Wednesday, February 7, 2024

www.ourvalley.org

**USPS 016-490** 

\$1.00

# Blacksburg High School students petition for reinstatement of principal

Blacksburg

Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG - Blacksburg High School students are petitioning for the reinstatement of Principal Chris Stewart after receiving a statement that he would be taking a leave of absence from their school.

This is following a previous petition from Blacksburg students and parents calling for an investigation into a Nov. 7 2023, murder-suicide that resulted in the deaths of two Blacksburg High School students.

A statement from the Montgomery County School Board confirmed that an investigation into the actions of BHS would be initiated.

"At a special meeting on Jan. 30, 2024, the Montgomery County School Board voted to initiate a third-party review of circumstances related to the off-campus deaths of two Blacksburg High School students on Nov. 7, 2023. Our goals are to work expeditiously in support of this review and to take responsible and appropriate actions based on any recommendations returned. The School Board intends for this review to aid in better understanding of the factual circumstances of the matter and to assess the school division's legal and regulatory obligations in matters such as these. The School Board will not comment further until the review has been completed," MCPS Public Relations Office said.

Parents and students then received notice that Principal Chris Steward would be taking a leave of absence and Adam Simpson would be temporarily acting in the administrator's place at BHS as principal.

A later email was sent to parents that Assistant Principal Oliver Lewis was also placed on leave.

Students reacted with a TikTok video protesting the removal of Stewart. In the video, students are holding signs reading "We love (heart symbol) Stew", "Justice for Serenity", and "We Want Accountability" to the tune of Open Your Eyes by Illkan Gunuc and Osman Altun.

Additionally, a petition at www.change.org was started by a BHS student Jan. 28 2024, and has



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCPS

Blacksburg High School

almost reached their goal of 500 signatures as of Feb. 4. The petition on the website states that Stewart had only been the principal of BHS for a little over three weeks at the time of the tragic event and should not be held accountable for the events that led up to the students' deaths.

# Dan Hamrick named Rotary Club of Blacksburg's Citizen of the Year

NRV named in 2023 Top 50 Metro

Area for Economic Growth in the U.S.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BLACKSBURG

Dan Hamrick (left) and Tom Ryan, Rotary Club President at the Citizen of the Year ceremony.

NEW RIVER VALLEY - The New River

The magazine recently released its rankings of

Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford

Valley is one of the top 50 places in America

for metro areas that are "hotspots for economic

the 2023 leading metro locations that are hotspots

metropolitan statistical area (MSA), also known as

the New River Valley, ranked No. 49 overall and

No. 21 among mid-sized metros with populations

between 160,000 to 600,000. The New River

Valley is the only location from Virginia that

According to Area Development, they ranked

'384 MSAs across 24 economic and workforce indicators pulled from eight data sets — each set

containing a five-year change, a three-year change,

and a one-year change indicator — originating

from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S.

Census, and JobsEQ by Chmura Economics &

Analytics." The "Overall Ranking" was created

by totaling the score across all data sets, with the

five-year change indicators carrying the most

weight and the one-year indicators carrying the

least weight. The four primary indicators used to

compile the rankings included Prime Workforce,

Economic Strength, Year-Over-Year Growth,

The "overall ranking" isn't a product of just

Three-Year Growth, and Five-Year Growth.

growth", according to Area Development.

for economic growth.

made the top 50.

For over 30 years the Rotary Club of Blacksburg has presented a Citizen of the Year Award to a Montgomery Co. resident who exemplifies Rotary's values of business ethics, personal integrity and service to others.

The Award was presented to Daniel Hamrick at a recent Rotary Club ceremony. In describing why Hamrick was selected, words like Service, Duty, Honor, Ethics, Sacrifice were used often in describing Dan Hamrick. A Christiansburg native, Hamrick was characterized as an "All American Boy", known and admired throughout the community. He excelled in school and athletics; earned perfect attendance pins at church; achieved Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts ; left college to join the Army, serving in Viet Nam flying Huey helicopters.

He returned to the New River Valley and began a law career that has spanned over 40 years. In introducing Hamrick, the Rotary Club noted his exceptional core principals and high ethical standards, as well as his life of service to the community.

Hamrick thanked Rotary for presenting this Award each year, and said he was honored and humbled by this recognition, and appreciated his being considered.

Rotary Club of Blacksburg

# Blacksburg United Methodist Church's 100 volunteers pack meals for Rise Against Hunger. Community packs meals at Blacksburg United

BLACKSBURG - One hundred members of Blacksburg United Methodist Church and the greater community gathered Saturday in a meal packing event that provided 15,000 meals for Rise Against

Hunger, an initiative to end hunger around the world. The boxes contain a combination of rice, soy, vegetables, and vitamins. Meals will be distributed through school feeding programs in areas hard hit by hunger, providing the benefits of both food and

This is the third time Blacksburg United Methodist

"This event is always a really fun and meaningful way to gather together and help children across the globe," said Dick Arnold

outreach ministries at BUMC. After an opening prayer by Pastor Brad Dulaney, David Thomas-Bush of Rise Against Hunger, ran through the instructions and the mission of Rise

Against Hunger. 'More than meals, our program works to provide

you do here supports education, skills training, and health services with every meal." David's rocking playlist with hits from the 50's, 60's, and 70's made the time fly as volunteers scooped

The enthusiastic volunteers included Virginia Tech

students from the Wesley Foundation, members of The Common Ingredient, the BUMC youth group, and volunteers from age five to eighty-five from Blacksburg United Methodist Church and throughout the community.

"Our Sunday School class, Journey, is delighted to organize this inspiring event again," said Jennifer Cooper, a member of BUMC. "The mission is simple and powerful: come together with friends and neighbors to make a direct impact on the serious

Blacksburg United Methodist Church

# Methodist Church to target world hunger

Church has sponsored a Rise Against Hunger event.

a path out of poverty," said Thomas-Bush. "The work

soy, rice, and dehydrated vegetables, added vitamin packets, sealed the bags, and packed boxes. With every 1000 meals packed, a gong sounded, and a

problem of hunger in the world."



This shows the New River Valley's strength in a variety of different indicators that make it 'a natural fit' across the board. The region benefits from its emerging tech hub, high-tech advanced manufacturing, access to talent, great cost of living and many other key factors that make the NRV a great place to live and do business.

Onward NRV

# Unveiling Black History

# CI, Inc. and MCCRC launch speaker series on cultural preservation advocacy in Montgomery County

Christiansburg Institute (CI, Inc.) invites the public to a captivating evening on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. at The Lyric Theater in Blacksburg. This marks the launch of

our inaugural speaker series, a collaborative project between CI, Inc. and the Montgomery County Review Community Council (MCCRC).

Delve into the intricate cultural tapestry and history of Roanoke, exploring its profound connections

to Montgomery County through

the lens of Jordan Bell—a

distinguished community historian,

professional educator, and dedicated

cultural organizer. A Roanoke native deeply immersed in the region's history, Jordan currently serves as the Program Coordinator at Apple Ridge Farms and is the Founder and President of Gainsboro Revisited. Additionally, Jordan holds board positions at the Harrison Museum of African American Culture and the Roanoke Valley Preservation

passion for African American cultural heritage, history, and storytelling is palpable through

extensive research and preservation

efforts, particularly focused on

Gainsboro—a historically

community in Roanoke. Prepare for an engaging experience as Jordan delivers a dynamic presentation, setting the stage for an immersive panel discussion featuring local community members. Generously sponsored by the

Black Studies Center at Radford University and the More Than A Fraction Foundation, this event promises an enlightening exploration of the region's heritage. Join us as we embark on a journey through time, unraveling the layers of history that

Christiansburg Institute, Inc.

define our community.



A group of volunteers pack some of the 15,000 meals. which contain a combination of rice, soy, vegetables,

# PCOMING EVENTS

# **Saturday, Feb. 10:**

#### Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

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

# Sunday, Feb. 11 – Sunday, Feb. 25:

#### Black History Month speakers

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg, will observe Black History Month each Sunday in February starting at 11 a.m. during church services. The theme "Community - Bringing Hope to a Weary World" will be shared by guest speakers: Feb 11, 2024-Ms. Stacie Wright; Feb. 18, 2024- Dr. Frederick Douglass Dixon; Feb. 25, 2024- Ms. Demiah Smith. Asbury UMC regular services are each Sunday at 11 a.m. Rev. Lance Presley, Pastor. Please join us! For additional information, please call 540-382-0743.

