



## Public outcry for preservation of St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall heard by Blacksburg Town Council

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

The Blacksburg Town Council heard many comments by local community members concerning the preservation of St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall in Blacksburg at its June 27 meeting.

Latonya Walker of Blacksburg, a member of the Montgomery County Community Review Council (MCCRC) spoke with concern of the historic St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall and museum for African American culture and history, which has fallen into disrepair. The two-story building is located on the corner of Barger and Gilbert Street and was once also a place of social gatherings for African Americans in the area of Blacksburg known as New Town.

“My family has been a part of Blacksburg and Montgomery County since the early 1800s,” Walker said. “New Town and Odd Fellows Hall are important reminders of the resilience, pride and community spirit of the people who lived in this neighborhood.”

Christine King, also a member of the review council, addressed Blacksburg council members about the problems occurring today with the historic landmark of “institutional neglect and under preservation.”

The presentation by Walker and King also revealed the results of the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) Report stating that the building itself is no longer safe. Additionally, their presentation expressed problems in racial and

gender diversity on the board, workplace harassment based on race and gender, and that Museum Best Practices and Standards are not being followed.

Potential resolutions to some of these issues asked for oversight from the Blacksburg Town Council. Mayor Julie Hager-Smith added that anyone wishing to follow-up with this organization can find these presented documents on the town’s website at [www.blacksburg.gov](http://www.blacksburg.gov).

Heather Nicholson, a resident of Montgomery County and also a member of the MCCRC, expressed her discontent as well with the Blacksburg Museum of Cultural Foundation’s “derelict[ion] of duty.”

“The Town of



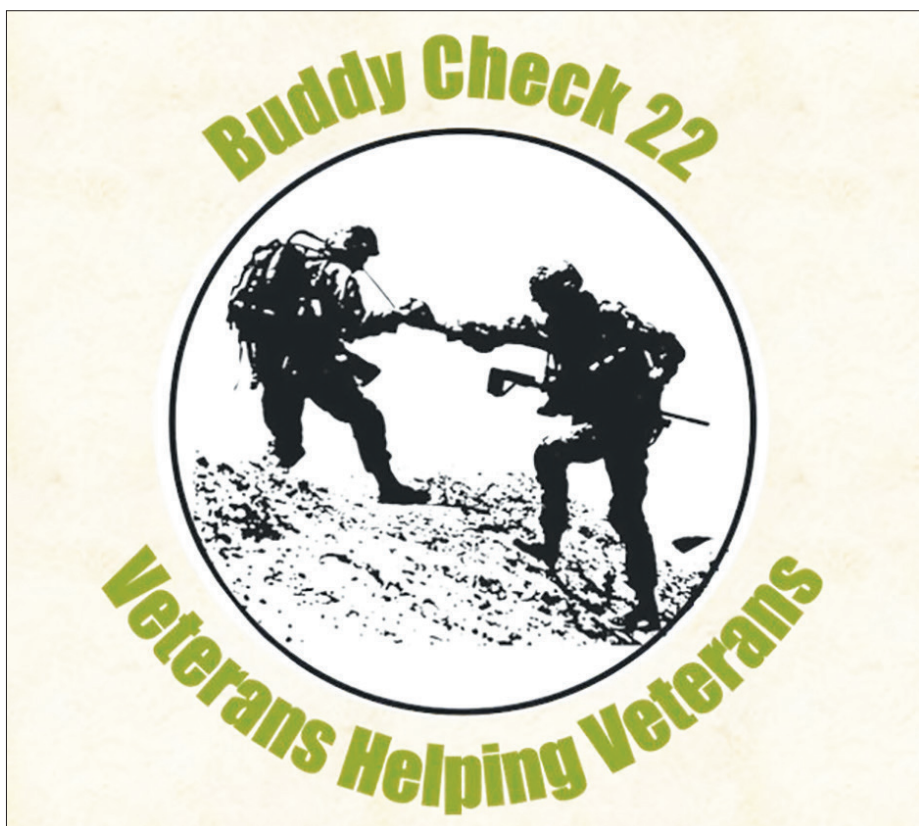
PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall in Blacksburg

See *Odd Fellow*, page 3

## Buddy Check-22 continues mission for prevention of veteran suicide

The group is seeing growth in the NRV, allowing veterans, their families and friends to check in once a month



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BUDDY CHECK-22

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

RADFORD - On the 22nd of every month, veterans, their families, friends, and supporters gather at the Radford Macado’s restaurant for a time to laugh, eat, and share in camaraderie and friendship.

It also provides a way to check-in on local veterans.

According to the Buddy Check-22 New River Valley Facebook page, a 2013 study by the Department of Veterans Affairs revealed that 22 veterans take their own lives every day. As a result of the sobering statistic, a national movement began, making the 22nd symbolic as a reminder

to check-in on service women and men that may be experiencing suicidal thoughts.

Marine Corps League Detachment #1190 is the host for a New River Valley gathering at Macado’s in Radford. All branches of the military are welcome and will receive a 50% discount off their meal, courtesy of Macado’s.

“It is a really neat event and has grown tremendously. Macado’s have been wonderful partners too,” the founder and coordinator of the New River Valley Buddy Check-22, Ted Veggeberg said. “I know personally four different veterans that said, ‘Ted, if it wasn’t for the Buddy Check-22, I would not be

here.”

From 6-8 p.m. every month on the 22nd, the group gathers in their own spot in the restaurant. Veggeberg emphasizes this is not a group therapy situation, just a good time for everyone to spend together. Anyone that works with veterans or wants to support veteran suicide prevention are also welcome to join the group each month.

If you are a veteran who has considered suicide or you know a veteran who is, please visit the Veterans Crisis Line web page or call them at 1-800-273-8255,” states Buddy Check-22 New River Valley. “Every veteran deserves to know that we care about them.”

## Pilot Community Center nears historic landmark status



PHOTO COURTESY OF TED VEGGERBERG

The Pilot Community Center is seeing a bright future with the support of local community members.

**Lori Graham**  
Contributing writer

The Pilot Community Center has submitted applications to be placed on the state and national historic registers as work continues to restore the structure.

The Pilot Community Center, located at 4449 Brush Creek Rd. in Pilot, was built in 1921 to serve as a local elementary school. According to information found at the center’s website at [www.pilotcommunitycenter.weebly.com](http://www.pilotcommunitycenter.weebly.com), a larger

new school was built in Riner in 1963, closing the Pilot Mountain School. It later became a community center for social gatherings, such as reunions and baseball games. Now, the only one of its kind still standing in Montgomery County, the community center board is working to maintain the building for generations to come.

Ted Veggeberg, President of the Pilot Community Center said that they now have around 28 paying members, along with a Board of Directors

and officers that meet to continue fundraising efforts for the preservation of the building.

“First, we don’t know when for sure, but we submitted to be placed on the state and national historical register,” Veggeberg said. “We should hear back in the next month or two but should already have met the criteria.”

