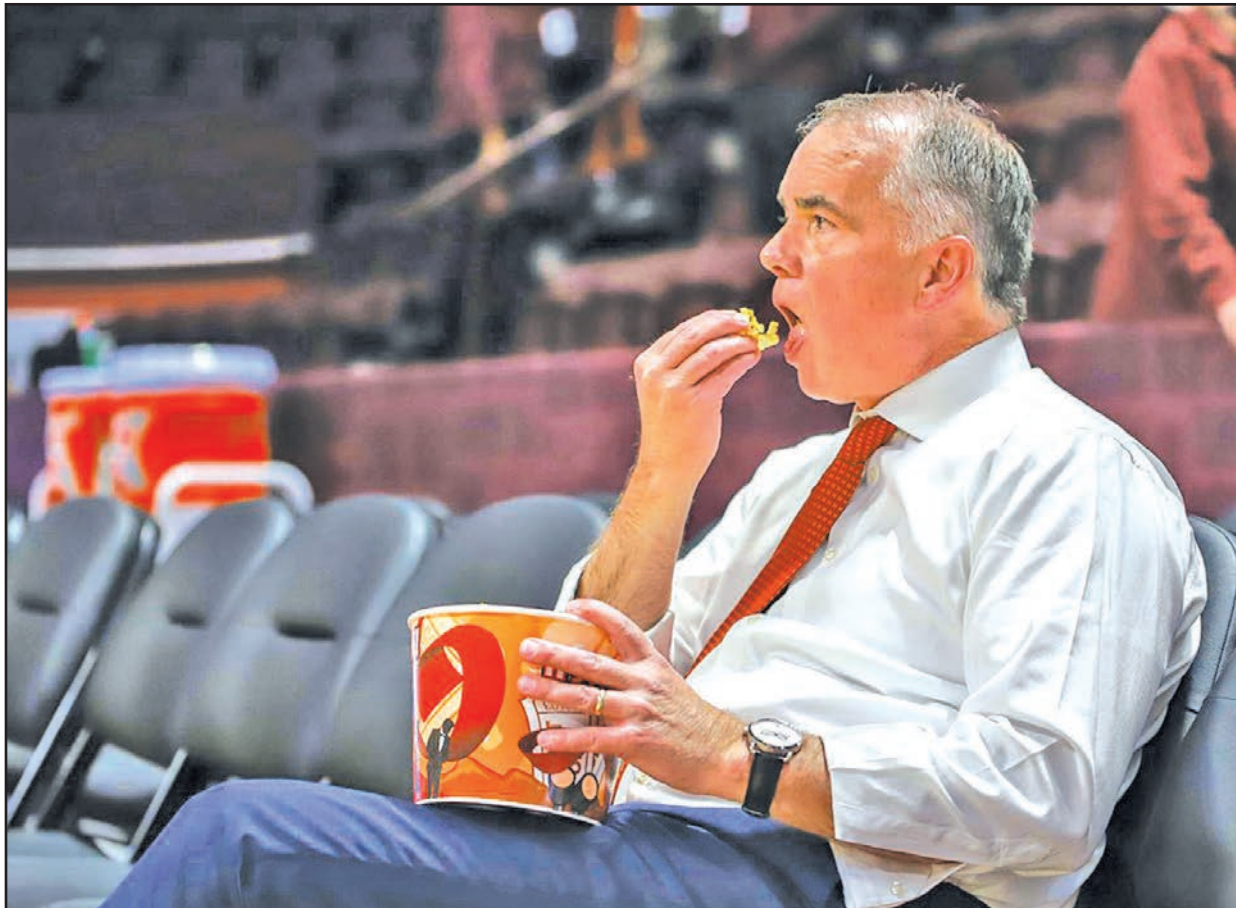


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech basketball coach Mike Young has been known to enjoy a good bucket of popcorn before ball games.

Moreover, Storm Murphy has now eclipsed the 1,500 scoring mark in his career.

But there is so much to why the Hokies are putting together this streak.

From behind the Arc  
Tech ranks first in the conference in 3-point per-

centage and 3-pointers made per game. Saturday, the Hokies shot 37 percent for the game with Darius Maddox leading the team with a 3-for-5 day.

Aluma from behind the stripe

Aluma is making things even harder for opposing defenses as he has proved to be deadly from three-point range this season. At Wofford, before transferring to Tech, he had shot only two treys. Now, he is pushing 20-plus and, left open, he has knocked down the 3-pointer con-

sistently.

Outstanding bench play

Through 24 games, the team's reserves are averaging 15.8 points per game.

Lady Hokies rolling

Sunday, the Virginia Tech women's basketball team held No.-23 North Carolina to just 32.8 percent shooting from the field on the way to a 66-61 win over the Tar Heels.

The Hokies (19-6, 11-3) had three players score in double figures, led by Georgia Amoore, who had 17 points and

two steals. Elizabeth Kitley tacked on 15 points, eight rebounds, two steals, and five blocks, and Aisha Sheppard chipped in with 14 points.

UVA forfeits game

Virginia's women's basketball game at No.-3 Louisville this past Thursday was canceled due to mechanical and aircraft staffing issues. The Atlantic Coast Conference made the announcement less than two hours before the scheduled tipoff. The Cavaliers forfeited the contest.

**ANDERSON AUDIOLOGY**  
**Hearing Aid Sales & Service, Inc.**  
*Locally Owned and Operated Since 1963*





**Marie Church, M.S.**  
Audiologist & Hearing Aid Specialist



**Sherry Deeb, B.S. SLP/A**  
Hearing Aid Specialist

*Hear Better*

*Live Better*

♥ Complete Hearing Evaluation   ♥ Video Otoscopic Exam   ♥ Risk-Free Trial

**We have Four Offices to serve you!**  
**BLACKSBURG, VA • 3607 S. MAIN ST • (540) 381-6967**  
**WYTHEVILLE, VA   DUBLIN, VA   GALAX, VA**  
(276) 228-0866   (540) 674-4889   (276) 236-0778



**WIDEX**  
HIGH DEFINITION HEARING

**Open Mon thru Fri, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm • anderson-audiology.com**

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org