# **Monday, Feb. 12:**

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.

## Montgomery County Board of Supervisors

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, Feb. 13:

#### Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

#### Christiansburg Town Council meeting

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

# Thursday, Feb. 15:

#### 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, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Will Reed will speak on "Animals of the War Between the States". If Montgomery and/or Floyd County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

# **Saturday, Feb. 17:**

#### Community Garden planning session

At the Meadowbrook Library; 1 - 3 p.m. First meeting for people interested in a community garden in the Shawsville/ Ellison area.

# Sunday, Feb. 18:

#### Quaker Open House

What is a Quaker? The Blacksburg Friends Meeting (Quakers) welcome all to find out at our Open House, 9:45 - 11 a.m. Join us at our Meeting house at 404 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg, for a tour and question/answer period at 9:45 a.m., short open worship (with activities for children) at 10 a.m. and fellowship. Children are welcome with accompanying adult. Our underlying principles revolve around the belief that there is that of God in everyone. This leads us to promote peace, simplicity, equality, integrity, community and stewardship. For more information about the Blacksburg Friends Meeting and the event, please visit www.blacksburgfriends.org.

# Monday, Feb. 19:

The Dinos are coming!

Looking for a fun, family-friendly activity to enjoy together? Join us 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center for Dino Squad! Explore fossils, cast replicas and museum models of dinosaurs during this interactive, educational program. \$3/child, \$2/ additional child. Adults free when accompanying a child. Register in advance online, or in-person at the door. Keyword search "Dino Squad", activity number: 201014. For more information, call 540.443.1100.

# **Saturday, February 24:**

Soul food tasting event

Celebrate Black History Month and take a step back in time at the 7th annual Soul Food Sampling at historic St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall (SLOFH), where generations met to enjoy delicious food, music, and fellowship. In this spirit, you will receive generous portions of traditional soul foods at dinner table settings, learn about the history of soul food, and enjoy discussions with former New Town residents. There are three time slots for the event, each capped at 18 people: 12 – 1:45 p.m., 2 – 3:45 p.m., and 4 – 5:45 p.m. Tickets \$37 per person and available at the SLOFH Soul Food Sampling Page.

# On-going:

#### 2024 Blacksburg Citizens Institute

Do you want to learn more about the Town of Blacksburg? Are you a new resident, retiree, or just someone who wants to get involved in the community? Join us for the 2024 Citizens Institute to meet town staff and to learn about the functions of your local government. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from April – June 6- 8 p.m. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and must be residents of the Town of Blacksburg. Space is filling up fast! To register and to learn more, contact the Community Relations Office at cro@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1090.

#### 2024 business license reminder

Town of Blacksburg business license renewal forms for 2024 are due by Friday, March 1, 2024. Businesses are assessed an annual license tax based on prior year's annual gross receipts. Renewals not filed and paid by March 1, 2024, are subject to a 10% penalty and interest at a rate of 10% per annum. Renewal packets were mailed Jan. 2, 2024. If you have not received the packet, email businesslicensegroup@blacksburg.gov or call 540.961.1108.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY

# Montgomery Museum of Art & History hosts **Montgomery County Public** School Student Art Show

The Montgomery Museum of Art & History is hosting Montgomery County Public Schools for a Student Art Show.

This is the first year that the Museum has hosted art from most of Montgomery County's public schools. This show offers a combined vision of student art across the county and has been specially curated by elementary, middle, and high school art teachers. The elementary school show will include student art from Eastern Montgomery Elementary, Margaret Beeks Elementary, Christiansburg Primary, Belview Elementary, Price's Fork Elementary, Gilbert Linkous Elementary, Harding Ave Elementary, Falling Branch Elementary, and Auburn Elementary. The opening reception of the Elementary School Student Art Show will be held Thursday, Feb. 8, 4:30

Elementary School art will be on exhibit through Feb. 28. 'The museum is very happy to offer a

6:30 p.m., with remarks at 5:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served. The

place for students to experience sharing

their artwork with the community in a gallery setting. We believe that this show is an important way the Museum can serve all of Montgomery County," said Sherry Wyatt, Assistant Director and Museum Curator.

The opening reception for the Middle and High School Student Art Show will be held on Thursday, March 7, 5 - 7 p.m., with remarks at 6 p.m. Art students from Auburn Middle, Blacksburg Middle, Christiansburg Middle, Shawsville Christiansburg Middle, Middle, Auburn High, Blacksburg High, Christiansburg High, Eastern Montgomery High, and Montgomery Blacksburg Central will be participating in the show which will run through March 23. Judging for the elementary show will be made by a local retired art educator and local artist Larry Bechtel will judge the middle and high school entries. Cash prizes for the students are generously sponsored by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA).

Montgomery Museum of Art and History

# **NRCC Concert Series to** hold free concert Feb. 10



Adam McPeak & Mountain Thunder

The music of Adam McPeak & Mountain Thunder and Gap Civil will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event on Sat.,

Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

The band Adam McPeak & Mountain Thunder is composed primarily of young bluegrass musicians from Virginia, with mandolin player Adam at the helm. The band includes Mike McPeak, Adam's father, who plays guitar and sings lead and harmony vocals; Nikki Wright who plays fiddle and sings lead and harmony vocals; David Chrisley who plays bass and sings harmony vocals; Steve Chrisley, David's father, who plays banjo; and Lindsey Jackson, who sings lead vocals. The group began playing at fiddler's conventions and then went on to play their own shows and participate in competitions. They have also appeared on public television's "Song of the Mountains."

Gap Civil is an Appalachian Mountain

music band built on their motto of honor and innovate. They honor the mountain traditions that have shaped and rooted their music, and they take great pride in innovative and exciting original songs, tunes and arrangements. Fluidly blending the genres of old time, country, bluegrass and Americana, their music is sure to make you want to dance. Gap Civil was formed in 2017 based in Sparta, N.C. and features Todd Hiatt on guitar, Chris Johnson on banjo and bass, Lucas Pasley on fiddle and vocals, and

Kyle Dean Smith on bass and lead guitar. Corporate sponsors of the music events include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc., Radford; CCCKY, LLC – Fazoli's, Dublin; Deanie Hall – State Farm Agent, Dublin; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; King Tire Service, Pulaski; Lee's Body Shop, Pearisburg; Martin's Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; Pulaski Patriot, SERVPRO, Pulaski; Montgomery & Pulaski Counties; and Southern

Furniture Warehouse, Radford. The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset travel expenses for the musicians. The music events are typically held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated

For more information about the NRCC Concert Series, please contact Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625 or visit www.nr.edu/concerts.

New River Community College



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NRCC

**Gap Civil** 

# **BITUARIES**

# **Burke, Eldean Thornton**

Eldean Burke, 87, went to be with her heavenly father Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, at her home Christiansburg surrounded by her loving family. She was a longtime member and secretary of Cornersview Pentecostal Holiness Church and worked at Thornton's Greenhouse in Snowville. Eldean was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Gladys Phillips; and husband, Harold Thornton.

include Survivors her husband of 44 years, Ronald Lee Burke; children, Brenda Roop and Jack, Elaine Snuffer and Benny, Randy Thornton and Christy, and Darrell Thornton and Annette; sister and brother-inlaw, Linda and Jerry



grandchildren, Kim Vaughn and Mark, Christie Thornton, Jamie Thornton, Ashley Thornton, Michelle Thornton, Collins and Delbert, Farrington Shauna and Brian, and Nicole Crowder and John; step grandchildren, Tammy Surface and Alan, and Brad Roop and Jenni; 15 great grandchildren; six great great grandchildren; nephew, Shane Harper; care givers, Trea, Fannie, Stacey, Natasha, Kathy, Tammy, Julia and Crystal; church family; and many other relatives and friends. The family would like

to thank Good Samaritan Hospice for all the love and compassion given to

The family received friends Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home Radford. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at Cornersview Holiness Pentecostal Church in Snowville with Rev. Frankie officiating. Graham Interment followed in the Appalachian Conference Cemetery in Dublin.