The president of the board also shared a local business, Palmer & Sons Painting, has

See *Pilot*, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

(Clockwise from upper left) Nancy Dye, William Holtzman, Don Horsley, and John Rocovich will serve as members of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, effective July 1.

## Appointments made to Virginia Tech Board of Visitors

BLACKSBURG - Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently appointed three members to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

The appointees are Nancy V. Dye of Roanoke, Virginia; William B. Holtzman of Mount Jackson, Virginia; and John G. Rocovich of Roanoke. Each will serve a four-year term effective July 1.

In addition, Don Horsley of Virginia Beach, Virginia, who as president of the board of directors for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services, will join as an ex officio member of the board for a one-year term.

Dye, Holtzman, and Rocovich have all previously served on the Board of Visitors. Dye

was appointed by former Gov. Bob McDonnell and served from 2012-16; Holtzman was also appointed by McDonnell and served from 2010-14; and Rocovich served on the board from 1997-2005, appointed by former Gov. George Allen, and again from 2010-14, appointed by McDonnell. Rocovich was board rector from

See *VA Tech*, page 4

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, July 5:

**Mingle at the Market**  
Join the Blacksburg Farmer's Market for Mingle at the Market, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Market Square Park. This event will feature live music, locally brewed beverages, local food and more.

**Town Council work session**  
The agenda for the Blacksburg Town Council work session, scheduled for 11 a.m. in the Blacksburg Motor Company, can be found at [https://blacksburg.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view\\_id=22&event\\_id=2630](https://blacksburg.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=22&event_id=2630).

## Thursday, July 6:

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

**Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series**  
The Wildwood Park Nature Lecture Series takes place in the heart of Wildwood Park at the Outdoor Classroom (pavilion). To get to the site, attendees can park at the Sundell Drive parking lot for Wildwood Park and take the walkway into the center of the park. All of the talks start at 7:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine unless there are thunderstorms. July 6: Millipedes (Jackson Means, Virginia Tech).

**Planning Commission meeting**  
The agenda for the Blacksburg Planning Commission meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers, can be found at [https://blacksburg.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view\\_id=21&event\\_id=7669](https://blacksburg.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=21&event_id=7669).

**Town Council Work Session**  
The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a work session at 5:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Town Hall.

## Saturday, July 8:

**Fish Fry**  
Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July Fish Fry on Saturday, July 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults-\$12, children under 12-\$6, (under 3)-free, carry-outs-\$12. This month we will be entertained by ex-Marching Virginians baton twirler, Meredith Smith, and bluegrass band, Ronnie Toney and Friends. The fish fry is a fundraiser for the Ruritan Club's community service projects and scholarships. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

## Sunday, July 9:

**Summer Maker's Market**  
At the Radford Coffee Company; 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Maker's Market to showcase talented folks in the

community. Food and drinks will be available throughout the event.

## Monday, July 10:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov).

**Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting**  
Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

## Tuesday, July 11:

**Blacksburg Town Council meeting**  
Town Council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

**Christiansburg Town Council meeting**  
Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

**Tuesday Night Trivia**  
At the Radford Public Library; 6 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to compete against each other in a friendly round of Jeopardy style trivia!

## Thursday, July 13:

**River City Quilt Guild**  
The River City Quilt Guild meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn from others this guild is for you. We welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

## Saturday, July 15:

**Rotary Club blood screening**  
The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg and LewisGale Hospital Montgomery biannual blood screening; 6:30 -10 a.m. in the hospital's lobby. The fasting blood test screens over 25 different markers including cholesterol and red blood indices at a significantly reduced cost. New this year, the test will include Hemoglobin A1C. Cost is \$50. Results are sent to participants and their physician of choice. A portion of the proceeds is used to fund a service project in the community.

Pre-register for the blood screening at <https://www.rotary7570.org/blood> or call 540-951-8988. Walk-in registration is available the day of the blood screening.

rotary7570.org/blood or call 540-951-8988. Walk-in registration is available the day of the blood screening.

## Thursday, July 20:

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to this meeting. Mr. Sam Winkler, aka "President Jefferson Davis" will be the guest speaker. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Sunday, July 25:

**Central Business Committee meeting**  
The Christiansburg Central Business Committee will meet at noon in the Administrative Conference Room at Christiansburg Town Hall.

## On-going:

**Market Square Jam**  
Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

**Blacksburg Farmers Market**  
Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

**Christiansburg Farmers Market**  
Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

**Radford Farmers Market**  
Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

**Registration open for Potter in the Park race**  
Calling all wizards of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin! Have you signed up for the TriWizard TriMile Potter in the Park Race yet? It's time to venture out from the cupboard under the stairs, get your wizard robes ready, and join us for this annual family-fun event on Saturday, August 26th at 8:30 a.m. Register at [www.lvnrv.org](http://www.lvnrv.org). Also, if you know a local business or individual who would like to be a sponsor, please send them our way! From door prizes to sponsorships, we rely on our supporters to make this a truly impactful and entertaining event.

## ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, July 27th at 3 PM  
Commercial Property for Sale in Christiansburg VA!  
Radford Rd (Route 11), Christiansburg, VA 24073

Bid Now at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)



Check out these 3 remarkable commercial investment opportunities in the heart of Christiansburg, Virginia! We present these 3 parcels that are zoned B3, and are located along Route 11. With frontage on both Radford Rd (Route 11) and Silver Lake Rd, these properties have excellent accessibility and offer an ideal canvas for small business development. The B3 Zoning provides investors with countless development avenues. Whether you aspire to open a convenience store, establish a thriving bank branch, launch a vibrant retail store, or establish a dynamic office space, the possibilities are endless. These parcels are connected to the town water and sewer systems. Properties have an undeveloped road along the backside. Do not miss your opportunity to own and develop this commercial property in the heart of Christiansburg VA.

Property is offered in 3 Tracts described below. Download Bidder's Agreement, Maps, Sample Contracts, and Property Information at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

**Offering #1: +/- .93 Acres**  
This parcel is wooded and has 126' of road frontage on Radford Rd and 126' of road frontage on the undeveloped street.

**Offering #2: +/- 1.10 Acres**  
This parcel is wooded and has 165' of road frontage on Radford Rd and 134' of road frontage on the undeveloped street. This parcel also has 2 buildings on the property.

**Offering #3: +/- 1.00 Acres**  
This parcel is wooded and has 175' of road frontage on Radford Rd, 336' of road frontage on Silver Lake Rd, and 99' of road frontage on the undeveloped street.