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



**LewisGale Hospital Montgomery** 

# Gravley, II, John Henry

John Henry Gravley, II, son of Bettie and Clarence Robert Gravley (Boots), left this life Jan. 30, 2024, after a short hard battle.

God's anointing was upon him. He was a member of Mountain View Seventh Day Adventist Church in Floyd. He loved the Lord with all his heart, soul, and mind. He struggled so hard these last few months but never gave up. Now, he's asleep, waiting for the Lord to come upon his appointed day.

John Henry always

had a good sense of humor. He loved playing music and singing in

church. He was a friend to everyone. And we all loved him very much. To say he will be missed is an understatement! His presence and impact on that he will never ever be

He was preceded in death by his dad, Bootsie; brothers, Terry, Dustin, Jay, Jesse, and Beaver; and all aunts, and uncles. He leaves behind Bettie (mom), Toady (sister), Robert (brother), Karin (wife), sons, John, III, and Jason, daughter, Karina, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews, church family, who he loved dearly.

A memorial service was held Monday, Feb. 5, 2024 at Parrott Church of God with Elder Billy Martin officiating.

# Sterrett, Robert

those around him left

Robert "Bob" Sterrett, 72, passed away peacefully Feb. 2, 2024.

He was born in Lexington, Va. Feb. 12, 1951, to the late William and Frances Sterrett. He spent his childhood in Richmond but found his true home in Blacksburg. graduated Blacksburg High School then received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech. After graduation, Bob became a teacher and coach until he switched careers into sales with Poly-Scientific. He finished his career as the Human Resources Director at Moog.

Bob loved to work, but once retiring, he found his true passion: golf. On any day of the week, he could be found at the Blacksburg Country Club playing a round with his long-time friends or just hitting balls in the evening. He also loved rooting for the



Hokies and vacationing with his family at Wild Dunes. Bob's kindness, and infectious personality touched all who met him. He loved life and fought courageously for it against cancer for two years. Despite this terrible disease, Bob never lost

Bob was most proud of his family, especially his 48-year marriage to Julie. He is survived by her and their two sons Scott (Brittany) Robert (Yamini) and grandchildren

Charley, Drew, Bobby. He is also survived by his brother Bill Sterrett (Cynthia) and brother in-law Jeff Jenrette (Dorothy) and his nieces and nephews Stephanie Guckenberger (Mark), Meredith Wojnowich (Gili), Jordan Jenrette, and Joseph Jenrette.

The family would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support over the last two years. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Blacksburg Battles Cancer at https://www.blacksburgbattlescancer. org/donate.

A memorial service will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at 11 a.m. Blacksburg United thodist Church, Methodist with the Reverend Brad Dulaney officiating. A visitation will be held Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, 4 -6 p.m., at McCoy Funeral

# Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery receives fourth Magnet recognition

Montgomery has received Magnet designation, the highest national honor for professional nursing practice, from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the fourth time.

Receiving Magnet recognition is a tremendous achievement, as only a small, select group of healthcare organizations are recognized each year. Magnet recognition is awarded to organizations and nursing teams that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence, leading to the highest level of treatment for patients. Very few hospitals in the country have four or more Magnet recognitions.

recognition great honor and reflects our commitment to delivering the highest quality of care to our

BLACKSBURG — LewisGale community," said Lauren Dudley, chief executive officer. "Earning Magnet recognition is a great accomplishment and incredible source of pride for our nurses. Our repeated achievement of this credential is the cornerstone of a foundation of excellent patientfocused, quality care."

Less than 10% of hospitals in the United States are Magnet recognized, and less than 1% of those have been designated four or more times. Research demonstrates Magnet recognition provides specific benefits to healthcare organizations and These communities. include higher patient satisfaction, lower risk of 30-day mortality, higher job satisfaction, and lower nurse

Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery

# ETS OF THE WEEK

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

Meet Pepperoni! gal can be shy at first, but once comfortable, she enjoys cuddles and pets from her favorite humans. Pepperoni tends to act a little tough with other felines, so she may do best as the only cat in the home.



Buttercup won't break your heart. In fact, she'll fill it with sweetness and joy! She is a smart girl who knows basic commands, and she'll gladly roll over for a yummy treat. Buttercup also gets along with other dogs. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her.

# Varelos, Nicholas Michael

Varelos, 52, passed away Feb. 3, 2024, after a battle with Alzheimer's.

He is preceded in death by his father, Michael Ńicholas Varelos; mother, Alice St. Clair Varelos; and other family

He is survived by his wife, Kelly King Varelos; daughters, Katherine Nicole and Alexis Paige Varelos, all of Blacksburg; sisters and brother-in-law, Elaine and Curtis Woods of Elliston, Angela Lance of Roanoke; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Susan and Cameron Craft of Blue Ridge; brother-in-law, Michael King of Blue Ridge; nieces and nephews, Sarah and



Zach Hill of Roanoke, Chloe and Justin Wan of Texas, Rachel and Brevin Thomas, and their daughter, Blair, of Texas, Victor Lance of Texas, and Andrew King of Daleville.

1989 Nick was William graduate of Fleming High in Roanoke. High School

graduation, he went on to work at his family's restaurant, Mike's Grill in Blacksburg. He worked in food prep, then as a cook, until becoming the owner in 2011. After closing the restaurant in 2016, Nick worked at Yokohama Tire as a production supervisor until Sept. 2020.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Scott officiating. Obenchain 1 A graveside service will follow at 1 p.m. at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, Roanoke. The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

# Williams, Sharyn Dawne Poole

Dawne Poole Williams, 78, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph Willard and Frances Sawyers Poole; and her husband, Dennis Wayne Cox.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Lori Williams Maxfield (Torger); former husband, Marshall Williams; sister and brother-in-law, Marsha Poole Simpkins (Donnie); stepdaughter and her husband, Ronda Lambert (Billy); nephew, Will Simpkins;

and her husband, Sarah Polcha (Greg); and many other relatives and special friends.

A memorial service will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that

donations be made to the Pulaski County Humane Society, 80 Dublin Park Road, Dublin, VA, 24084.

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

#### 118th ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER



February 13, 2024 • 5:00pm - 7:00pm Grace Episcopal Church 210 Fourth Street, Radford, VA

Proceeds will benefit Radford/Fairlawn Daily Bread. *Cash or card donations accepted at the door.* 

# Business REVIEW

# Time to Brag

**YOUR story - YOUR employees - YOUR message** in our Business Review Edition on February 28-29 Write your own story & advertisement with pictures of your staff and/or business - Deadline February 21st

TO ADVERTISE, Call Wendi Craig (276) 340-2445 advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

# Salem Rebels were a fun part of local sports history

Evans "Buddy" King

In the fall of 1967, professional ice hockey came to southwest Virginia in the form of the Salem Rebels, an "expansion team" in the Eastern Hockey League. That was the year the Salem Civic Center opened. The small arena, located in the Salem sports center that today includes a minor league baseball park and a football stadium that hosted the Division 3

college football championship for several years (the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl), was initially named the

See **Rebels**, page 8

#### deadline coming soon crossover General Assembly

Virginia General Assembly

The Virginia General Assembly continues its march toward the "Crossover" deadline; the date when legislation originating in the House of Delegates must pass to the Senate of Virginia (and vice versa). "Crossover" this year is February 13, and any legislation that doesn't pass from its originating body by that day is considered dead. This means that committees are working in overdrive to consider hundreds of bills to meet this hard deadline, and the days have certainly become

As mentioned last week, several of my bills have received favorable committee hearings and have since passed through the full House of Delegates. This includes HB 292, which changes the name of Drug Treatment Courts to "Recovery Courts." HB 292 passed through the House of Delegates with a unanimous "yes" vote, and I look forward to presenting this bill to the Senate Committee on Courts of Justice soon. Also passing the House unanimously was my HB 299, which would allow localities to exempt from their animal license tax retired police K9's or military working dogs. This local option is a great way for our localities to say "thank you" to our law enforcement and Veterans who wish to adopt their working dogs.