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$20,000 per tract required on day of sale. Close on or before September 11th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple tracts, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on both offerings. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

**CONTACT– Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com)**

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**Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.**

## ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Wednesday, July 19th at 4 PM  
Townhouse for Sale at Auction in Christiansburg VA  
1043 Elk Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Bid Now at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)



Check out this charming townhome in Christiansburg VA. This immaculate townhome features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths on 2 levels. The main level boasts a spacious living room with gas logs, which create a cozy ambiance during the cooler months. The kitchen is equipped with a range, microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher, and disposal, making meal preparation and cleanup a breeze. Main level also features ceiling fans and recessed lighting. The kitchen and baths have durable linoleum flooring. Home also has front load washer and dryer that convey. Storage should never be an issue with the easily accessible attic! Home is equipped with central air conditioning allowing for year-round comfort.

In addition to the interior amenities, the townhome provides a 9x12 patio providing a private outdoor space for relaxation and entertaining guests. There is an attached 1 car garage, which also gives you ample space for storage.

The home is well-appointed and offers comfortable living in a convenient location. It's within a few miles of all the restaurants, shopping centers, and family attractions that Christiansburg VA has to offer. Also located less than 10 miles from Virginia Tech. Don't miss out on your opportunity to make this townhouse your own!

**Preview Date - Friday, July 14th at 4 PM**

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final high bid to arrive at the contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 is required by 5 pm on July 20th, 2023. Close on or before September 4th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold "as is, where is, with any and all faults." Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. If confirmed Buyer will be expected to sign a Real Estate Purchase Agreement. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet, and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract, and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

**CONTACT– Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com). You can also contact Realtor Don Barker at 540-392-4918 or email [barkerdon@rocketmail.com](mailto:barkerdon@rocketmail.com)**

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# Odd Fellow from page 1

Blacksburg needs to recognize that this historic site opens a window into not only Blacksburg history, but Virginia and U.S. history," Nicholson said. "Maggie L. Walker at the 1901 Independent Order of St. Luke Annual Convention laid out her goals. First, we need a savings bank, let us put our monies together. Let us use our money. Let us put our money out and reap the benefit ourselves."

Nicholson went on to say that they purchased the bank through a joint-stock corporation and exemplifies the wealth of a community.

Jody Daniels, Chair of the History and Preservation Committee and a MCCRC member, shared additional information about the lack of protection and preservation of the building itself and artifacts housed inside the property. Daniels stated that among many issues that need to be addressed with the historical building and museum, the unsecured building has held artifacts in a non-climate-controlled environment since 2014. Additionally, the insurance policy for the property went unpaid during the years 2019-2021.

"The most egregious issues noted in the report was the poor treatment of rare objects found in the St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall," Daniels said.

Some suggestions made by Daniels include, but are not limited to, hiring a professional museum curator with experience in African American culture and artifacts and establishing quality control reporting to the town of Blacksburg.

Nikki Giovanni, award-winning poet, activist, and Virginia Tech University Distinguished Professor Emerita, who resides in Christiansburg, echoed the previous comments of citizens public outcry to preserve and maintain the St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall.

"What are we afraid of in saving a building and dealing with the history of New Town?" Giovanni said. "It is something we should be proud of. This is a wonderful place to be."

Dolores Walker of Radford, a student of the Christiansburg Institute, the historic segregated school for African Americans in the region, also addressed council.

"I'm trying to figure out how, piece by piece by piece, this town has leveled Black neighborhoods," Walker said. "Now, I don't know if it was institutionalized racism, but that is how I feel."

Council member John Bush also serves as the liaison to the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation Board. Bush agreed with the comments presented to council and thanked them for their commitment to be there. He also addressed the CAP report presented to Council, stating that they had received it about a month and a half ago.

"That report is fairly thorough; we are reviewing it now," Bush said. "I think what we will do as I understand it, is form two subcommittees; one to take the recommendations of the Black house and the other to take the recommendations of the St. Luke's and Odd Fellows Hall."

Also at the June 27 meeting, the continued use of a chlorinated water mixture, fluorinated water, and lead in the citizens of Blacksburg's public water were topics of concern for Gabrielle Parker of Blacksburg. According to Parker, the chlorine mixture is bad for leaded pipe systems.

"A scientist also discovered that chlorine can react with naturally occurring materials in water and create disinfection byproducts which have been known to cause cancer. These include THMs and TTHMs. These occur when the water is not being properly chlorinated," Parker said.

Parker asked that Council tests the water for these water additives and contaminates.

The following resolutions were unanimously approved by the Blacksburg Town Council during Tuesday's regular meeting and can be found on the agenda:

Resolution 6-C-23: A Resolution declaring the Town's intention to reimburse itself from the Proceeds of One or More Financings for Public Improvements.

Resolution 6-D-23: A Resolution Transferring \$695,000 between American Rescue Plan/ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Projects.

Resolution 6-E-23: A Resolution Writing off the Town's uncollectible Water, Sewer and Refuse Service Receivables, Miscellaneous Receivables and Real Estate Taxes.

Resolution 6-F-23: A Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Sidewalk Closing Fees in Downtown Blacksburg.

Council conducted several appointments as well during the Tuesday night regular meeting. The Blacksburg Planning Commission, the Blacksburg Housing and Community Development Advisory Board, the Board of Building Code Appeals, Zoning Appeals, the Business Relations Committee, Corridor Advisory Committee, Historic or Design Review Board, Public Arts Committee, and the Recreation Advisory Board.

"We have a Citizens Institute that takes place every spring, I think it is April, and we keep a running list of people who would like to be involved with that free activity. It runs about eight weeks and it is a deeply immersive education on how town systems work," Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith said. "So, we really do work on citizen power."

Vice Mayor Susan Anderson moved to approve all appointments as presented to Council, which are all found in the agenda. The appointments met with unanimous approval.

# Pilot from page 1

offered to put a new coat of paint on the historic building free of charge. He expressed how appreciative they are for the business's gracious offer and gift to the community center.

Saturday July 1, the community center had a yard sale allowing others to set up tables for \$10 a person and the center sponsored their own yard sale items as well. The Pilot Community Center is

also planning to host a musical festival in the fall, and then maybe a pancake supper or spaghetti dinner.

Veggeberg explained they had suffered the loss of individuals that were caretakers of the community center, but they are now thriving again.

"We have been fundraising and doing events since 2019, and since then we have put a \$10,000 roof on the building, completely

gutted and renovated two bathrooms, and fully renovated the kitchen, and they have all been fundraised and paid for by our generous community," he said.

If citizens are interested in becoming involved with the preservation of the community center, meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at the Pilot Community Center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA AND DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Pilot Mountain School circa 1937.

## DELMARVA SHORE BIRDS VS SALEM RED SOX

JULY 14TH 7:05PM

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 6:00PM

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JULY 15TH 6:05PM

MARGARITAVILLE NIGHT - GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM

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JULY 16TH 3:05PM

GAME 6 - GATES OPEN AT 2:00PM

# OBITUARIES

## Weeks, Jeffrey Wayne

Jeffrey Wayne Weeks, 60, of Riner, died Thursday, June 29, 2023, at his home.

He was born in Radford on January 10, 1963, to the late Guy Edgar and Carmen Josephine Smith Weeks. He was an avid hunter who enjoyed his firearms.

He is survived by his sisters and brothers-in-law Brenda and Danny Carroll and Jennifer and Wade Burns; a special niece (the daughter he never had) Miranda Weeks; nieces, Terri Burnette and



husband, Darrell, and their

sons, Phillip and Brady; niece, Brooklyn Burns; a beloved dog Molly; special buddies, Mark Altizer, and Donald Epperly; and others too numerous to mention. Funeral services were conducted Monday, July 3, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the pastor Wayne Poff officiating. Interment followed in the Smith Family Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service.

## Sartoris, Emeline Marie

Emeline Marie Sartoris, 89, of Budd Lake, N.J., passed away on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at Beverwyck House of Merry Heart in Parsippany, N.J.

Emeline was born on May 7, 1934 in Plainfield, N.J. to the late Theodore Tiedemann and Marie Tiedemann (Kaul). She was an only child.

Emeline was a graduate of Plainfield High School, Class of 1953. She married the love of her life, Edward Lee Sartoris on August 31, 1968. They celebrated 45 years of marriage prior to his passing on April 26, 2014. Together they have three children, sons Warren Sartoris and Robert Sartoris of Budd Lake, N.J. and daughter Amy Sartoris-Kietrys, her husband Michael Kietrys, her grandson John Kietrys and granddaughter Casey

Kietrys, all of Christiansburg. In her earlier years, Emeline worked as a secretary at Lyons VA Hospital and at



Johnson and Johnson prior to retiring to become a full-time home maker. Emeline was a member of St. Jukes Catholic Church in Budd Lake, N.J.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, June 30, 2023 at the Church of the Assumption of the

Blessed Virgin Mary, 302 High Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840.

Emeline will be laid to rest with her husband Edward Lee Sartoris at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin on Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 3 p.m. Emeline was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and friend and she will be missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions to the charity of your choice.

Funeral arrangements in New Jersey have been entrusted to Maguire-Scala Memorial Home. To send an online condolence please visit [www.scalamemorialhome.com](http://www.scalamemorialhome.com).

Graveside service arrangements in Virginia have been entrusted to Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Howard, Peggy Franklin

Peggy Franklin Howard, 80, of Check, died Thursday, June 29, 2023.

She was born in Radford on December 30, 1942 to the late Robert Geoffery and Mary Freeman Franklin. She was also preceded in death by her brother, Robert Geoffery Franklin, Jr. She was a member of Sugar Grove Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Frank A.

(Peachy) Howard; son,



Steven Todd Hughes and

Carrie; granddaughter, Erica; great-grandson, Kaden; sisters, Janice Akers and Diane Ferguson; sisters-in-law, Evelyn Still, Mary Adkins, and Hazel Johnson; brother-in-law, Marvin Howard; special niece, Bonnie Adkins; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be conducted today, Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 3 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel.

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# OPINION

## Financial Focus: Should you consider 401(k) loans or withdrawals?

At some point, you may have more money in your 401(k) than in any other investment. And even though your 401(k) is intended for your retirement, you may one day think you have to tap into your account early — but should you? And if you do, how should you go about it?

If it's possible to avoid taking money from your 401(k) before you retire, you probably should do so. You could spend 25 or more years in retirement, and you'll need to pay for those years, so you may want to look for alternatives to your 401(k). If you've built an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses in cash or cash equivalents, you could use some of this money. If you have a Health Savings Account (HSA), you could use it to pay for qualified medical expenses. Or you could sell some of your taxable investments, rather than going into your tax-deferred 401(k).

But if you have determined that you must look at your 401(k) plan to meet a short-term funding need, you'll want to carefully consider how to go about it. You typically have two main choices: loans or withdrawals.

For plans that allow loans, employees can generally borrow up to 50% of the vested amount of their 401(k)s, up to a maximum of \$50,000 within a 12-month period. Administrative fees may apply, and Interest will be charged, but it will be added back to the 401(k) account as part of the loan repayments. Except when they're used for a home purchase, loans must be repaid within five years, with equal payments made at least quarterly, unless payments are allowed to be paused temporarily. If you leave the company or don't repay the loan according to the agreement, the loan balance will likely be treated as a taxable distribution.

Now, let's consider withdrawals. For 401(k) plans that allow current employees to make withdrawals, the withdrawal requests are usually considered either hardship or non-hardship. To qualify for a hardship withdrawal, you must demonstrate an immediate and heavy financial need to pay for certain expenses, including a home purchase, college, a medical issue or other specified costs, and your withdrawal is limited to the amount necessary to meet the need. Non-

hardship withdrawals can typically be taken for any purpose but usually are not granted until you're 59½ or older.

Unlike with a loan, a hardship withdrawal can't be repaid, while a non-hardship withdrawal can usually only be repaid by rolling over the amount to an IRA within 60 days. But the bigger issue may be taxes. If you withdraw funds from your 401(k), any previously untaxed money is generally taxed as ordinary income and a 10% penalty will apply if you're younger than 59½, unless you qualify for an exception. Plus, your 401(k) plan typically must withhold 20% of the withdrawal for taxes, so you'd have to take an even larger withdrawal to meet your needs.

Before embarking on a 401(k) loan or withdrawal, you may want to consult with a financial professional and your tax advisor. Taking money from your 401(k) is a big move, so make sure you know everything that's involved.

This article was written by Edward, Member SIPC and submitted by local Edward Jones financial advisor Meghan Kuczmariski.

## AARP warns against on-line quiz scams

Let's be honest, most of us have done it: taking one of those viral social media quizzes or threads that seem so fun and innocent. Post a picture of your first car. What cartoon princess are you? What record was number one the year you graduated high school?

They may seem like harmless fun, but the Better Business Bureau and digital-security companies warn that criminals sometimes use quizzes to pry

loose personal data. Launching a quiz app may give its creators permission to pull information from your profile, offering hackers an opening to steal your online identity. Here are three social media scams to avoid.

Avoid queries about innocent-sounding things like your high school mascot or first car that might be linked to common security questions that banks and financial firms use to protect accounts. Be suspicious of any personal messages appearing to come from celebrities you follow. Criminals often impersonate celebrities online and offer special access for a price or ask for help with a new investment or charitable contributions.

Another classic social media scam involves a direct message from one of your personal contacts asking "is this a picture of you" with a link to click on. Clicking the link takes you to a site that mimics one of the popular social networks and prompts you to log in, a ploy for hackers to get your credentials and access your account.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

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The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$46 a year in Montgomery County, \$55 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$59 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.

### VA Tech

from page 1

2002-04.

"All three returning members have a long legacy of support for Virginia Tech and have demonstrated their commitment to our mission to serve the commonwealth," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "We look forward to working with them to realize our bold vision for the university's future. And we're proud to welcome Don as a Hokie and a leader who shares our long-standing commitment to Virginia agriculture."