Additionally, I've received many emails from constituents in support of House Bill 906, which would protect consumers from utility shutoffs during a state of emergency declared by the Governor. During this bill's initial committee hearing, I harbored concerns that this law could open the door for abuse and intentional non-payment of utility bills, which could make everyone's electric bills more costly. However, those concerns have since been addressed, and I was happy to vote in favor of this bi-partisan piece of legislation on the House floor that protects us all from utility shutoffs during emergencies. HB 906 passed on a 76-24 vote in the full House, and it will now move on to the Senate for further consideration.

Unfortunately, House Democrats continue their overreach in several areas of public policy, to include such topics as the minimum wage and legislation restricting popular firearms. HB 157, which would eliminate exemptions for farm employees

and certain temporary foreign workers from Virginia's minimum wage law, passed through the House of Delegates on a 50-49 vote. Many-if not a majority-of those voting in favor of this bill have no experience with farming and agriculture is not a substantial industry in their districts. This bill will make our food more expensive and provide an additional incentive for automation, which does not help workers at all. Equally disappointing is House Democrat's fixation with banning so-called "assault firearms," which they seek to do through House Bill 2. Rifles of any kind constitute a very small percentage of firearms used in violent crimes. In fact, Virginia Department of Health statistics show that between 2013-2017, 79.5% of gun homicides were perpetrated by handguns, while only 4% were by rifles of any type. This is obviously misguided policy, and its why Republicans embrace proven gun-violence prevention programs, such as Operation Ceasefire.

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you



and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia. Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @ JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

# You can save more for retirement in 2024

Josh Smith, CRPC

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

As an investor, one way you can enhance your long-term retirement security is to fully leverage the potential of tax-

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, Publisher

Heather Bell, Editor

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Aila Boyd, Executive Editor

aboyd@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, Advertising Consultant

advantaged retirement savings vehicles. Each year, the IRS releases new guidelines on the amount of money you can contribute to these accounts. New contribution limits in 2024 allow you to save even more this year through plans such as 401(k)s, 403(b)s and IRAs Changes to workplace savings limits

Contribution limits for workplace retirement accounts have been raised by \$500 for the year 2024. In 2024, the IRS allows pre-tax employee contributions to 401(k) or 403(b) plans of: \$23,000 for those under age 50 and \$30,500 for those age 50 and older (includes a \$7,500 "catch up"

When combined with employer contributions, a maximum of \$69,000 can be directed to your workplace retirement plans in 2024 (plus the \$7,500 catch-up contribution for those age 50 and older). Note that total contributions can't exceed your annual compensation at the company that houses your plan.

If offered by your employer, you may be able to make after-tax contributions to a Roth 401(k). Note that any aftertax contributions are counted toward the \$69,000 total maximum limit for employee and employer contributions to workplace plans. Save an amount that makes sense for you, but it can be beneficial to take full advantage of any matching contribution offered by your employer. For example, if an employer offers to match up to  $\bar{5}\%$  of your income into a 401(k) if you make a similar contribution, it, in effect, means you're doubling your contribution for your retirement savings, before investment earnings are taken into account. This is a great way for your savings to make a big impact.

New IRA contribution limits IRA contribution limits move up periodically to reflect

cost-of-living changes. 2024 is one of those years. The new limits are: \$7,000 for those under age 50 and \$8,000 for those age 50 and older. Note that contributions can't exceed 100% of your earned

income if you earn less than the limits stated above. Also, these limits apply to total IRA contributions for the year. This is applicable even if you hold multiple IRAs or make contributions to both Roth IRAs (which feature the potential for tax-free earnings growth) and traditional IRAs. To make fully tax-deductible (pre-tax) traditional IRA

contributions in 2024, your modified adjusted gross income cannot exceed: \$77,000 for single or head-of-household tax filers or \$123,000 for married couples filing a joint return.

Not everyone can make maximum Roth IRA contributions. In 2024, full Roth IRA contributions can only occur if your modified adjusted gross income is less than: \$146,000 for single or head-of-household tax filers and \$230,000 for married couples filing a joint return.

Save diligently, plan wisely

Determining how much to set aside for retirement and in what types of savings vehicles is best determined through careful planning. The start of a new year is a great time to consider if you want to change or start contributions to these types of accounts. Discuss your retirement strategy with your financial advisor and consult with a tax professional on all tax-related matters.

Josh Smith, CRPC is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Radford (540-639-5153), 202 Third Ave., Radford. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for three years.

Investment products are not insured by the FDIC, NCUA or any federal agency, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by any financial institution, and involve investment risks including possible loss of principal and fluctuation in value.



COURTESY PHOTO

#### advertise@ourvalley.org Give us your view:

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 \$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.

CROSSWOR



4. Coagulated blood

8. Fortifying ditch 10. Devotee of Hindu-11. Trunk of a tree

12. Bank note 13. Capital of Guam 15. Study again 16. Covered with

hoarfrost 17. Opening

18. Legendary Rolling Stone 21. Stray

22. Computer storing

system 23. Signal

Bombshell<sup>6</sup> 34. A gland 35. Bluish greens

36. Endangered 37. Three-dimensional 38. In a way, precipi-

tated 39. God associated with dissolution

43. Midway between

south and southeast

40. Blemished 41. Flow or leak slowly 42. Disco legends The Bravo! Bee

sausage 4. First day of month 5. Eurasian shrubs 6. The organ that

26. Kilo yard (abbr.)

27. Found in the sea

29. Type of medicine

30. City along the

31. Animal disease

34. Lack of disunity

36. One-time Euro-

32. Martini ingredients

28. Protects from

weather

Rhine

officer

bears the ovules of

a flower 7. Small lake 9. Belief 10. Sunrooms

12. Metric weight unit 33. Get away pean Commission

14. Vasopressin 15. Bravo! Bravo! 17. One-time family

19. Got back together

room staple

One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00



\$55.00 \$59.00 **Yearly Print Only Subscription** \$46.00 Montgomery County \$55.00 Virginia • \$59.00 Out of State

CIIDCODIDTION TO NEW MECCENCED

	SODSOILL LION	IO MEMO	MLJJLNULII	
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.



# Market place ?

ourvalley.org

THE FINCASTLE HERALD

Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal Theorit arrangement than you Radion the

#### Help Wanted -General

#### **WANTED**

Models needed for life drawing class, male and female, \$65 for 3 hour session. Call David (Do not text) 540-473-3713

#### **Actor/Actress** needed

to present stories for a documentary film. This is paid work. Last film released in December of 2023 is in worldwide distribution. Qualities needed: photogenic and articulate

Send resume and photo to: Virginia Film Company, POB 3352

Roanoke, Virginia 24015

#### General Information

#### WASHINGTON STREET ARTS AND **CRAFTS SHOW DATE CHANGE**

The date for the juried Washington Street Arts and Crafts Show has changed to April 6, 2024. The show will now coincide with the Cherry Blossom Festival

sponsored by the Town of Buchanan. The show is sponsored by the United Women in Faith at Trinity United Methodist Church in Buchanan, VA. We would love to have you join us and applications are being accepted and may be requested by contacting the United Women in Faith at: WashingtonStreetArtShow @gmail.com

For Sale - Firewood

### **FIREWOOD**

Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-784-3436 or 540-Delivery 581-4183. Botetourt only.