An advocate for access to and affordability of higher education for Virginia students, Dye has served on the Ferrum College and Hargrave Military Academy boards of trustees. She also has served on the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation board of directors, the Mill Mountain Advisory Committee, and the Military Family Support Center board of directors.

Holtzman, who received his degree from Virginia Tech in horticulture in 1959, is president and owner of Holtzman Corporation, which includes Holtzman Oil Company and a number of divisions in industries ranging from food to equipment to construction to fuel transport. Over the years, he has been actively engaged in numerous aspects of the university. He served on the Virginia Tech Foundation Board, was vice chair of the Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future, and the Holtzman Alumni Center was named in his honor.

Rocovich, a 1966 graduate of what is now the Pamplin College of Business, is chairman of the law firm Moss & Rocovich in Roanoke. His service to Virginia Tech has enhanced many programs across the university. He served as a member and chair of the Virginia Tech Foundation, was president of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, served on the board of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Foundation, and as president of the board

of directors of the W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake. He received the university's Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 2000.

Horsley, a 1969 graduate of Virginia Tech, is a member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame. He was named Virginia Farmer of the Year in 2011, and Horsley and his family operate Land of Promise Farms in Virginia Beach.

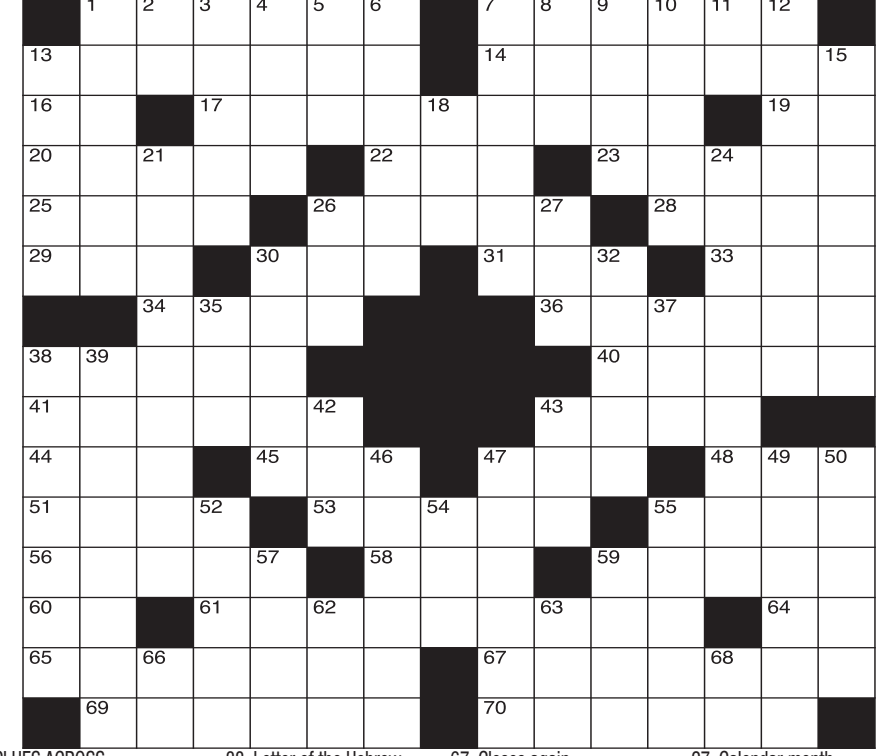
Also Joe Merola, professor of chemistry in the College of Science, will serve as the faculty representative; Janice Austin, assistant dean and director of admissions and academic progress in the Graduate School, will become the administrative and professional faculty representative; and LaTawnya Burleson, executive assistant to the vice president for information technology, will become the staff representative. All three will serve one-year terms.

William Storey, a rising senior majoring in environmental science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will become the undergraduate student representative, and Emily Tirrell, a graduate student working toward her Ph.D. in translational biology, medicine, and health, will become the graduate and professional student representative. Both will serve one-year terms.

In June, the board announced Ed Baine, president of Dominion Energy Virginia, will serve as rector. Sharon Brickhouse Martin, founder and president of Brickhouse-Martin Healthcare Engineering, had been nominated to serve as vice rector, contingent upon her reappointment to the board. Because she was not reappointed, the board will select a new vice rector at its August meeting.

-Virginia Tech

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Plant of the mint family
  - 7. Hand tool
  - 13. Made of the color of gold
  - 14. A volume of several novels
  - 16. Type of degree
  - 17. Good job!
  - 19. Seventh tone in major scale
  - 20. Fevers
  - 22. One's mother
  - 23. Fertile desert spots
  - 25. Large integers
  - 26. Plate for Eucharist
  - 28. Tennis matches have them
  - 29. Peyton's little brother
  - 30. Monetary unit of N. Korea
  - 31. Head movement
  - 33. Twelve
  - 34. Renaissance musical instrument
  - 36. Behavior showing high moral standards
  - 38. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
  - 40. Notes to be sung
  - 41. Women's garment
  - 43. Coarsely ground corn
  - 44. One point south of due east
  - 45. A way to deplete
  - 47. Rough, prickly covering of a seed
  - 48. LA hoopster, but not a Laker
  - 51. Hindquarters
  - 53. Franz van \_\_, German diplomat
  - 55. Liquid body substances
  - 56. Rhythmic patterns
  - 58. A beaver might build one
  - 59. Police officer's tool
  - 60. Indicates who you are
  - 61. Pinwheel
  - 64. Exist
  - 65. Ornamental molding
  - 67. Closes again
  - 69. Verses
  - 70. Come into view
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Short stick used as a weapon
  - 2. An alternative
  - 3. Laws
  - 4. Sense organs
  - 5. One from Utah
  - 6. Mariner
  - 7. People in charge of cattle
  - 8. Health insurance organization
  - 9. Ornamental box
  - 10. Forest-dwelling deer
  - 11. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
  - 12. Atomic #71
  - 13. Become less intense
  - 15. Cowards
  - 18. Body ornament (slang)
  - 21. Applicable to all cases
  - 24. Multiplied by 6
  - 26. Afghanistan monetary unit
  - 27. Calendar month
  - 30. Cena and Lennon are two
  - 32. Monetary unit of Serbia
  - 35. First time on the market
  - 37. Georgia rockers
  - 38. Free from contamination
  - 39. Coastal region of Canada
  - 42. Clothing retailer
  - 43. It rises and sets
  - 46. Fathers
  - 47. Stain with mud
  - 49. Suitable for crops
  - 50. Feels concern for
  - 52. Orange-brown
  - 54. Buddy
  - 55. Late sportscaster Craig
  - 57. Used to align parts
  - 59. Wake up
  - 62. Solid water
  - 63. Semiprecious stone
  - 66. Atomic #45
  - 68. Top lawyer

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Fixsen's road to gold



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

### Fixsen photo \_ Virginia Tech Junior Julia Fixsen claims national title in pole vault behind mental toughness and camaraderie

At the 2023 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Julia Fixsen made winning a national title look effortless.