#### Legals - Botetourt County

### TRUSTEE SALE OF

#### 105 Shade Hollow Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated October 3, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$135,681.00, recorded as Inst. 160003659, subsequently assigned to Virginia Housing Development Authority, and modified to the amount of \$127,131.58 as Inst. 210001144, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt Virginia default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on March 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as 1.00 acre, common corner with W.L. Harris on a 30 foot Roadway leading to Va.

of the holder of the note, the of whom may act, will sell at more or less, beginning at a State Secondary Route 652. corner marked by an iron pin; thence with said W.L. Harris line, N. 89 degrees 31' W. 223.86 feet to an iron pin corner in said Harris line; thence a new line through property owned jointly by Timothy N. Gilbert and Linda D. Gilbert and Herbert O. Ransom and Mary V. Ransom, N. 11 degrees 18' W. 200 feet to an iron on above said property; thence a new line through same property, S. 89 degrees 31' E. 223.86 feet to an iron in west edge of said 30 foot Roadway; thence with the said Roadway westerly line, S. 11 degrees 18' W. 200 feet to the point of Beginning, subject to a Road Maintenance Agreement recorded in Deed Book 494. Pages 811-817, and together with a perpetual easement 30 feet wide

located near Hickory Street

Va. Secondary Route 652, a portion of this right of way is

for ingress and egress to

14 feet wide as shown in

Deed Book 579, page 44

and final order recorded as

Inst. 030004788, County of

#### Legals - Botetourt County

Botetourt. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$12,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC. TRUSTEE".

balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to. determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any

repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit

without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions. covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or

Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale All costs of conveyance deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is

inspection of the premises

of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of

Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosuresales. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

ANY INFORMATION **OBTAINED WILL BE USED** 

FOR THAT

**PURPOSE** 

For Information Contact: DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA

#### 23602; (757) 320-0255 **ABC NOTICE**

DPC Living LLC., trading as Sycamore Place General

Store, 19758 Main St., Buchanan, Botetourt County, VA. 24066-0000

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCÓHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Gift Shop license to sell or manufacture alcoholic

beverages. Debra Conner, Owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be

registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

#### Legals - City of Radford

#### **ABC NOTICE**

CSKS LLC, trading as 101 Corner, 1123 Fairfax St., Radford, VA 24141-5342

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

Hardikkumar Patel, Owner Chirayu Patel, Owner

beverages

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from

#### Legals - City of Radford

the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-**

The Radford City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.in the City Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, to consider public comments regarding the following: Proposed amendment to Radford City Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 120.1-228 - Non-Conforming Signs. The proposed amendment will allow for the Consolidation; reconstruction of existing nonconforming off-premise sian structures. Additional information is available at www.radfordva.gov or the Community Development Dept. at (540)267-3188 10 Robertson Street. Interested citizens are invited to attend this hearing and

#### **ABC NOTICE**

present their comments.

Tienda Y Taqueria Genesis LLC., trading as Tienda Latina Genesis, 7345 Peppers Ferry Blvd Suite A, Fairlawn, Pulaski County, VA. 24141-8857.

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

Josue Vazquez Quintanilla,

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

#### Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January

22, 2024. at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, voted to continue the public hearing

of the following item.

Consider the request of Virginia Baptist Children's Home (dba HopeTree Family Services), property owner, for rezoning the properties located at 1000 block Red Lane and a portion of 860 Mount Vernon Lane (Tax Map #'s 41-1-1, 41-1-2, 41-1-3, 41-1-4, 41-1-5, 41-1-6, and a portion of 44-3-10) from **RSF** Residential Single Family to PUD Planned Unit District.

This item was continued until the March 11, 2024, meeting of the Council of the City of Salem. This meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street.

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

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

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY:H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

#### Legals -Montgomery County that JACOB ANDRE

#### **TOWN OF BLACKSBURG -**NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL**

will hold public hearings on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items: Ordinance 2038: An

Ordinance to Amend Town Code Sections 14-200, 14-201 and 14-202 Establishing a Civil Penalty for Certain Trash Violations The proposed ordinance will amend the Town Code to create a process to address loose trash or garbage in a timely manner Ordinance 2040: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code to Establish a New Section 17-315 to Prohibit Overcrowding in Buildings.

This proposed ordinance will incorporate the provisions of § 1001.3 of the Virginia Statewide Prevention Code regarding overcrowding into the Town Code. Violations will be a Class 1 misdemeanor Resolution authorizing Deed of Dedication for Meadowbrook Greenway Trail The proposed resolution will

authorize the Mayor to sign a Deed of Dedication which will designate a portion of the Meadowbrook Greenway Trail as permanent open space. All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street. Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000

#### Order of **Publication**

(voice or TDD).

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,20-104 Case No.CL23002018-00

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MELISSA JANE MCPHERSON v. JACOB ANDRE **MCPHERSON** A/K/A KOBI MAZUR The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED

#### Legals -Montgomery County

**MCPHERSON** A/K/A KOBI MAZUR appear at the abovenamedcourt and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 8, 2024. JANUARY 5, 2024 K MIKE FLEENOR JR **JUDGE** TIFFANY M. COUCH, **CLERK** 

#### Legals - Town of Vinton

#### **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, February 20, 2024, 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 action to officially list the Vinton Historic District on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places

Historic District appears to be eligible for a National Register listing at the local level of significance. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information to affected property owners and local officials about the meaning of a National Register

The Vinton Downtown

designation. 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 in this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Antonia Arias-Magallon Administrative Manager

#### The VA Dept of **Historic Resources** will conduct a public information hearing of the Town of Vinton, VA 2024. The meeting begins at 6:00 pm and will be held

at Vinton Town Hall at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179. Public comment regarding the proposal will be taken at the time of the hearing or can be sent to Director Julie Langan, Dept of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Ave, Richmond,

VA 23221. This proposal has been recommended eligible for the Virginia Landmarks and National Registers. This proposal will be presented to the State Review Board and the

Board of Historic Resources on March 14, 2024. For additional information, contact Amanda Terrell at Amanda.Terrell@dhr.virgini a.gov or 804-482-8092.

#### **STATEWIDE** ADS

**STATEWIDE** ADS

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY \$1000 OFF No Payments & No Interest For 18 Months OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/24 SHOWER SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

SHOWER

# OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS

#### **Over 500 Vacation Homes Entire Outer Banks from** Corolla's 4x4 to Hatteras Island! Family time is what it's all about!

brindleybeach.com **FOREVER** 

Book NOW! Weeks are filling up fast!



# Brown v. Board of Education **SCHOLARSHIP** ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

THROUGH APRIL 12, 2024 The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship

Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. Beginning in 2024, the scholarship program is extended to their descendants. The program is now open to eligible applicants for the 2024-2025 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV



It's a power move.

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$735.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

**GENERAC** 



BOUGHT.



# THE CLASSIFIEDS DELIVER!

It's easy to sell your stuff! To place your ad, call 389-9355







TALK AND SPORTS RADIO STATION (Nielsen Fall 2022 book)

www.foxradioroanoke.com (540) 343-7109



RR

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**  $\blacksquare$  A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC



**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** 



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





**FLESHMAN** 

Wampler Realty 64 Wendover Road Daleville, Va 24083 Cell: 540-312-7792 Office: 540-992-2500 sfleshmansells@hotmail.com

**REALTOR®** SHERRYE

Each office is independently owned and operated

### **WE BUY** COIN **COLLECTIONS**

Top money paid **FREE** estimates



Contact us at 540-988-2420

#### **EADES & LOWER INSURANCE**

5007 Carriage Dr., Suite 100 P.O. Box 21483 Roanoke, VA 24018



SHERRI STINNETTE HOLT **INSURANCE AGENT** 

Cell (540)819-9179 • Office (540)981-1124

Fax (540) 981-1266 sherri@eadesandlower.com

www.eadesandlower.com

AUTO | HOME **BUSINESS | LIFE** 



Residential and **Commercial** Construction

540-966-0688 PO Box 630 Daleville, VA 24083

www.southerntracellc.com

# Windy Ridge Tree & Mulching Service



Contact us today for a free quote! 540-473-5176 fincastletreedr@gmail.com windyridgetreedr.com

#### Selling Your Business?

Call: The Hopkins Group **Business & Real Estate Brokers** 

\*Planning \*Valuations \*Marketing \*Closings

STIHL PARTS & SERVICE

New and Used Equipment & Parts Available on All Brands

Husqvarna • CubCadet • Toro • MTD • Murray • Echo

**Specialized Saw & Mower. Inc.** 

3954 West Main Street, Salem

(540) 380-3901

(Sales and Service)

Gravel • Brick Chips • (Tandem Truck Hauling • Excavating • Grading)



John King, President

Shelley Buchannan, Mgr.

Jo Maitland, Office Mgr.

Lewis W. Hopkins, ABI Principal Broker C: 540-354-2791 - O: 540-567-2242 Email: Lewis@TheHopkinsGroup.biz Website: TheHopkinsGroup.biz VA Real Estate Firm Lic. #: 0226018756 VA Principal Broker Lic. #: 0225056411





# **HARDWOOD FLOORS**

Cleaning

Waxing

Beautification

540-776-9591 Cell: 540-353-7908



Serving the Greater Botetourt & Roanoke Valley communities with all your real estate needs for residential, commercial, construction with MLA services, Assist with 1031 Real Estate Exchanges, Purchases, Refinances and More!!!!