Her title-clenching vault (14 feet, 7 inches; 4.45 meters) wasn't by the skin of her teeth, as she cleared it with ease on her first attempt.

Fixsen felt confident and relaxed stepping on the runway that evening, knowing world-class coach Bob Phillips and three nationally ranked teammates were by her side.

But Fixsen's path to national champion was certainly not easy – it required switching schools, battling foot pain and hours of hard work.

As a former gymnast and a 2021 transfer from Georgia, Fixsen joined the Hokies to take her vaulting to the next level. She knew how much Tech's track program valued the event, being one of the few schools in the country with a coach dedicated exclusively to pole vault.

"Coach Phillips is just an amazing coach, and it's special because his focus is completely on us," Fixsen said. "That's actually a huge deal. Every practice of every week, he's there, he's coaching and it makes us consistent."

Phillips, a former All-American at Tech, has mastered the formula for success. During his 37 years as the coach of the Hokies' pole vaulters, Phillips' vaulters have won 38 individual ACC titles and two national titles. It also helps that head coach Dave Cianelli buys into the event, providing poles and any resources that are needed to help the program.

Fixsen knew that Tech's program, dubbed "Pole Vault U" by some circles, had what she needed to win.

Transitioning to a new school had its challenges. Fixsen faced an unfamiliar community and a different training program. She also

had to regain confidence in her vaulting. Coming out of Georgia, she had missed the pit and landed on the right side when jumping on larger poles.

But after Coach Phillips corrected her technique on the short-run jumps, her impact as a Hokie was instant. At the 2022 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, Fixsen earned bronze, finishing a couple spots behind her national champion teammate Rachel Baxter.

As the 2022-23 season began, Fixsen knew she could win both an ACC and national title. She just needed to stay consistently confident.

"The whole year I was working on my confidence," Fixsen said. "For me, that meant jumping bars [as opposed to using a bungee] in practice so that I wasn't afraid when the bar came up in meets."

Fixsen's mental toughness was tested at the 2023 ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships. Due to a previous injury, her foot had been flaring up during the season, so she felt intense pain when making her attempts. But Fixsen knew that she needed to clear the 14-foot, 5-inch (4.40 meters) bar for points.

"Everything was on the line for that jump," Fixsen said. "I knew I wasn't going to win, but I didn't care. I had to step up because my team needed the points."

Despite the pain, Fixsen managed to clear that bar. Many teammates and fans later told her that she was the reason Tech won the team competition by one point.

Fixsen no longer felt she was lacking in confidence, setting her sights on winning the 2023 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. It was only a matter of keeping her foot pain free.

"The most important thing she did [to prepare] was stay patient and do

an excellent job of cross training as we worked through the issues with her foot," Phillips said. "It made a big difference."

On the day of the championship, Fixsen focused on conserving her energy so that she could jump as many heights as possible. There were 24 vaulters, meaning a long competition. To allow for maximum recovery time, she didn't complete the full warm up, laid down between jumps and made sure to clear each bar on the first attempt.

Even more importantly, she had three teammates competing alongside her.

"One of the things that made her confident and comfortable," Phillips said, "was having three teammates right there with her, so there wasn't the pressure of being the only person there."

For Fixsen, having those girls by her side made the meet seem less daunting and more like practice. Instead of feeling any unnecessary pressure, she felt a whole new level of support from the girls she spends hours with every day.

It was the perfect way to win a national title.

"When I cleared that final bar, I was just so excited," Fixsen said. "I had to scream. I've cleared that bar before many times, but never like that."

She's not done yet, either. With two seasons remaining, Fixsen has her sights set on jumping even higher. She aims to compete at the pro level after graduation, just like her teammate Baxter.

It's a genuine love for the sport that drives Fixsen, and she hopes that her journey can inspire the next generation of athletes.

"I'd love to be an inspiration to people," Fixsen said. "Growing up, I looked up to some amazing female athletes. To think that I could be a role model for younger girls is pretty cool."

-VT Athletics

RADFORD VOLLEYBALL  
**2023**  
Schedule Release

AUG. 25 vs SOUTHERN INDIANA	AUG. 26 vs NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE	SEP. 1 vs GEORGIA INDIANA	SEP. 2 vs VCU
SEP. 8 vs BROWN	SEP. 9 vs GEORGE WASHINGTON	SEP. 22 vs WEST POINT	SEP. 29 vs GARDNER WEBB
SEP. 30 vs BIRMGHAM	OCT. 6 vs ASHEVILLE	OCT. 7 vs UPSTATE	OCT. 13 vs CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
OCT. 14 vs PRESBYTERIAN	OCT. 20 vs GARDNER WEBB	OCT. 21 vs UNCG	OCT. 27 vs WINTHROP
OCT. 28 vs GARDNER WEBB	NOV. 3 vs PRESBYTERIAN	NOV. 4 vs CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	NOV. 10 vs HIGH POINT

## RU releases volleyball schedule

Radford Head Volleyball Coach Sherisa Livingston has announced the full schedule for the Fall 2023 season.

The Highlanders kick off the 51st season in program history with a tournament in Bloomington, Ind. where they'll take on Southern Indiana (Aug. 25), New Hampshire (Aug. 26) and the host Hoosiers (Aug. 26).

Radford then returns to the Commonwealth for a tournament hosted by VCU. The team will face off against Georgetown and Iona on Sept. 1 before going head-to-head with the Rams on Sept. 2.

Non-conference play then comes to a close with a third and final tournament, this time in Fairfax, Va. In the home arena of George Mason. Radford will

begin the weekend against Brown (Sept. 8) before a doubleheader with GMU and Robert Morris the next day (Sept. 9).

The quest for a Big South postseason regular season championship and postseason bid gets underway on Sept. 22 when Radford goes to High Point to take on the Panthers. A long road swing to start the season finally comes to an end the following weekend when the Highlanders play at Gardner-Webb (Sept. 29) and Winthrop (Sept. 30).

Radford fans will have their first chances to cheer on their team inside the Dedmon Center on Oct. 6 and Oct. 7 when UNC Asheville and USC Upstate come to town.

Coach Livingston and company leave town the next two

weekends, playing at Charleston Southern (Oct. 13), Presbyterian (Oct. 14), USC Upstate (Oct. 20) and UNC Asheville (Oct. 21) but are rewarded for getting through the travel grind with five straight home matches to end the regular season.

Winthrop (Oct. 27), Gardner-Webb (Oct. 28), Presbyterian (Nov. 3), Charleston Southern (Nov. 4) and High Point (Nov. 10) all make their return visits to the New River Valley down the stretch.

Big South Conference semifinals will be held on Nov. 18 with the championship match following on Nov. 19. All postseason games will be played at High Point.

-Radford University Athletics

## Boyd stepping down at CHS

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg High School is in search of a new softball coach.

Robin Boyd announced on social media late last week that it was with mixed emotions he has decided to step down from the program.

"After the season ended, I took the time to talk with my family, and it is with mixed emotions that I've decided to step down as the CHS Varsity

Softball coach," he said. "It is time for me focus on the ones that mean the most to me."

Boyd has served as the head coach for the past two years and another six as an assistant.

"Over the past eight years at CHS, I've been blessed to coach some incredible young ladies," Boyd said. "They have and will do great things outside of softball, which is really what it is all about."

"As I've always told my players; be a good

person first and treat people the way you want to be treated. If you do that, you'll be a great teammate and a great person."

Christiansburg finished 12-9 this past season, and Boyd has compiled a 27-15 overall record in his time at the helm of program, leading them to back-to-back appearances in the Class 3 regional playoffs.

A search for his replacement will begin almost immediately.

## RU gaining top JUCO transfer

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

One of the top available softball pitchers in the transfer portal has announced plans to attend Radford University.

Abby Peace said on Twitter this past week she would transfer from WVU Potomac State College.

In one season at the Keyser West Virginia, she earned third-team All-America honors for the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II. In 29 games, Peace pitched 152.2 innings and had a 22-2 record (tied for eighth in NJCAA Division II in wins), 1.33 ERA (fifth nationally), 22 complete games, two saves, 270 strikeouts (third nationally, 12.38 per seven innings).

Peace also excelled at the plate in leading the Catamounts to a 43-5 record and a berth in the NJCAA DII College World Series, hitting 18 home runs, 60 RBIs, a .340 batting average and a .745 slugging percentage.

Peace will be a sophomore for Radford, which went 16-34 overall and 5-16 in the

Big South last year.

This transfer news comes just days after Radford University lost one of its best softball players to cross the river rival Virginia Tech.

The Virginia Tech softball team and head coach Pete D'Amour announced the addition of Cori McMillan to the 2023-24 squad on Monday. McMillan joins the Hokies as a transfer from Radford after playing two seasons with the Highlanders.

During her time at Radford, McMillan posted a .345 career average, tallying 102 hits, including 22 doubles and 17 home runs. She had 59 RBI for the Highlanders, with a .611 slugging percentage, .391 on base percentage, adding 31 stolen bases.

McMillan had a standout freshman season in 2022, named an NFCA Top-25 Freshman of the Year Finalist after batting .365 with 14 home runs and 13 doubles to lead the team. In 148 at bats, she posted a .736 slugging percentage, adding 36 RBI, which was another team-high.

McMillan scored 38 runs and also stole 11 bases in her rookie

campaign. Defensively, she had 87 assists to lead the team, as well as 70 putouts. In addition to being a Freshman of the Year Finalist, she was named First Team All-Big South, Big South All-Freshman, First Team NFCA Mid-Atlantic Region and VaSID All-State Second Team.

As a sophomore, McMillan continued to lead the Highlanders, ranking in the top three on the team with a .324 batting average with 48 hits, earning All-Big South for the second straight season. She finished the 2023 season with nine doubles, three triples and three home runs, adding 23 RBI and a team-high .486 slugging percentage.

On the base paths, McMillan stole 20 bases on the year and had a .375 on base percentage. Defensively, she recorded 93 assists and 52 putouts on the year at third base.

In the classroom, McMillan is a two-time NFCA Scholar Athlete, as well as a member of the Dean's List and President's List at Radford for all four semesters she attended.

-Staff reports

## Tech, Auburn in ACC/SEC Challenge

Virginia Tech and Auburn will clash in the inaugural ACC/SEC Challenge as announced by ESPN, Wednesday morning. The eighth all-time meeting between the two programs will take place Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Auburn Arena in Auburn, Ala. Tipoff is slated for 9:15 p.m. ET.

Coverage details, including platform designations and commentator information, will be announced in the fall.

"Our program is very much looking forward to representing our institution, our fans and our conference in the inaugural ACC/SEC Challenge," head coach Mike Young said. "Auburn is an outstanding opponent for us led by Coach [Bruce] Pearl, whom I have great respect for."

November's matchup will be the first time Tech and Auburn have met since Dec. 21, 1999. The Tigers lead the head-to-head series, 5-2. This will be the second meeting in series history at Auburn, but fourth meeting overall in Alabama.

The Hokies return three starters from a squad that finished 19-15 overall last season. Headlined by 2022 ACC Tournament MVP Hunter Cattoor and second-leading scorer Sean Pedulla, Tech will look to recapture the momentum that had the Hokies 11-1 and ranked as high as No. 21 in the AP Poll through 12 games last year.

VT will also be bolstered by sophomore guard Rodney Rice, who had his first season in Blacksburg shortened by injuries. The Hokies should be much deeper this year with the addition of three transfers,

Tyler Nickel, Mekhi Long and Robbie Beran, to go along with freshmen Brandon Rechsteiner and Jaydon Young.

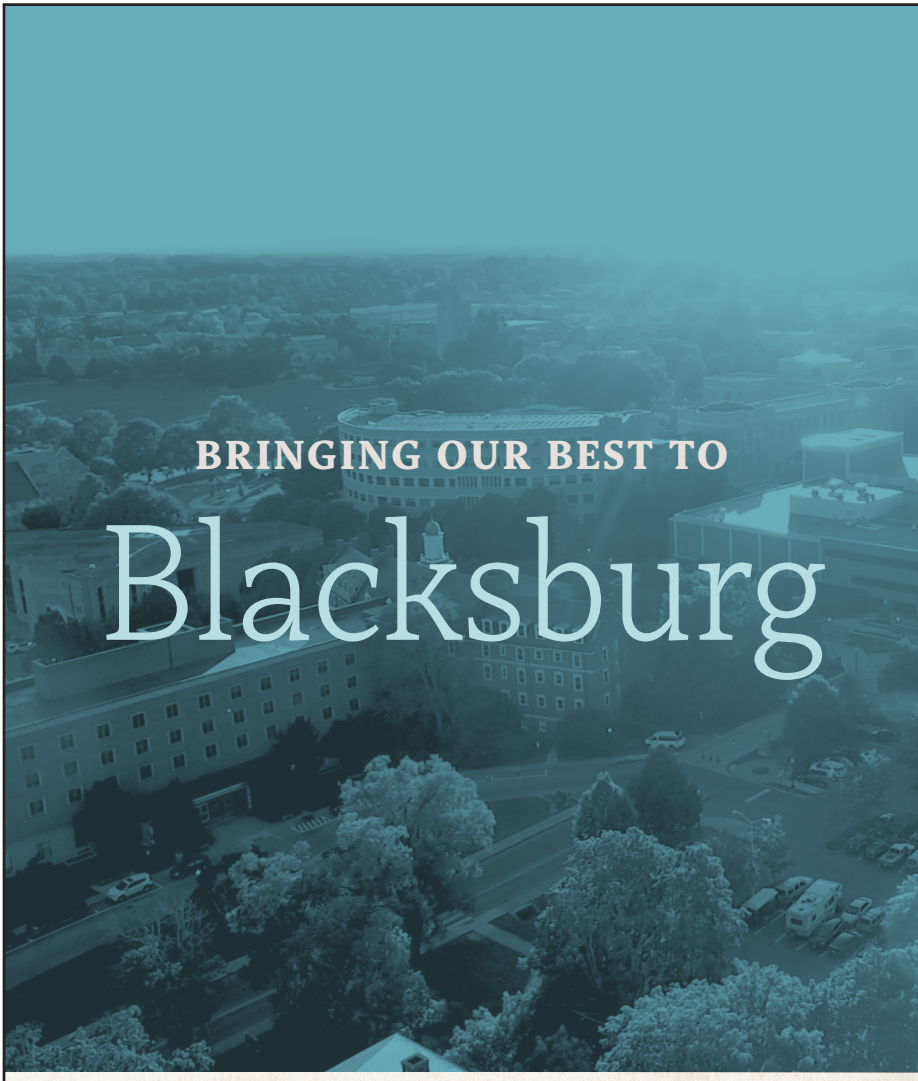
Auburn concluded last season with a 21-13 record and advanced to the second round of the 2023 NCAA tournament as the No. 9 seed.