Call Loretta, Debbie or Kristi for your next move!

540-966-1260 1215 Roanoke Road, Daleville

LIMITED TIME SAVINGS

King's Hauling & Excavating, Inc.

John King, President Housing Foundations · Land Clearing Stump Removal Road Building

 Yard Grading Demolition Work • Tandem & Tri-Axle • Dump Truck Hauling

Beat the

Spring.

Credit Available

Equipment Rental

• Pick Up & Delivery Available

Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured • Satisfaction Guaranteed 3954 West Main Street, Salem



Pond Building

(540) 380-3901



Want to keep up with local news, sports and events? SUBSCRIBE TODAY Call (540) 389-9355

#### **STATEWIDE ADS**

**AUCTIONS** 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, landonc@vpa.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a 7-Year warranty

# **ADS**

**STATEWIDE** 

qualifying purchase. 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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

#### **STATEWIDE ADS**

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debrisblocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for Limited Time Offer 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materi-

#### STATEWIDE **ADS**

als & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

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

**SERVICES** 

DIVORCE-Uncontested,

#### **STATEWIDE ADS** \$475+\$86

WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twentyone days. Hilton Oliver. Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

#### **ADS**

**STATEWIDE** 

**INSURANCE** DENTAL Physicians Mufrom tual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-

3083 www.dental50plus. com/virginia #6258 Alaska, Europe, Hawaii plus dozens of other popular trips! Starting at \$1649 per person (double occupancy req'd.) YMT Vacations plans every-

thing, leaving you to relax

#### **STATEWIDE ADS**

and enjoy. Call 1-855-743-

0491 for more details. Use

promo code YMT2024 for \$250 off. Limited time only. Become a Published Author. We want to Read Book! Dorrance

Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-Author's Guide 1-888-366-7596 or visit dorranceinfo.com/vapress

# Montgomery Sports

# RU volleyball player testifies on NIL



Radford University volleyball player Meredith Page speaks to members of Congress during the "NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student-Athletes Dealmaking Rights" hearing Jan. 18, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Page was joined by Radford athletics leaders and Big South Conference commissioner Sherika Montgomery (right) during

(Editor's note: Today, we begin a look at the changing landscape of college athletics and how it might affect the midmajor and smaller schools like Radford

Meredith Page had a once-in-alifetime opportunity to represent herself and Radford University.

Page, a member of the women's volleyball team, testified before members of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., during the "NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes' Dealmaking Rights" hearing of the House Innovation, Data and Commerce Subcommittee on Jan. 18,

native of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and third-year member of the Highlanders joined two other studentathletes - UCLA football quarterback Chase Griffin and Michigan softball catcher Keke Tholl - as well as NCAA President Charlie Baker, Missouri Valley Conference Commissioner Jeff Jackson and Victoria Jackson of Arizona State University in testimony on Capitol Hill.

Amid a growing push to professionalize college sports, Page used her time before Congress to send a message – the opportunities afforded to athletes who participate at the mid-major level, and in Olympic or women's sports, must be protected.

"Becoming a student-athlete in 2021 truly changed my life," Page said in her testimony. "I have seen myself grow from an unsure girl to a confident woman with the empowerment of college athletics.

"Swimming, volleyball, tennis, soccer,

track and field, and the rest on the long list of non-revenue-generating sports cannot be forgotten. It is easy to lose touch with who is behind those titles. Future doctors, lawyers, scientists, CEOs, and most importantly, the next generation of leaders. They do not deserve to get lost in the narrative."

Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) is the movement that allows studentathletes to receive payments or benefits related to their status as athletes, like the rights afforded to professionals. Schools may not pay the athletes directly for competing, but athletes can receive compensation from businesses or social media platforms or from collectives, which are organizations that pool together the NIL rights of athletes from the same school (or team) and make payments to those athletes based on obligations that they fulfill.

Radford's student-athletes access NIL opportunities through the Highlander Exchange, a platform powered by third-party INFLCR.

There are no unified laws, rules or regulations that govern NIL. A patchwork of state laws and the NCAA offers broad guidance, but no uniform governance applies to all 362 Division I schools or the nearly 1,100 NCAA member institutions in all divisions. And following the recent announcement of Project DI, which includes a potential Division I subdivision that will allow for direct athlete compensation, athletes could soon become employees.

Some fear that proposed changes

may lead to lost opportunities for women or Olympic hopefuls. Page was there to provide perspective as a women's volleyball player and on behalf of an institution like Radford, which is considered "mid-major." The NIL conversation has been typically driven by athletes and institutions from "Autonomy 5" conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big XII, SEC, Pac-12; the Pac-12 will dissolve following the 2023-24 season). Page is the president of the Radford

University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and a member of the Big South Conference SAAC. Joined in Washington by Big South Commissioner Sherika Montgomery, Radford University Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg and Radford Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Support Services Allison McCoy, Page sought to bring more inclusion to the NIL discussion.

Page sat down for a question-andanswer session following the hearing.

When did you first find out that you would be giving testimony, and what was the preparation process like?

Meredith Page: I got my invitation from Congress on Sunday (Jan. 14), and the hearing was on Thursday (Jan. 18). I had to submit my written testimony and other forms by Tuesday (Jan. 16) at 10:30 a.m. It was incredibly stressful. The first thing I did was watch three past hearings, because this was the 11th different hearing on NIL, to get an idea of what I needed to do. I had two meetings a day (with NCAA staff) until it was time for me to submit my testimony on Tuesday. It was a short turnaround to submit my testimony - I had to work through the night each night to make sure I got exactly what message I wanted to put out there. I put 19 of 24 hours those days into prep. Lots of sleepless nights.

What happened when you arrived in Washington?

MP: I met with the subcommittee Republican staff (majority party of the House). They took me into the hearing room and let me have a preview. I met in their subcommittee office, where they gave me some pointers, told me about the (timer) on the microphone, let me know how long the hearing would be, and what to expect from different congressmen and congresswomen.

Did you meet the other studentathletes who testified?

MP: I did not get to spend any time with Chase, but Keke and I had a conversation for about an hour and a half on the phone - we were going to meet in person, but then her flight got delayed. We talked about our opinions and gauged each other out - she wanted to have some reassurance from someone else in the room since she didn't know anyone who was testifying. I knew both Jeff Jackson and Charlie Baker.

How do you think your message was

MP: I think it was received really well. I think the consensus going into the hearing was that athletes should be employees. Stepping back now, I think my message and words put some thoughts into the heads (of the representatives) and shifted the narrative on employment status. So, I'm hopeful that it will gain momentum. I think one of the main reasons I said yes to going was that I wanted them to look at somebody that this [athlete employment status] would drastically affect. To see me and know all of my accomplishments and know that this, the changing of (studentathlete) employment status, could take opportunities away for thousands of

I received really good feedback from the representatives that were there, and their staff members gave me business cards and let me know that they wanted to talk about draft revisions and continue the conversation. But also, the media surrounding (the hearing) has absolutely exploded regarding my testimony. There's a feeling of, "How did I end up here?" My mom called me last night (Jan. 21) and said she saw me on cable news. I can't even count the number of articles I've been in - it's so amazing to see a Big South athlete, a mid-major athlete, at the forefront of this conversation. That's normally where we're not heard like those at Autonomy 5 schools are.

What's next for you, and what are the future outcomes for athletes like

MP: What's next for me is to use this momentum and put it directly into congressional engagement for the Big South Conference. I want to use all of the momentum and social media presence we have right now to continue to show that subcommittee that these are real people who you are affecting.

Page, a student in the Davis College of Business and Economics majoring in management, is on track to earn her bachelor's degree in spring 2025.

Radford University



Adouncia Hayes puts up a jumper in the Radford's Quinn Burton nails a short jump lane against James River in a 68-39 loss on Thursday.



shot against the visiting Knights.

# James River girls down Radford



Senior Claire Fender races up the court on senior night. She led the Bobcats with 12 points.



throw in the fourth quarter. Radford falls to 5-12 overall on the season with the

# Wake tops ACC baseball poll, Tech sixth in Coastal

Wake Forest has been selected as the 2024 Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball preseason favorites by the league's 14 head

The Demon Deacons collected 10 of the 14 possible first-place nods from head coaches. North Carolina tallied two votes, while Clemson and Virginia each received

Wake Forest was also the clear-cut winner of the Atlantic Division, receiving 12 of 14 first place votes. Clemson, who won the 2023 ACC Baseball Championship, picked up the two remaining first-place votes among the teams in the Atlantic Division.

With Wake Forest collecting 95 points to lead the Atlantic, Clemson finished with 79 total points to be slotted in second place. NC State picked up a third-place selection with 68 points, while Florida State (54), Louisville (48), Notre Dame (31), and Boston College (17) rounded out the

The Demon Deacons finished atop the Atlantic Division in 2023 before making a run to the Men's College World Series championship series. Clemson won the ACC Baseball Championship and finished the year with 44 wins – the most for the Tigers since 2018.

The Coastal Division was nearly deadlocked between Virginia and North Carolina. The Cavaliers garnered seven first-place nods and 88 total points to inch past the Tar Heels, who received six votes on the top line and a total of 86 points. Duke picked up the final first-place vote among Coastal teams.

The Blue Devils accumulated 71 points to take third in the preseason poll, while Miami finished fourth with 56 points,

followed by Georgia Tech (40), Virginia Tech (34), and Pitt (17). The Cavaliers are coming off of a 50win season in 2023, including 19 wins in ACC play, which cultivated in a trip to the Men's College World Series. The Tar Heels won 36 games and made a trip to the Terre

Haute Regional, while Duke capped its

season one win away from Omaha in the

Charlottesville Super Regional.

Wake Forest has been named the preseason No. 1 team in the country by D1Baseball, Baseball America, Perfect Game, and the NCBWA. The USA Today Coaches' Poll has not yet been released. Six ACC schools – Clemson, Duke, North Carolina, NC State, Virginia, and Wake Forest – have each appeared in all three

preseason polls thus far. The ACC has placed at least one team in each of the last 17 College World Series and at least six teams in each of the last 19 NCAA tournaments.

All 14 ACC teams will open their seasons on Friday, Feb. 16, with conference play set to begin on Friday, March 8. The 2024 ACC Baseball Championship will be held May 21-26 at Truist Field in Charlotte, North Carolina. ACC Network will be on hand for the first five days of the tournament with ESPN2 set to carry Sunday's championship game.

Full tournament ticket books are on sale now through the Charlotte Knights and the Truist Field box office.

2024 ACC Baseball Coaches Preseason

First-place votes in parenthesis Overall ACC Champion Wake Forest (10) North Carolina (2) Clemson (1) Virginia (1) Atlantic Division Wake Forest (10) - 95 Clemson (1) - 79NC State – 68 Florida State - 54 Louisville – 48 Notre Dame - 31 Boston College – 17 Coastal Division Virginia (1) – 88 North Carolina (2) – 86 Duke – 71 Miami – 56 Georgia Tech – 40 Virginia Tech – 34 Pitt – 17

Atlantic Coast Conference

# RU picked ninth in Big South poll

For the first time, USC Upstate has been voted the Big South Conference's preseason baseball favorite by the league's head coaches, it was announced today by the conference office.

In addition, the coaches voted UNC Asheville outfielder Robbie Burnett (Franklinton, N.C.) the conference's Preseason Player of the Year and High Point hurler Gus Hughes (Greensboro, N.C.) the league's Preseason Pitcher of the Year.

The Spartans, last year's Tournament Runnerup, finished second in the Big South standings last season with a 21-6 record and was 38-22 overall with wins over Power 5 programs Clemson and Northwestern. USC Upstate received seven firstplace votes and 79 total points to win the league title in 2024.

Gardner-Webb was second in the preseason poll with 61 points - the Runnin' Bulldogs' highest standing in the ranking since 2013 and 2014. High Point finished in the third spot with 50 points, just ahead of Winthrop (one first-place vote) and UNC Asheville, who tied for fourth with 49 points each. Presbyterian College was sixth in the voting with 39 points, while Charleston Southern finished seventh with 32 points. Longwood followed in the eighth position with 27 points, and Radford finished ninth in the voting with 19 points and received the remaining first-place vote.

Burnett is the first UNC Asheville baseball player to earn Preseason Player of the Year honors. A twotime All-Big South honoree (first-team in 2023, honorable mention in 2022), Burnett led Asheville last season with a .379 batting average to go with 13 home runs and 35 RBI. He stole 11 bases, scored 48 runs and drew 24 walks for a .486 onbase percentage. Burnett's knack of getting on base sparked a 33-game on-base streak in 2023, and he collected 21 multi-hit performances during his sophomore season. Burnett hit .398 in 21 Big South games a year ago with six doubles, two triples, seven homers, a .490 on-base percentage and .771 slugging clip. He received five first-place votes and 22 points in the preseason voting, ahead of USC Upstate's Grant Sherrod (three first-place votes and 16 points) and High Point's Cael Chatham (one first-place vote and eight points).

Hughes is High Point's first Preseason Pitcher of the Year honoree since 2019 and second overall. A Second-Team All-Big South selection in 2023, Hughes went 6-5 on the hill in 14 appearances

innings, allowed 73 hits, posted a 4.98 earned run average, and had a team-high 90 strikeouts to rank third in the Big South. Hughes had the fifth-most strikeouts in a season in program history and tallied a school-record 15 strikeouts against Lafayette on March 5. Hughes, who was fourth in the Big South in opponent batting average (.239), was 4-2 in conference play with a 1.30 WHIP, 4.20 ERA and 56 strikeouts in 55.2 innings pitched. He received four first-place votes and 19 points in the Preseason Pitcher of the Year voting, ahead of USC Upstate's Jake Cubbler (three first-place votes and 17 points) and UNC Asheville's Justin Honeycutt (six

The 2024 baseball season begins Friday, Feb. 16, and the first Big South conference weekend is March 15-17. The top four teams in the final conference standings will advance to the Big South Baseball Championship, which will be held May 23-25 at Truist Point in High Point, N.C. The champion receives the Big South's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

Big South Conference

### Rebels from page 4

Salem Roanoke Valley Civic Center. The SRVCC. A few years later, the City of Roanoke came along and built a "bigger and (arguably) better" arena (of course they did, the competition between Salem and Roanoke, at least in those days, rivaled any fighting on the ice), and stole the Rebels away.

The EHL franchise in Salem adopted the same name used by the minor league baseball team that played a mile or two away in grand old Municipal Field. Both clubs also had the same general manager for several years, Jack Dame, a legendary Salem sports figure. I remember my Dad telling me that the minor league teams in Salem were there instead of Roanoke because the Star City had not supported a Red Sox minor league team that failed financially in the 1930's or 40's, resulting in Roanoke being blacklisted and labeled a "poor sports town".

The EHL was a "low minor" hockey

league, in every sence of the word "low" - low in salaries (a lot of the players had part time jobs in the community to get by), low in number of players (the teams carried 14 players, the bare minimum to get through a game - two sets of two defensemen, three lines of three offensive players (a center and two wings) and one goalie), low in attendance (Salem probably averaged about 1,200 per game, in an arena that sat 4,000). So, the Rebels and the EHL were the "low minors," but make no mistake about it - it was serious professional ice hockey. Nothing amateur or semipro about the game on

Teams consisted primarily of very young forwards, 18 - 21 or so in age, still with aspirations of making the NHL (the hockey equivalent of Major League Baseball), and older defensemen, on their way down from the high minors, like the American Hockey League, who had not quite made it to the big time.

Goalies were harder to explain - it was a rough, dangerous position with careers ending in the flash (or the loss) of an eye. Goalie masks had only been around for a few years then and were not yet perfected (or perfect). Few players wore helmets, it being thought of as a sign of lack of fortitude. I have to admit I loved the "no helmet" era as it allowed you to identity the players easily. It gave them personalities. And the fights were better.

The EHL had two divisions, a Northern and a Southern, with Salem of course being in the Southern, which consisted of the Charlotte Checkers, the Greensboro Generals, the Knoxville Knights (the league was big on alliteration), the Nashville Dixie Flyers, and the Jacksonville Rockets,

teams played a 72-game regular season starting in mid-October and ending in late March, with no interdivisional play until the playoffs, when the winners that came out of 4 team playoffs in each division met in a best of seven for the Walker Cup. We knew nothing of the playoffs in Virginia, however, with the Salem Rebels never sniffing them in their 3 seasons in the EHL before the franchise started splitting games between the SRVCC and the "brighter and shinier" Roanoke Valley Civic Center for the 1970-71 season and became the Roanoke Valley Rebels, removing some of the charm from the games and lengthening the drive from Christiansburg.

The northern division was made up of the Clinton (N.Y.) Comets (perennial champions), the Jersey (Cherry Hill I think) Devils, the Long Island Ducks, the New Haven Blades, the Syracuse Blazers, and the Johnstown Jets (who played in the iconic Cambria County War Memorial Auditorium made famous in the movie Slap Shot - the team in the movie was modeled after the Jets and the cinematic fights and games were a reasonable facsimile of

Life was brutal for EHL players in that era. The 72-game schedule was played over five and a half months, with three or four games a week, and all travel was by bus. Meal allowances were meager, often spent at 7-11's and the "meals" eaten while going up and down the interstates of the southeastern U.S. It was not unheard of to play on Saturday night in Salem and Sunday night in Jacksonville.

Not only was the lifestyle brutal, but so were the games. Fights were common, probably because the players were ill tempered from sleeping on buses and eating bologna sandwiches and drinking cheap beer. The crowds on the road were not unlike professional wrestling fans - they came to boo and heckle the visiting villains and entice fisticuffs. With 14-man rosters, an injury mid game forced extra minutes on the other players, and, heaven forbid, if your goalie was hurt or tossed out of the game, a player with little or no experience in the net was forced into action. Several teams had "playercoaches" to save a salary.

To further emphasize the hard scrabble nature of minor league hockey in those days, Salem's rink had hard chain link surrounding the areas where the better rinks had plexiglass. So, if you were "boarded", your face would go into the metal wire. Each team had at least one "policeman" or "enforcer", a "goon" who was willing to drop his gloves and fight in a heartbeat. While most of the players at that time played for the love of the

game and had known little else since peewee hockey in Canada, almost all still harbored dreams of making the NHL and playing in front of thousands, not hundreds, and earning decent paycheck. Accordingly, notwithstanding the travel and the lifestyle, effort was usually fanatical and the games intense. Not unlike professional baseball

in the early years, most of the players had left school without high school diplomas and were playing to keep from going back to the farms and factories of their cold hometowns in the north. The players were almost exclusively Canadian at all levels of hockey in those days. O Canada was played before every game, and between the Rebels and my time as a Key Clubber at CHS, I still know all the words today.

How did I develop my love for the EHL and the Rebels? In the early fall of 1967, my mother and her dear friend Nedra decided to attend the Ice Capades at the brand spanking new arena in Salem and to take me and Nedra's son, my great friend John, along. How they got us to go is beyond me. I vividly recall that I was severely unhappy because I had to miss the Redskins that day, but John and I got enthused when we saw posters and banners saying that "Hockey was Coming." We got the bug.

A few weeks later, after high school football had ended and Friday nights became free, my dad took John and me to a game against the Knoxville Knights. Our first game. I had followed hockey enough in Sports Illustrated and the occasional game on television to realize that the Rebels wore red, white, and blue uniforms just like the New York Rangers of the NHL, and the Knights wore all red, identical to the Detroit Red Wings.

We probably couldn't have picked a better game for a couple of 14-yearold boys to get hooked on hockey. The small arena put you on top of the action, the play was fast and furious from start to finish with lots of goals, and there was a major bench-clearing brawl that must have lasted 15 minutes.

My dad had been skeptical about the sport, particularly its penchant for fighting. He warned me it was like professional wrestling that we watched on Channel 7 from Starland Arena in Roanoke on Saturday nights. That the fights were "fake". Wrong. After sitting four or five rows above the ice during a brutal fight involving all 14 players from each team, with blood flying and jerseys being pulled over heads, he conceded it was real. Real as a heart

I am sure my dad didn't enjoy the fights as much as John and I did, but he came to appreciate the sport and the skill and the action. He took John and me to several more games over the next couple of years and we followed the team religiously - loss after loss after tie after loss. The Rebels' first season ended 11-53-8.

I still remember a few of the Rebels "stars", if you could call them that right winger Jimmy Jago and center and Captain Sam Gregory, decent goal scorers, and Bob Zupan, an extremely overweight goaltender enjoying his only season of professional ice hockey, stand out the most in my memory.

During the fall of 1967, while Zupan, all 260 pounds of him, manned the nets in Salem, the Hokies were quarterbacked by Al Kincaid (who later coached at Giles High before a solid college coaching career). In my mind, Zupan and Kincaid were the 2 most unfairly criticized athletes in southwest Virginia at the time, with one writer saying that Kincaid had as much of a chance of completing a forward pass as Zupan did of stopping a shot on goal. My lasting image of Zupan in action was with his back turned, reaching into his own goal with his stick to retrieve another puck he had watched go by. I remember my dad saying, "he's just not very good".

The third season of the Rebels brought a true star to the Valley, Dave Schultz, who went on to win two Stanley Cups with the "Broad Street Bullies," the Philadelphia Flyers of the early 70's. Dave set the penalty minute record in the EHL that season of 1969-70, and went on to do likewise in the AHL (with the Richmond Robins) and in the NHL, while making many

friends along the way.

A couple of years after that first season, several of my CHS classmates had cars and we were allowed to drive "down the mountain" to games on our own. I remember some wonderful nights watching the Rebels lose 8-3 in the SRVCC, with Bob and Bobby and George and Bo and the Gregs and Steph and Phyllis and Sara and others. The girls made a few bedsheet banners insulting the Generals or the Checkers that we would dangle over the walk from the visitors' locker room to the ice, and I remember George spraying lilac air spray around the head of an older fan who was smoking a cigar a row in front of us. They were different times - most indoor sports arenas in the 60's had a smoky haze above the ice or court from cigarettes and cigars. We didn't care for it, and George came prepared that night.

Alas, the EHL disbanded, the franchise moved to another league, and the games at SRVCC were no more. We moved on with our lives, and the Salem Rebels became part of history. But it was fun while it lasted.





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

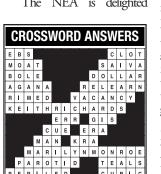
Live Better Hear Better

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



Pilot, VA — Springhouse has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a Challenge America award of \$10,000.

The grant will support letterpress workshops and staff salaries at the Springhouse print shop, Sourced Press. In total, the NEA will award 257 Challenge America awards totaling \$2,570,000 that were announced as part of its first round of fiscal year 2024 grants. "The NEA is delighted



to announce this grant to Springhouse, which is helping contribute to the strength and well-being of the arts sector and local community," said National Endowment for the Arts Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "We are pleased to be able to support this community and help create an environment where all people have the opportunity to live artful lives." Sarah Pollock, Sourced Press

Springhouse awarded \$10,000 grant

from National Endowment for the Arts

Director, shared, "Sourced Press expresses our gratitude to the National Endowment for the Arts. Their support plays a pivotal role in preserving the rich artistry and traditions of the free printing press, ensuring they can be passed onto future generations. Springhouse

be able to continue to invite

Executive Director, Jenny Finn, added, "We are very grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts for their support of our print shop. We are excited to

the community in through our workshops that focus on bookmaking, relief printing, and letterpress, and to share our learning with the community through printed media."

Sourced Press is one of the channels through which Springhouse seeks to inspire action that furthers its vision: a world where all life thrives. These workshops, accessible to all community members, will offer opportunities for participants to learn about the rich tradition of printing, build community, and express their unique voices in this medium. Find more information on

workshops and publications from Sourced Press at https:// sourcedpress.org/. Learn more about Springhouse's work at https://springhouse.org/. more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit https://www.arts.gov/news.

Springhouse