With the announcement of the ACC/SEC Challenge, Tech now has three events confirmed for its 2023-24 schedule. In addition to playing Auburn, the Hokies are facing SEC foe South Carolina as part of the HOF Series in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 10. Two weeks later, Tech will compete in the loaded ESPN Events Invitational in Orlando, Fla.

The Hokies' full nonconference schedule will be released in the coming weeks.

-Virginia Tech Athletics

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# Final Four rematch to take place Nov. 30

In a rematch of the national semifinal in March, the Virginia Tech women's basketball team is set to face national champs LSU in the 2023 ACC/SEC Challenge, ESPN has announced.

Tipoff is set for 9 p.m. ET on Thursday, Nov. 30 from the Pete Maravich Assembly Center in Baton Rouge. Specific details about the television designation will be announced at a later date.

The Hokies fell to LSU 79-72 in Dallas in March at the Final Four in the first national semifinal. In that game Elizabeth Kitley recorded a double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds and she was joined in double figures by Georgia Amoore (17), Kayana Traylor (17) and Cayla King (14).

LSU holds a 3-1 edge in the all-time series

which dates back to 1984. The Tigers have won each of the last three meetings, which took place in 2001, 2006 and 2023.

The Tigers, led by Head Coach Kim Mulkey return superstar forward Angel Reese and have added impact transfers Hailey Van Lith (Louisville) and Aneesah Morrow (DePaul).

The Hokies return Kitley, a Second Team All-American and two-time ACC Player of the Year. Last season she averaged 18.2 points per game and 10.7 rebounds, collecting 23 double-doubles and helping the Hokies to their best season in program history. She was amongst the national leaders in blocks, double-doubles, field goals and rebounds. For her career, she tops the Virginia Tech record book in

numerous categories: points, double-doubles, 30-point games, field goals, field goal percentage and blocks.

All-American point guard Amoore who made the second-most threes in the country a season ago (118) is back for her senior season. She was named the MVP of the ACC Tournament and the Seattle 3 Region's Most Outstanding Player, connected on 24 threes in the NCAA Tournament and set an ACC Tournament record with 14 in Greensboro en route to lifting the program's first ACC Championship trophy.

Tech's third returning starter in 2023-24 is King. She ranks fourth all-time at Tech with 225 threes and owns the record for threes in a game with nine.

-Staff reports

# Christiansburg native full-time at Averett

Averett University football head coach Patrick Henry announced Wednesday the full-time hiring of longtime assistant Patrick Bolen as offensive line coach.

Bolen has been affiliated with the Averett football program

for a majority of its existence as a part-time coach. He coached the Cougars' offensive line from 2006-09 before rejoining the program, where he helped coach the defensive line during the 2011 season.

He then served as a linebackers' coach and defensive assistant coach before moving to offense to coach the offensive line and tight ends. During his tenure, he's also helped coach long snappers and various special teams positions with Averett.

"Coach Bolen is someone who has dedicated 16-going-

on-17 years to this program," Henry said. "He knows how we recruit, how we practice and, most importantly, he knows our players. The rapport he has created in his time here is why I am so excited to move him from a part-time to full-time role."

Bolen has coached 24 all-conference selections and four players who went on to play professionally.

Before joining Averett's football staff, Bolen was a linebackers coach at Christiansburg High School from 2003-06.

-Averett Athletics

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# 2023 SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

Blacksburg TOWN OF VIRGINIA

Concerts, Movies, Yoga, Visual Art, and More  
[summerartsfestival.vt.edu](http://summerartsfestival.vt.edu)

## THURSDAY NIGHT CONCERTS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

701 Church St SE / 7:00-8:00pm

- July 6 Alumni Recital (Aurora Martin, soprano)
- July 13 Bach! (Fiona Hughes, violin; Ben Wyatt, cello)
- July 20 Alma Ensemble
- July 27 Haydn *Lord Nelson Mass* (Community Sing)

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION DISTRICT

185 Kent St

- July 15, 11am Interactive Storytime with Joelle!
- July 22, 11am Interactive Storytime with Joelle!
- July 22, 2pm Improvisation Workshop with Joelle!

## ART EXHIBIT

PERSPECTIVE ART GALLERY

Squires Student Center - 290 College Ave

12-6pm, Monday-Saturday

VT School of Visual Arts Non-Majors Exhibit

June 12 - Aug 27

## ...AND MORE

Visit [summerartsfestival.vt.edu](http://summerartsfestival.vt.edu) for more info!

## FRIDAY NIGHT OUTDOOR CONCERTS

HENDERSON LAWN / 6:00-7:30pm

- June 23 The What Four (Jazz & Soul)
- June 30 Redd Volkaert Trio (Honky Tonk)
- July 7 Blacksburg Community Band
- July 14 Root Down (Jazz, Funk, & Blues)
- July 21 Domino Band (Rhythm & Blues)
- July 28 Music Road Co (Funk & Reggae)

## YOGA ON THE LAWN

BLACKSBURG MUSEUM / 9:30-10:30am

- July 1 Easy Flow Yoga
- July 8 Easy Flow Yoga
- July 15 Easy flow Yoga
- July 22 Easy Flow Yoga
- July 29 Easy Flow Yoga

## CLASSIC FILMS

THE HISTORIC LYRIC THEATRE

135 College Ave / 3pm

- July 1 *E.T.*
- July 15 *The Sting*
- July 29 *Right Stuff*

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE