



# News Messenger

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## Auburn and Christiansburg Middle schools team to build beds for NRV children

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

Auburn Middle School (AMS) and Christiansburg Middle School (CMS) students, with the help of the Christiansburg Police Department and many volunteers, recently built 40 beds that will provide a comfortable place to sleep for children in the New River Valley.

Montgomery County Public Schools Coordinator of Communications & Public Relations Andrew Webb says the bed build event was a partnership between CMS and AMS and the Christiansburg Police Department.

"I think last year was the first year and this was a growth and continuation of that," Webb said. "A lot

of the police department worked the heavy machinery and donated a lot of sheets, pillows, and those types of things for the beds."

Altogether, the funds raised totaled \$11,640, with \$10,000 of the money necessary to provide materials for the one-day build coming from the Duncan Foundation. Each bed costs \$250 to build, which includes all the necessary wood materials, hardware, bedding and a pillow in children's décor.

Webb said that it was a long workday, starting at 8:30 a.m. with construction completed approximately 12 hours later. The students and other volunteers were

See Beds, page 4



Middle school students Natalie Boyd and Laney Alderman run sanders at one of the many assembly stations.



Bryce Thompson and Ryley Worrell are middle school student volunteers helping to put together beds for NRV children.



The Sleep in Heavenly Peace logo is placed on every bed.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Warm Hearth Village celebrates its 50th anniversary

BLACKSBURG – Warm Hearth Founders, Wybe (Vee-ba) and Marietje (Mar-ee-cha) Kroontje (Croon-cha) emigrated to America from the Netherlands following World War II. Their story and aspirations are compelling not only because of what they survived but because they were determined to build something meaningful and lasting in their new homeland.

Determined to repay the American people for their liberation, in 1974, after becoming educated and established, they landed on a vision for a retirement community unlike those of the current time in the U.S. They modeled Warm Hearth Village (WHV) after communities in the Netherlands where seniors were viewed as valuable assets always contributing something to their family and community



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF WARM HEARTH VILLAGE

no matter their age or physical condition. This determination to preserve dignity and respect while ensuring seniors were viewed as valuable community resources drove their 100-year plan and mission for an innovative nonprofit community in Blacksburg.

Kroontje was a true visionary enlisting the grass roots support of friends, colleagues and community leaders with donations of time, money and land for the new

See Warm Hearth, page 4

## BOS hears special use permit request for relocation of dog grooming business

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY CO. – Public hearing for a special use permit request for Sara Jones, in the area of Mount Tabor Road in Blacksburg, was heard by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors on Mar. 25, 2024.

The permit would be for a dog grooming business, named Pampered Pets, LLC. The property is zoned Agricultural A1 and is positioned at the intersection of Shiloh Way and Mount Tabor Road.

Director of Planning and GIS Services Brea Hopkins presented information on the permit request.

"The applicant is seeking to relocate her business, which is currently located in Blacksburg," Hopkins said. "She is wanting to relocate it to her residence within the existing garage structure

as she has plans to move toward retirement."

The pet grooming business, Pampered Pets Grooming, LLC has operated for 25 years and in 2021, the owner had submitted a request to add a commercial kennel but withdrew the application.

The new location, only for a grooming business, would include "two grooming stations, photo stations, an office and storage area, a counter, and storage areas for equipment and supplies," according to Hopkins in her presentation.

Business hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and expected vehicle traffic will be approximately 18 trips per day, that is staggered throughout the day. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) made no exception to the proposal in their review but will "require a Low Volume Commercial Entrance Permit, if approved" Hopkins said.

The Planning Commission voted 8-0 in support of approving the permit and a public hearing was held Mar. 13.

Ben Snodgrass of Spicer, Olin, and Associates Law Firm, first responded to any questions of a need for a sign at the proposed relocation of the business, titled Pampered Pets, LLC.

"First of all, there would be no sign at the property. There's no sign proposed, and the applicant is not proposing or seeking to have any kind of signage," Snodgrass said.

Many customers of Pampered Pets, LLC attended the meeting and addressed the Board in support of the business.

Charles Saks of Christiansburg spoke at the hearing in support of the dog grooming business. Saks exhibited examples of the photos

See BOS, page 4



PHOTO BY DEVON JOHNSON FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Callery pear trees are beautiful, but they are one of the worst invasive species in the Southeast.

## Callery pear trees are blooming again, and that's bad news

You've probably seen the beautiful white flowers of Callery pear trees, more commonly known as Bradford pear trees, that are blooming now throughout the commonwealth.

You might have caught a whiff of their pungent fishy aroma. You might also have noticed that there are a lot more of these trees than there used to be.

Callery pear trees are beautiful, but they are one of the worst invasive species in the Southeast. That is because the Callery pear is an invasive species — one of the worst in the Southeast — and it's rapidly spreading from Virginia's urban

landscapes to disturbed areas such as roadsides and even into forests.

"In areas without active vegetation control, such as roadsides and road interchanges, you see a proliferation of Callery pear. There are some areas along roads that are now 100 percent Callery pear trees," said Eric Wiseman, associate professor of urban forestry and arboriculture and Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

"They are also very hard to control. If you cut the stem back at ground level, it

See Pear trees, page 4

## Witty, quirky, and irreverent, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain to bring an unforgettable evening

Witty, quirky, and irreverent, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain takes audiences on a roller coaster ride through musical genres, from Abba to ZZ Top, Tchaikovsky to Nirvana. Following a 2015 performance for a packed house, the ensemble returns to the Moss Arts Center for an

unforgettable evening on Thursday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m.

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain  
See Ukulele, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEFAN MAGER

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Mar. 30:

### Radford Easter egg hunt

At Bisset Park; 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bounce houses, petting zoo, food trucks, tons of sweets, face-painting and Easter bunny. Ages three - five: noon; Ages six - nine: 12:15 p.m.; Ages 10-12: 12:30 p.m.; Ages under three: 12:45. Please bring a basket.

### Christiansburg Easter egg hunt

Christiansburg Parks & Recreation and the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg will host the Great Easter Egg Hunt at Kiwanis Park for children ages 12 and under. Children bring their own baskets and search for surprises the Easter Bunny has left behind. The hunts are divided into four different age groups and children will only be allowed to hunt in their age group. Please arrive early to claim your spot for your hunt area. Egg Hunt Times: 10 a.m. ages 3-5; 10:15 a.m. ages 6-8; 10:30 a.m. ages 9-12; and 10:45 a.m. ages under 3. Be sure to also take a moment to pose for a photo with the Easter Bunny.

### Blacksburg Easter egg hunt

At Municipal Park, Turner Street. Ages three and under; 10 a.m. Ages four- 12; 10:30 a.m.

### Pilot Easter egg hunt

Come join Pilot Community Center for its first annual Easter Egg Hunt; 2 – 3 p.m. Kids 10 years old and under are invited to search for candy and prize-filled eggs. There will be refreshments for parents and kids of all ages. So come and join in the fun. This event will be held weather permitting. If there is rain or snow, the event will be cancelled and cannot be rescheduled. For more information: Call Brenda Eanes at 540-382-0857.

### Auburn Easter egg hunt

The Riner Volunteer Fire Department presents their 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Auburn High School Stadium. Egg Hunt schedule: 10 a.m. ages three and under at Auburn Elementary playground; 10:15 a.m. ages four - six at Auburn High School football field; 10:30 a.m. ages 7-12 at Auburn High School football field. Don't forget to bring your basket! Auburn High School is located at 1650 Auburn School Drive in Riner.

### Red Cross blood drive

At St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 103 E. Main St., Christiansburg; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Appointments: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>.

### Blacksburg leaf compost giveaway

Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch, which can be used as a soil additive for composting. This is an important service as composted leaf mulch keeps leaves out of the landfill. Leaves can take up valuable landfill space and produce harmful greenhouse gases. This year, leaf mulch compost will be available for pickup at Glade Road Growing 8 a.m.-12 p.m. To arrange pickup, residents must register at <http://www.tobweb.org/mulch/>.

## Thursday, April 4:

### American Legion meeting

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

### Southwest Virginia College and University Pop-up Event

New event brings together Bluefield University, Emory & Henry College, Ferrum College, New River Community College, Radford University and Roanoke College, giving future students a chance to meet college representatives in the New River Valley. Free event will occur at New River Valley Community Colleges' Christiansburg mall location in Christiansburg, 6 to 8:30 p.m., with representatives from different colleges sharing insights about educational opportunities.

## Saturday, April 6:

### Skipper Cannon Firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired once on Saturday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m. on the Drillfield as part of the opening celebration for The Big Event at Virginia Tech. The Big Event is a student-run day of service. Thousands of students and university employees come together to complete nearly 1,200 community service projects throughout Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and the New River Valley.

## Monday, April 8:

### Radford City Council meeting

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

### Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

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

## Tuesday, April 9:

### 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.

### Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will convene for its regular meeting at 6 p.m. at the School Administration Building. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at [www.rcps.org](http://www.rcps.org).

## Saturday, April 13:

### 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, with scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee; 8 to 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg.

It is fundraiser for our club to help us as we serve our community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. There will be sign-up information available for our newest community initiative -- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This is the last breakfast until October.

## On-going:

### Radford Noon Rotary Club's Field of Honor

The Field of Honor will be installed on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery prior to Memorial Day and will be displayed until the Fourth of July. The Radford Noon Rotary Club is looking for people to sponsor flags. Individual flags are \$50. Corporate Sponsorship is: Bronze - \$250; Silver - \$500; Gold - \$1000; and Platinum - \$2500. Money raised through the project will benefit scholarships to Radford High School students attending Radford University, and other Rotary initiatives. All flags are made in the USA. For further questions, and to register, contact [rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com](mailto:rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com).

### NRV Virginia Passenger Rail Survey

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority is conducting a survey seeking input on planning, designing, and constructing rail infrastructure improvements to extend passenger rail service to the New River Valley. To participate in the survey, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/240044027996054>. For more information on the New River Valley passenger rail expansion, please visit the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's website at <https://vapassengerailauthority.org/nrvproject/>.

## Expect delays at Peppers Ferry Road and Prices Fork Road on Tuesday

*Drivers should allow extra travel time with delays of 15-20 minutes*

SALEM – Weather permitting, on Tuesday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., drivers should expect delays in Montgomery County at the intersection of Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) and Route 685 (Prices Fork Road).

Crews with the Virginia Department of Transportation will be drilling to collect core samples as part of developing a future turn lane project at the intersection. The work will require alternating lane

closures throughout the day with traffic controlled by flaggers and police. Delays could be up to 15-20 minutes, so drivers are advised to plan ahead, add extra travel time and expect impacts to their commutes.


Construction on the turn lanes is tentatively expected to begin in 2026.

*Virginia Department of Transportation*



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VDOT

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Physicians




On behalf of everyone at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, we'd like to thank our physicians for their tireless efforts to provide care to our patients and community.

**National Doctors' Day March 30th**

In recognition of National Doctors' Day, please join us in thanking our dedicated physicians.

**For a physician referral, please call 800-422-8482 or visit [CarilionClinic.org/providers](http://CarilionClinic.org/providers).**



## Blacksburg Young Professionals hosting upcoming mixer April 11

Energizing young professionals for community impact: This is an exciting opportunity to connect with like-minded young professionals interested in serving their community through service opportunities.

We'll share how to find opportunities in our region that fit your busy schedule, including serving on nonprofit boards.


This event will go beyond just your typical mixer and include a panel discussion led by Jessica Wirgau, the CEO of the New River Valley Community Foundation. Whether you have experience working with nonprofits or are entirely new to community service, this event will give you some new knowledge and resources to kickstart

your journey towards new meaningful community engagement.

The Blacksburg Young Professionals, in partnership with The Community Foundation of the New River Valley and The Blacksburg Partnership, host this event. It will take place at the Corporate Research Center, 1691 Innovation Dr., Blacksburg on Thursday, April 11, 2024, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Let us know if you are coming by RSVPing to our Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/BlacksburgYoungProfessionals>.

*Blacksburg Young Professionals*



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BYP



# Radford jury convicts man of abduction with intent to defile

RADFORD – After a three-day trial, a Radford jury has convicted a Pulaski man of abduction with the intent to defile, conspiracy to abduct to defile and sex trafficking.

Dashawn Tucker, 31, was convicted Friday, Mar. 22, 2024. “The multi-jurisdictional event started in Radford Jan. 10, 2022, but ended in Henry County when authorities there responded to a 911 text for help,” explained Radford Commonwealth’s Attorney Chris Rehak via email Monday. “Deputies arrived at a desolate trailer where two young females told of being abducted and repeatedly sexually assaulted by strangers to satisfy or “work off” a monetary debt. Dramatic body camera video of the rescue was played for the jury.”

The convictions carry up to a possible sentence. Abduction with intent to defile has a possible 20 years to life sentence, conspiracy to abduct carries one -10 years and sex trafficking is two-10 years. Tucker’s sentencing will take place this

summer.

The following is a synopsis of the evidence presented at trial, per the Radford Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office:

The Commonwealth presented evidence Catlyn Wilhelm owed Dashawn Tucker money, and Tucker in turn owed a cohort named Waylon Cox money. With Tucker’s debt collection efforts heating up, Wilhelm went into hiding to avoid Tucker. Tucker went hunting for Catlyn over several weeks, even going to each of her parents’ homes. With Wilhelm unable to pay the \$2,000, Tucker negotiated with Cox to trade the two girls for Cox “to use” in exchange for Tucker’s debt.

Radford Food City surveillance video recorded Tucker parking in a manner to block Wilhelm’s car with his automobile and captured the three leaving together in Tucker’s automobile. Tucker directed Tabatha Stephenson to drive and ordered Wilhelm into

the front passenger seat while he sat behind the two women. After a stop at defendant’s apartment in Pulaski, the trio went to a secluded location in Floyd County. Here, custody was transferred from Tucker to his associate, Cox.

The Commonwealth called several witnesses from the HCSO, as well as a forensic nurse trained to treat sexual assault victims and collect evidence. Wilhelm was the only victim to seek this specialized medical attention. Stephenson and Wilhelm rightfully feared for their safety. The jury learned from police in Henry County that the defendant’s friends who assaulted the women are notorious for selling drugs and violent crime. Two different investigators testified to the danger of the gang, adding some of their witnesses in homicide cases have disappeared before court. One of the two females, Stephenson, was suspected of helping Tucker in the abduction of Catlyn Wilhelm. Stephenson was later charged as a

co-conspirator and testified last week under a very rare immunity agreement. Stephenson was the Commonwealth’s first trial witness. She testified with obvious reluctance, limited recall and some glaring contradictions as to the specifics of her own abduction. Hence, all charges in which Stephenson was alleged to have been a victim were dismissed mid-trial.

The sworn account from Catlyn Marea Wilhelm was however entirely a different matter. After testifying at preliminary hearings in Henry County and the City of Radford, Wilhelm tragically died in August of 2022. Wilhelm spoke to the Radford jury from the grave as the Commonwealth played Wilhelm’s audio Radford preliminary hearing testimony as recorded on April 7, 2022. The jury had other supporting exhibits which included official court transcripts of Wilhelm’s Henry County testimony and medical records detailing her account. Wilhelm’s suffering during the frightening ordeal

was not only well documented, but ultimately deemed very credible.

Tucker did not testify in his defense but provided a recorded statement at the Henry County Sheriff’s Office when he responded to pick up Stephenson and Wilhelm the night they were rescued. Tucker denied any nefarious complicity and even claimed to not know who he met in Floyd to transfer the two women.

“This case required a tremendous amount of work,” said Rehak. “The case would have been difficult if Catlyn Wilhelm testified in-person, and her absence presented a unique and unprecedented additional challenge. I decided to prosecute nonetheless and seek justice for Catlyn. Radford Police and Henry County law enforcement did a magnificent job. It is an understatement to say, the quest for Tucker’s accountability took on special significance after Catlyn’s untimely death.”

Staff report

## The need for women in STEM is greater than ever, says expert

Women make up only 35% of the workforce in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) - the greatest disparities occurring in engineering and computer sciences. Christina DiMarino, an engineering professor at Virginia Tech, said now is the time to flip the script and explained why it is so important that education for women and underrepresented

groups about STEM fields starts early in life.

**The problem: gender imbalance**

DiMarino says the absence of women in the field is something she sees regularly, but also views it as a great opportunity for growing women leaders in STEM for the future.

“STEM career environments that have

been cultivated by men over generations have struggled to adapt to be more inclusive for women and other underrepresented individuals,” DiMarino said. “There have been strong pushes for increasing diversity in STEM, but cultivating that representative community is going to take time.”

**The importance of diverse representation in STEM**

“Engineers aim to address critical problems facing humanity and if the engineers themselves are not diverse, then it can be difficult for them to identify problems that other groups may face and come up with solutions that are suitable for these other groups,” DiMarino said. “Having more diversity among engineers brings broader perspectives and experiences, and can result

in more effective solutions.”

**What can be done to increase the number of women in STEM**

DiMarino said it is important that women are provided equitable opportunities and resources as their peers in an academic setting as well as the engineering workplace.

DiMarino said the best place to start is with the youngest generations. “Introducing STEM fields and topics at a

young age is critical to helping students better understand the vast opportunities,” DiMarino said. “I also think that sharing the great accomplishments of diverse historical and present-day figures in STEM is important because it shows that there are people that look like them and may come from similar backgrounds.”

Margaret Ashburn for Virginia Tech

## Ukulele

from page 1

of Great Britain. Photo courtesy of Stefan Mager. Featuring only ukuleles and the voices of its performers, the seven-person ensemble is best known for playing versions of famous rock songs and film themes, sometimes in amusing new ways. Performing for 30 years and counting, the orchestra is not only a British institution, but a worldwide phenomenon.

Whether it’s soul, funk, classical, country, pop, rock, punk, or folk, in the hands of the Ukulele Orchestra, musical alchemy unites and transports the audience. There are no pianos,

backing tracks, or banjos, no pitch shifters or electronic trickery — only an astonishing revelation of the rich palette of orchestration afforded by different sized ukuleles, vocal harmonies, and a bit of whistling.

Formed in 1985 as a bit of fun, the orchestra’s first gig was an instant sell out, and the musicians have been performing ever since. By 1988 they had released an album, appeared on BBC TV, played at the WOMAD festival, and recorded a BBC Radio 1 session.

The orchestra has given thousands of sold-out concerts across the world,

recently performed sell-out shows at the Sydney Opera House, the Royal Albert Hall, and New York’s Carnegie Hall.

The Ukulele Orchestra’s music has been used in films, plays, and commercials, while film clips of its live concerts and TV appearances have been watched millions of times online. Collaborators have included Madness, David Arnold, the British Film Institute, the Ministry of Sound, Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), and the Kaiser Chiefs.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Dr. Charles Y. Davis and Mrs. Carole C. Davis and Mr. Edwin H.

Talley and Mrs. Melinda P. Talley.

Related events

The Belview Elementary School Ukulele Club performs prior to the performance at 6:30 p.m. in the Moss Arts Center’s Cube. Led by music teacher Natalie Gibbs, the club was founded in 2014 to give students a chance to further their music education experience in a fun and positive atmosphere. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech



# Marketplace

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### Legals - City of Radford

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled for 5:30 P.M. April 16, 2024 on the proposed Tax Rates for Calendar Year 2024.

Interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present their views. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street. The City of Radford proposes to increase property tax levies.

### Legals - City of Radford

percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Radford will exceed last years by 10 percent.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for review in the City Manager’s office, and on the City’s website at [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov).

BY THE ORDER OF  
RADFORD CITY COUNCIL

### Legals - Montgomery County

Glade Spring Crossing major subdivision of 176 units on 45 acres at 1006 Glade Road. A rezoning request was approved for the property in May 2023 (RZN 22-0004/ORD 2007) that rezoned the property from RR-1 Rural Residential 1 to PR Planned Residential. As part of this process, the applicant has requested two variances to the Town of Blacksburg Subdivision Ordinance standards: Section 5-503 (e) Bikeways to permit landings of no greater than 5% grade, rather than 2% on the emergency access connection from Glade Spring Drive and Village Way South; and Section 5-901 Public Utility Easements to permit construction of a retaining wall on lots 169-175 within a public utility easements (PUE).

### Legals - Montgomery County

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

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by Howard M. Thornton, Jr. and Gayle W. Thornton, Property Owners, and PCKK Partners, LLC, Applicant, to allow for a Contractors Equipment Storage Yard in the General Business District B-3 zoning district on property located at 520 and 540 Depot St. NE, identified as Tax Parcel 497-((A))-40; (Parcel ID 007903), and consisting of approximately of 2.409 acres. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Rezoning request by Johnny C. Martin, Jr. and Amelia F. Martin, Property Owners and Applicants, to rezone property identified as all of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-6, (Parcel ID 007453), and consisting of approximately of 1.595 acres located at 3345 Roanoke Street; and an approximate 5.955 acre portion of property located at 3301 Roanoke Street, identified as a portion of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-5C, (Parcel

### Legals - Montgomery County

ID 090517) from Agricultural District (A) to General Business District (B-3). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. C. Conditional Use Permit request by Johnny C. Martin, Jr. and Amelia F. Martin, Property Owners and Applicants, to allow for an amendment of an existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the expansion of a Contractors Equipment Storage Yard on property located at 3345 Roanoke Street and a portion of property located at 3301 Roanoke Street, identified as all of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-6, (Parcel ID 007453), consisting of approximately of 1.595 acres, and a portion of Tax Parcel 502-(9)-5C, (Parcel ID 090517) consisting of approximately 5.955 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the applications, the Town’s Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at [rjackson@christiansburg.org](mailto:rjackson@christiansburg.org), with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

### Legals - Montgomery County

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County, in accordance with Section 33.1-70.01 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Secondary Six-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/2025 through 2029/30 in Montgomery County and on the Secondary System Construction Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/25. Copies of the proposed Plan and Budget may be reviewed at the Christiansburg Residency Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation, located at 105 Cambria Street, Christiansburg, Virginia or at the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia. All projects in the Secondary Six-Year Plan that are eligible for federal funds will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which documents how Virginia will obligate federal transportation funds. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this hearing should contact the Virginia Department of Transportation at (540) 381-7201. Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Montgomery County Government Center at (540) 382-6954.

### Legals - Montgomery County

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year’s total assessed value of real property by 31 percent.

2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$.64 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."

3. Effective Rate Increase: The City of Radford proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$.69 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$.05 per \$100, or 6.25%

### Legals - Montgomery County

**Notice of Public Hearing Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

PLAT-23-20-Glade Spring Crossing Major Subdivision Preliminary Plat Review for 176 lots on 45 acres at 1006 Glade Road (Tax Map Nos. 225-(A)-3,4 & 224-(A)-57) for Glade Spring Crossing, LLC (owner). This is the preliminary plat approval process for the

### Legals - Montgomery County

Persons affected by or interested in this major subdivision plat review may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission will take action. Copies of the request and all related items may be found online at [www.blacksburg.gov/public](http://www.blacksburg.gov/public) hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. (You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

### Legals - Montgomery County

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# BOS

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from Jones' business. Owner of the business, Jones was also one of the speakers to address the Supervisors and audience during the meeting. "It's been a blessing to be able to provide dog grooming in our community," Jones said. "The

reason for my proposal is that the building that I've been renting for the business for the last 19 years is going to be sold, not ready to retire from grooming, so I'll need a new home for my business." Supervisor and Chair Mary Biggs motioned to bypass typically processes in waiting until the next meeting to vote,

and since receiving a motion from Supervisor Sara Bohn, and because the special use permit was also listed under new business, the motion was approved to conduct a vote. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the special use permit vote and then a unanimous vote to allow the special use permit.

# Pear trees

from page 1

will still grow from the root, so all you've done is cut the plant back, not kill it," he said.

The Virginia Department of Forestry now offers an exchange program through which landowners can remove a Callery pear and receive a native tree replacement. Learn more about the exchange program.

Pear trees have widely used as ornamental landscape trees since the 1970s. The trees were initially seen as cost-effective, fast-growing, and easy-to-establish additions to the suburban landscape.

Unfortunately, pear trees produce fertile seeds that are readily spread by birds. These wild-growing seedlings are tolerant of harsh growing conditions and thrive in poor soil, which means they can pop up practically anywhere. These

seedlings also inherit the genetics of their uncultivated ancestors, developing undesirable characteristics such as sharp thorns.

What makes a species invasive? Non-native species become invasive when they escape control and begin to cause harm to natural resources, economic activity, or humans.

Callery pears spread easily and can form dense thickets. These thickets leaf out early and outcompete native plant species growing around them, reducing biodiversity. The sharp thorns that grow on wild-growing Callery pear seedlings make them difficult — and painful — to manage.

Native plant biodiversity provides food and habitat for animals and insects, including native bee species, and contributes to the overall health of

Virginia's natural communities.

Wiseman said "nonnative" does not necessarily mean "invasive," and some "nonnative" tree species make fine replacements, though he does recommend planting native species when possible.

A few native alternatives to Bradford or other Callery pear cultivars include the following:

- Flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*
- Serviceberry, *Amelanchier* spp.
- Green hawthorn, *Crataegus viridis*
- Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*
- White fringe tree, *Chionanthus virginicus*

A few nonnative alternatives to Bradford or other Callery pear cultivars: Katsuratree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

Paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*

Japanese snowbell, *Styrax japonicum*

Smoketree, *Cotinus coggygria*

More information on woody plants in the landscape is available in the Virginia Cooperative Extension publication *Selecting Plants for Virginia Landscapes: Showy Flowering Shrubs*. Interested in learning more about gardening? Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities — Virginia Tech and Virginia State University — to the people of the commonwealth. Contact your local Master Gardeners through your Extension office or learn more about gardening in Virginia and the Virginia Extension Master Gardener program.

Tom Soladay for Virginia Tech

# Warm Hearth

from page 1

development. He knew early on the importance of connections to higher education and the medical community forming relationships that have stood the test of time and evolved as the community has grown and the needs of seniors have changed.

Now 50 years into that 100-year plan, employees at Warm Hearth Village strive to keep the Kroontje's vision and values alive and instill them in all who become part of the Warm Hearth family.

"Our culture here is unique and deliberate," says William Lester, President and CEO. "We value innovation, diversity, teamwork collaboration, community and we work hard to ensure this is reflected in our leadership and decision-making. Being a nonprofit community also sets us apart as our focus remains on the residents and their needs first and

foremost. This results in high satisfaction among employees and residents, high retention and occupancy and ultimately a higher quality of care."

The Warm Hearth Foundation was founded to support the mission of the retirement community and has become an integral part of Kroontje's vision to take care of seniors from all walks of life. The Foundation facilitates valuable partnerships with supporters throughout our community, allowing Warm Hearth Village to offer innovative care and programming and serve as a leader in advocacy for seniors.

Long-time resident Bridget McMahon moved to America from Ireland in 1954 when she was a child. After her husband died, she decided to move to WHV in 2003 for a one-year trial because she knew the Village had so much to

offer. "I fell in love," McMahon said. "The people here are great, we have a fitness center, we have transportation, all sorts of activities and music; we have everything. That is why I am still here after 21 years and I intend to stay."

Warm Hearth Village is hosting a year-long series of events that are open to the public and designed to recognize and thank the many and varied partners throughout the community. A full calendar of events is posted on retire.org and most events are open to the public free of charge. Some of our favorites include:

April 20: Grand 50th Anniversary Celebration for the entire community with live music and fun

May TBD: Tovertafel demonstration — see our latest innovation in programs for seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia

Aug. 10: Our biggest

and best Cheeseburger In Parrot-Dise fundraiser with proceeds advancing the legacy and innovation of the Kroontjes'

Sept.: Partnership with Montgomery Museum to showcase Warm Hearth's role in the greater community and economy for more than 50 years

Sept. 28: Heritage Festival featuring outdoor vendors, food and entertainment

TBD: An intimate audience with Conductor David Stuart Wiley, Music Director and Conductor of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra

TBD: Great Dutch Bake-Off where participants will compete to prepare a favorite Dutch dish on the clock and with a vague recipe and instructions

Warm Hearth Village

# News Messenger

Established 1869

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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.

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# Beds

from page 1

organized into an assembly line of production creating a flurry of ongoing activity.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a 100% volunteer organization with affiliates across the United States.

"We're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need," according to their website at <https://shpbeds.org/chapter/va-new-river-valley/>.

The organization continues to see growth in the New River Valley as well. Chapter President Paul Mele can be contacted at paul.mele@shpbeds.org if an individual or group would like to participate in a build. There are many ways to help though through one-time or monthly donations of money or providing bedding needs. Mele or the website can provide specific details on the types of bedding that are preferred for the children's beds.

For the CMS and AMS students, registration for the build was established through Paul Mele, with SHP, through a link. Volunteers used the link to sign up and parents were able to sign up for students and complete the required waiver, Webb said.

Additional pictures from this build and others can be found on the NRV Sleep in Heavenly Peace Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SHPNewRiver>.

# CROSSWORD

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67						68			69		

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Fishing hook end
  - 5. A jump forward
  - 9. Girl entering society
  - 12. Largest toad species
  - 13. Measure = 198 liters
  - 15. Jeff Bridges' brother
  - 16. Past participle of be
  - 17. SE Iraq seaport
  - 18. Paddles
  - 19. Biotechnology: \_\_\_-omics
  - 20. Perfectly
  - 22. Japanese sash
  - 25. Flower stalk
  - 26. Bosnian ethnic group
  - 28. Longest division of geological time
  - 29. Hoover's organization
  - 32. Thigh of a hog
  - 33. Fabric woven from flax
  - 35. Upper limb
  - 36. Basics
  - 37. Satisfies to excess
  - 39. The cry made by sheep
  - 40. Go quickly
  - 41. Allied headquarters in WWII
  - 43. Paradoxical sleep
  - 44. Point midway between N and NE
  - 45. Refers to a female
  - 46. Tears down (archaic sp.)
  - 48. Increases motor speed
  - 49. Nocturnal winged mammal
  - 50. Integrated courses of studies
  - 54. Goat and camel hair fabric
  - 57. Papuan monetary unit
  - 58. Extreme or immoderate
  - 62. Free from danger
  - 64. Musician Clapton
  - 65. French young women
  - 66. Auricles
  - 67. Foot (Latin)
  - 68. Prefix for external
  - 69. Allegheny plum
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Founder of Babism
  - 2. "A Death in the Family" author
  - 3. One who feels regret
  - 4. Maine's Queen City
  - 5. Research workplace
  - 6. A division of geological time
  - 7. Paid media promos
  - 8. Abdominal cavity linings
  - 9. Apportion cards
  - 10. Ranking above a viscount
  - 11. Not idle
  - 14. Former SW German state
  - 15. Constrictor snake
  - 21. Pica printing unit
  - 23. Where wine ferments (abbr.)
  - 24. Egyptian goddess
  - 25. Boils vigorously
  - 26. Oral polio vaccine developer
  - 27. Master of ceremonies
  - 29. Fr. entomologist Jean Henri
  - 30. Scottish hillsides
  - 31. Islamic leader
  - 32. Bakker's downfall Jessica
  - 34. TV show and state capital
  - 38. A citizen of Belgrade
  - 42. Supervises flying
  - 45. Sebaceous gland secretion
  - 47. Conditions of balance
  - 48. Ancient Egyptian sun god
  - 50. Part of a stairway
  - 51. Time long past
  - 52. Hawaiian wreaths
  - 53. Resin-like shellac ingredient
  - 55. Semitic fertility god
  - 56. 60's hairstyle
  - 59. Honey Boo Boo's network
  - 60. Soak flax
  - 61. Volcanic mountain in Japan
  - 63. Point midway between E and SE



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# OBITUARIES

## Holbrook, Sr., Paul Edward



Paul Edward Holbrook, Sr., plumbing and heating business, and 86, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his parents Elmo and Scena Holbrook; brother, James Ray Holbrook; and sister, Hazel Sifford.

Survivors include his spouse of 66 years, Elise Holbrook; daughters, Debbie Puckett (Tim), Diana Jackson (Phil), and Betty Robertson (Greg); son, Paul "Bert" Holbrook (Tammy); sisters, Mary Holbrook, and Rhonda Holbrook; 12 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Paul was a veteran of the United States Navy. Upon leaving the military he started his own

you would always find Bert and Little Man by his side. His kindness and generosity touched the lives of many.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to Carilion Hospice for their exemplary care. Also, for his wonderful daughter-in-law, Tammy Holbrook, for all the love and care shown by her.

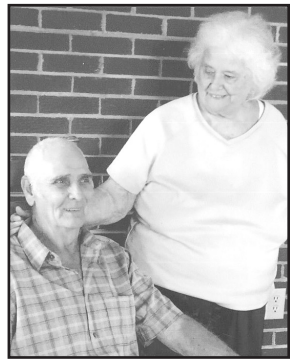
A private service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to the Newbern Fire Dept., PO Box 328, Newbern, VA 24126

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

## Hubbard, Faye Harrell

Faye Harrell Hubbard, 87, of (Lovedia); sister-in-law, Sue Foster; and many other relatives and friends.



She was born Feb. 15, 1937, in Pulaski County. She was in the care of Radford Health & Rehab. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emory M. and Ruth G. Harrell; infant son, Tommy Hubbard; daughter, Sandra Kaye Dalton; brothers, Robert, Clinton and Everett Harrell; and sisters, Reba Simpkins, Maxine Harrell, and Judy Taylor Saunders.

Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Robert McCoy Hubbard; sons, David L. and Lawrence E. Hubbard; granddaughter, Amanda Dalton; great granddaughter, Kadie Stump; sister, Wanda Washington; brother-in-law, Doug Hubbard

and many other relatives and friends. She was a minister and devout christian who loved to tell you about the Lord. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

The family received friends Friday, Mar. 29, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Marcus Harrison officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Fairlawn Church of God.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church** - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

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

**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

**Faith Christian Church of Christ**, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

### CHURCH OF GOD

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafrank, 1-336-583-4822. Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

### ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences \* Group\* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## REPUTATION

Read Psalms 3:1-8; 69:1-36

Whenever a Christian public figure sins, or any of God's people sins, unsaved people inevitably cry, "Hypocrite! I won't be a Christian if that's what they're like!" As the body of Christ, when one of us sins, we all share in the bad characterization. Because we represent Christ to the world, our good or bad reputation reflects on Him.

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the Lord Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel (Psalm 69:6).

David had sinned before God, and was deeply repentant. David's main concerns were not that his transgression be concealed or that his reputation be saved. One of his foremost prayers was that God's reputation and that of God's people would be protected from disgrace and shame. Perhaps this is one of the many reasons why David was called "a man after God's own heart."

Prayer for Today: Holy Spirit, please help me to remember that secret sins are not secret. Please help me to focus on giving You a good name before the world and my fellow believers.

Quicklook: Psalm 69:1-6

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

WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

**St Thomas Episcopal Church**, 103 East Main Street, Christiansburg VA, 24073. Worship and communion at 10:00 a.m., each Sunday, followed by hospitality coffee and Adult Sunday Adult Seminar. Our service is also streamed. Contact for more info: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com. http://www.stthomaschristiansburg.dioswva.org

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where we gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are

always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation." A place where all are truly welcome." You'll love our minister, The Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison, who engages us in God's word. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Caring Initiative which includes Micah's Backpack, Soup for Seniors, Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry, with tremendous community impact. Partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3). We sponsor an awesome Scouting program of Scouts Boy & Girl Troop, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade, amongst many other programs. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road. St. Michael is ~quarter mile on the left. For more information: Phone 540.951.8951; Email hope@stmcl.us; Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

### MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**Central Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00a.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

**Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages

for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 5007 Jewell Dr., Shawsville Va. Sunday morning service 11am. Pastor Tim Clyburn. 8 miles from Shawsville Rt 460, on Alleghany Spring Rd.

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

### UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. G. Lance Presley. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship at 10a.m. with Children's Church at the same time, Sunday School at 9 a.m. Worship is in-person and Live-streamed on our YouTube Channel: StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA. All are welcome. Website: www.stpaulvaumc.org

### WESLEYAN

**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org



# Obituaries from page 1

## Martin, Doris Louise

Doris Louise Martin, 87, of son, Douglas Vinton, died Tuesday, Mar. 26, 2024.

She was born in Greenbrier County, W.Va. Feb. 25, 1937, to the late Marvin Clel and Hallie Dunbar Wilson. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Charles Gerald Martin, and brother, Carl Wilson.

She is survived by her daughter, Dianna Dailey;



Gerald Martin (Vicki); grandchildren, Megan Ivans (Charlie), Chad Dailey (Taylor), Josh Dailey (Andi), Brandon Martin (Shannon), Corey Martin (Morgan); 10 great-grandchildren; brothers, Wyatt Wilson, Dennis Wilson (Pat).

Funeral services will be held privately.

Blacksburg Radio Station, sang in nursing homes, and in churches.

Special thanks to all the staff members at Kroontje Health Care Center and Pastor Zane Cox and special friend Nina Sutphin. Visitation was held Thursday, Mar.

28, 2024 at Horne Funeral Home. Funeral Services were held Friday, Mar. 29, 2024 in the Horne Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Zane Cox officiating. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

## Weyburn, Florence Louise

Florence Louise Weyburn (née Franklin), born Aug. 29, 1941, died in Christ Mar. 20, 2024. Florence was the beloved wife of Donald Weyburn and a resident of Montgomery County. She was born in Leesburg, Va., the second child of C. Lee and Martha Franklin of Ashburn, younger sister of the late Isabelle Patterson. She is survived by her brother Raymond Franklin, by children Lee Alan Nestor of North Fork, Idaho, and Wanda Louise Priday of Blacksburg, granddaughters Kayleigh Renee Nestor Birmingham, Sage Gaia Boyer and Morel Solstice Boyer, and great-grandson Able Kingston Salamanca.



Florence retired in 2003 from the FAA where she served as a contract technical editor, moving with her husband in 2005 from Falls Church to Blacksburg. Florence was a devoted member of McLean Presbyterian Church in McLean and, upon moving to Blacksburg, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. She lived for Christ and His Gospel and died in Christ and His promises.

A graveside service was held Friday, Mar. 29, 2024 in the Union Cemetery, Leesburg, Va. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Taylor, Bessie Likens

Bessie Likens Taylor, 87, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Mar. 25, 2024.

She was surrounded by her family. She is survived by her three sons, Carlos Taylor (Jean), Donald Taylor (Teresa), Jimmy Taylor (Monica); grandchildren, Zachary, Christopher, Aaron, Amy (Ronnie), Jordan, Hannah (Shawn), Stephanie; and great-



grandchildren, Alaina, Jesse, Evelyn Otilie, and Finnian.

Bessie enjoyed the simple pleasures in life. She was a devoted mother. Her priority was God in everything that she did. She was a faithful member of the Church of God of Prophecy in Radford. Bessie composed religious songs, played the guitar, sang on the

# Radford University BOV sets tuition and fees for 2024-25 academic year

RADFORD - At its March quarterly meetings, the Radford University Board of Visitors voted to authorize a 1.5% tuition increase for all undergraduate students, a 3% increase for all graduate students and a mandatory comprehensive fee increase of 3.59% for the 2024-25 academic year.

The tuition and fee increases apply to all Radford University locations and will allow the university to continue delivering a high-quality experience for all students while it addresses rising operating costs.

For full-time undergraduate students, the in-state tuition increase is \$127 and for out-of-state undergraduates the increase is \$313. For full-time graduate students, the in-state increase is \$284 and for out-of-state students is \$500. The mandatory comprehensive fee increase is \$135 for all full-time students.

The board proactively worked to reach a consensus and schedule a timely vote, allowing current and prospective students, and their families, to make informed decisions about the upcoming year.

Additionally, the board's Business Affairs and Audit Committee is committed to monitoring the ongoing situation with the Commonwealth of Virginia's 2025 fiscal year budget and will bring any additional recommendations to the board at future meetings.

"The most important responsibility that we have as a board is to set tuition and fees, which ensures that a Radford degree is affordable and that students have a best-in-value experience," said rector Debra K. McMahon. "It was essential for the board to act quickly, and we were able to do so thanks to careful planning, and the quality of information we received from vice president (for finance and administration) Rob Hoover and his staff during our budget workshop on Feb. 28."

Two top priorities for decision making on tuition and fee increases were affordability and fiscal stewardship.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

By keeping its debt burden low and continuing sound financial planning practices, Radford University can maximize resources and address mandatory cost increases while remaining one of the state's most affordable higher education institutions.

"At Radford University, we are committed to providing a high-quality, engaged student experience that remains affordable," said President Bret Danilowicz. "Part of the reason that we can limit cost increases for students and families is that the funds provided to our institution by the Commonwealth of Virginia allow us to enhance our university experience while at the same time, developing robust financial aid programs for our students."

In 2023-24, Radford University offered the fourth-most affordable four-year undergraduate total costs for in-state students among Virginia public institutions, at an average of \$23,850. Total costs include tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees.

Over the past year, Radford has significantly enhanced

its commitment to providing an affordable educational pathway for Virginians with the introduction of the Radford Tuition Promise, which takes effect for current and prospective students in 2024-25. The Radford Tuition Promise guarantees full coverage of tuition costs for in-state undergraduate students (in-person) whose Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is \$100,000 or less.

The tuition increase for the 2024-25 academic year will be covered by the Radford Tuition Promise.

In addition, Radford University automatically considers both new freshmen and transfer students for merit-based scholarships, such as the Highlander Distinction Program and the Transfer Excellence Scholarship. Along with direct institutional support, the Radford University Foundation awards over 600 unique scholarships totaling over \$3 million annually.

Radford University

## AUCTION SALE!

APRIL 13, 2024  
STARTS AT 9:30 A.M.

Bins available for auction are subject to change due to customer payment prior to sale.

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NEWBERN ROAD, PULASKI, VIRGINIA  
PHONE: (540) 980-4739

Storage Bins: 18, 19, 21, 22, 34, 35, 44, 64, 69, 74, 80, 95, 96, 99, 110, 117, 137, 149, 153, 165, 171, 172, 179, N, O, S, V

### IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING:

#### RADFORD STORAGE

112 DUNCAN LANE, RADFORD, VIRGINIA  
PHONE: (540) 633-1516

Storage Bins: 3, 11, 123, 153, 155, 156, 178, 191, 198, 219, 235, 253, 261, 294, A24, A28, A51, A56, A59, A62, A67, B28

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502 EAST MAIN STREET, RADFORD, VIRGINIA  
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### NOTICE:

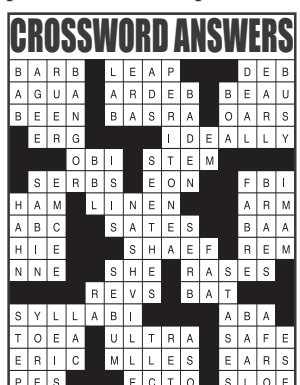
ALL WILL BE AUCTIONED AND SOLD BY BIN ONLY, ACCORDING TO CODE SEC.

8.7-210 (PROPERTY BEING SOLD TO COVER DELINQUENT STORAGE PAYMENTS).

## Acclaimed pianist Barbara Nissman makes meaningful connections with her music

One of the few pianists continuing the grand bravura tradition of Romantic pianism, Barbara Nissman is inextricably intertwined with the music she performs and its composers. Through her unforgettable performances, she magically connects the composer and the listener.

The acclaimed pianist takes the stage of the Moss Arts Center on Monday, April 8, at 8 p.m. for a special "Music on Mondays" performance co-presented



by the center and the School of Performing Arts.

Nissman's recordings of Prokofiev, Bartók, and Ginastera are considered "definitive," and she has garnered praise for her series of recordings of 19th century composers — Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Schumann, Brahms, and Rachmaninoff. Nissman made history in 1989 by becoming the first pianist to perform all of Prokofiev's piano sonatas in a series of three recitals in both New York and London. Her recordings of this repertoire represented the first complete set of Prokofiev sonatas made available on CD.

Her international career was personally launched by conductor and violinist Eugene Ormandy, who had previously engaged her as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has performed with the leading orchestras

of Europe and America, including the London, Royal, Rotterdam, and Munich philharmonics, and the BBC Symphony. In the U.S., she has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia and Cleveland orchestras, and the Chicago, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and National symphonies, among others.

She recently appeared on stage with Don Henley of the Eagles and Billy Joel, performing on the Walden Steinway in a gala fundraiser for the Walden Woods project, held at Jazz at Lincoln Center. She was also one of the participants with Leonard Slatkin at the Kennedy Center's 25th Anniversary Gala Concert broadcast on PBS Television.

Nissman has successfully taken music from the confines of the concert hall and has brought it directly

to the people, performing in a variety of venues for all kinds of audiences: school children, university students, factory workers, prisoners, hospital patients, on Indian reservations, and even on a barge in the middle of a canal in Amsterdam.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, she now calls West Virginia home and lives on a farm in Greenbrier County. In 2008, she was the recipient of the Governor's Arts Award from the State of West Virginia and in 2016 was honored by the State for her artistic contributions. In 2020 she received the Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement. In June 2023 she was inducted into the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame.

Katie Gehrt for Virginia Tech



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Hoover, Millirons county players of the year

**Marty Gordon**

[NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

Christiansburg High School is slowing putting together new winning ways including 12 games this past season.

Leading the charge was Katie Hoover, who averaged 16.7 points per game while hitting 34 three-pointers. For her effort, the Christiansburg junior is this year's All-County/All-City girls' basketball player of the year.

Nick Millirons was a reason Auburn appeared in another state championship game. For his effort, he is this year's All-County/All-City boys' player of the year. He averaged 16.1 points, 4.8 assists, and 4.4 rebounds per game. He shot 40.7 percent from behind the three-point line and was the Mt. Empire District and Region C player of the year. His father and coach Terry Millirons is the AC/AC coach of the year.

The rest of the All-County/All-City boys' group included:

Blacksburg's Wade Bland is a sharpshooter, which could not be left off the list. He averaged 15 points and seven rebounds per game, hitting 51 percent from the field including 37 percent from behind the arc.

Eastern Montgomery's Camden Sutphin was honored after being named as first team All-Pioneer District.

Radford's Luke Woodard put up 10 points per game this season with 3.3 rebounds.

Auburn Senior Forward Coahan Gordon was also honored after averaging 15 points and seven rebounds per game. He was first team All-Mt. Empire and Region



**Katie Hoover**

C while adding second team all-state.

Christiansburg High School was represented by Junior forward Kaleb Robinson who put in 15.2 points and seven rebounds per game. He was also named to the River Ridge District first-team.

Millirons was also named to the Class One first team announced late last week.

On the girls' side of the court, Hoover leads a group that could dominate a lot of high school teams.

Eastern Montgomery sophomore Carli Christian led



**Nick Millirons**

FILE PHOTOS

the team almost every game, averaging 17.8 points per game.

Blacksburg's Riley Price joined the group after being named to the first team 4D all-region team. Others on the list included: Radford's Kearson Carter and Eastern Montgomery's Macie Akers who connected on 65 of 200 shots this past season.

The girls' coach of the year is Christiansburg's Jacob Underwood. In his second year at the helm of the program, Underwood tallied double-figured wins.

## Brooks moves on to UK, leaving VT in limbo

**Marty Gordon**

[NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

Kenny Brooks made women's basketball relevant in Blacksburg, and in two years, he placed Virginia Tech in the national stage.

Now, he will take his talents to the University of Kentucky.

He just finished his eighth season on the Hokies bench. Boasting a 517-204 (.717) career record through 22 seasons as a head coach, Brooks has compiled five Colonial Athletic Association Tournament titles, four CAA regular-season titles, one ACC Tournament title, one ACC regular-season title, 10 NCAA Tournament appearances and one Final Four.

UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart welcomed Brooks on Tuesday to Lexington with lots of optimism.

"We are extremely excited to bring Kenny Brooks to the University of Kentucky,"

Barnhart said. "Kenny has a strong history of player development and championship performance at James Madison and Virginia Tech. When you combine his coaching excellence with his vision for this program and his passion to take us there, he is ideally suited to be head coach of the Wildcats."

"I am thrilled to be named the head coach of the Kentucky women's basketball program," Brooks said. "From the Big Blue Nation and the stunning landscape of the Bluegrass State to the UK Athletics brand and getting to compete in the Southeastern Conference, my family and I are excited about this new chapter in our lives. I want to thank Virginia Tech for the most joyful journey of my coaching career, and to the University of Kentucky and UK Athletics administration for this new opportunity. I don't plan

on wasting any time building a positive atmosphere, winning environment and a persistent program that Big Blue Nation can be proud of."

All of this took the Hokie faithful by surprise, especially as the Lady Hokies were playing their second round NCAA game against Baylor.

Virginia Tech Athletic Director Whit Babcock said the university hired Kenny in 2016 with the intent of revitalizing the school's women's basketball program, which he did.

"Needless to say, Kenny, his staff and student-athletes created a culture of excellence on and off the court. He was an incredible mentor to the young women in our women's basketball program and a terrific representative of our department and university. We wish Kenny and his family well in this next chapter of his career.

"I remain confident in the trajectory of our women's

basketball program and when combined with our resources, specifically NIL, that the future of our women's basketball program is bright."

Brooks received a three-year contract extension in late-July 2023 following the Hokies' Final Four run. According to Virginia Tech Athletics, the extension, which was set to expire in March 2029, included "a six-year deal totaling \$6.4 million, as well as other enhancements made to support staff salaries, assistant coach salary pool, postseason bonuses and operating budget."

Early reports say Brooks will be the third-highest paid coach in the Southeastern Conference, only behind LSU's Kim Mulkey at \$3.15 million annually and South Carolina's Dawn Staley at \$3.1 million.

During a video conference on Wednesday, Babcock said Tech's resources were good enough to get to the Final Four and be one quarter away from playing

for a national championship. But that is where the financial limitations came in.

"I guess Kentucky's budget may be \$30- or \$40-million more than ours. Yeah, they can push some more into it."

"I don't think it's an automatic path to the Final Four or maybe Kentucky would've been there previously on the women's side. But it does make things easier. And if Kenny was looking for a challenge at the highest level and you can have those resources, certainly it helps," Babcock said.

The Tech AD has been successful in bringing winning coaches in several sports across the spectrum, and he hopes to bring another proven winner to Blacksburg. This includes, according to Babcock, a hunger and a fire to compete in today's athletic environment.

Virginia Tech will begin an immediate national search for the Hokies' next women's basketball head coach.

## Blacksburg, Tech alum should be at top of coaching search



**From the Sidelines**

Marty Gordon

Virginia Tech has begun a national search for a new women's basketball coach, and a couple of names are being circulated in the New River with one being very familiar.

Brittany Anderson is both a Blacksburg and Virginia Tech alum, who joined Illinois last year after three seasons on the Stanford University staff.

While she does not have the head coaching experience, Hokie fans would hope for, she is an excellent candidate.

Stanford went 92-12 (.885) in Anderson's three seasons on The Farm, boasting the second-most wins and third-best winning percentage of any school in the nation during that span. The Cardinal won three straight Pac-12 regular season titles along with the 2021 and 2022 tournament championships and went 50-5 vs. Pac-12 foes in the regular season with Anderson on the staff. Under her guidance, Haley Jones (2022) and Kiana Williams (2021) earned All-America accolades, while Anna Wilson was named the 2021 Pac-12 Co-Defensive Player of the Year. Jones and Lexie Hull were both picked No. 6 in the WNBA Draft in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

A 2007 graduate of Virginia Tech, Anderson has spent time coaching in both the high school and AAU ranks, as well as collegiately at Radford and her alma mater in Blacksburg, Va.

She joined the college ranks in 2013,

serving as an assistant at Radford and aiding in the resurgence of its program, including a trip to the WNIT in 2015. Upon returning to her alma mater, Anderson helped Virginia Tech to four straight postseason appearances, highlighted by a run to the WNIT Championship game in 2018.

Playing for the Hokies from 2003-07, Anderson led Virginia Tech to four straight postseason appearances, including three trips to the NCAA Tournament and one to the WNIT. She shot 44.6 percent from the floor for her career and averaged 10.2 points per game as a senior.

Upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in apparel design and merchandise management, Anderson served as the corporate recruiter for M.C. Dean, Inc. in Dulles, Va., from 2008-13. During that time frame, Anderson also coached girls' basketball at Potomac Falls High School in Potomac Falls, Va., and in the AAU ranks.

Looking through the current NCAA women's basketball brackets, several other coaches are rising to the top of the bowl of cereal.

Holy Cross was 21-7, before losing to Iowa in the first round of the Big Dance. Maureen Magarity just finished her fourth season as the head women's basketball coach at the College of the Holy Cross in 2023-24.

Magarity is the seventh coach in program history and arrived on Mount St. James after spending 10 years as head coach at the University of New Hampshire. While at Holy Cross, Magarity has coached the Crusaders to a 72-41 (.637) record and a 45-23 (.662) mark in Patriot League play through four campaigns.

In just four seasons, Magarity has restored the storied tradition of the Holy Cross women's basketball program. She has guided the Crusaders to back-to-back Patriot League Tournament Championships (2023, 2024) and appearances in the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament (2023, 2024) including a First Four 72-45 victory against UT Martin in 2024. Holy Cross also has recorded three consecutive 20 win seasons under Magarity's tenure while in 2022-23, the Crusaders recorded the second most wins (24) in a single season in program history and in 2023-24, the Crusaders set the program record for wins at home in the Hart Center Arena (15).

UT-Martin finished second in their conference this year and received a Big Dance invite. Kevin McMillan is in his 15th year at the helm of the Skyhawk program as the school's all-time wins leader with 281 career victories.

Overall, the Skyhawks have won 10 Ohio Valley Conference titles during his 15 seasons at UT Martin – including six regular season titles and four tournament crowns. The Skyhawks reached the postseason in six consecutive seasons and 10 campaigns overall while reaching the NCAA Tournament in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2024 along with earning a bid to the Women's NIT in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020 (canceled) and 2021. Additionally, the program has recorded eight 20-win seasons in the past 13 years with the Skyhawks posting a 281-193 record under McMillan, including a 189-70 mark in conference play. His 281 victories rank as the third-highest win total in OVC history, as he accounts for four OVC Coach of the Year awards.

West Virginia also took their lumps

against Iowa in the current tourney but showed a lot of promise. Mark Kellogg is the sixth winningest active Division I women's basketball coach in the country by winning percentage and brings a 445-120 (.788) career record to Morgantown. He has spent the last eight seasons (2015-23) at Stephen F. Austin where he compiled a 195-55 (.780) mark with seven consecutive seasons of 23 wins or more.

Kellogg's list of accomplishments at Stephen F. Austin is endless. He led the Ladyjacks to six straight postseason appearances, two regular season conference championships and two tournament championships along with Southland and then WAC Conference Coach of the Year honors. In the past six years, Stephen F. Austin has been the second winningest women's basketball program in the state of Texas, and Kellogg has guided SFA to its highest NET and RPI rankings in school history.

In the last five postseasons not affected by COVID, the Ladyjacks appeared in two NCAA tournaments and three WNITs. At SFA, his Southland and WAC conference mark was 120-22 (.845) and his overall career conference mark stands at 274-57 (.828) in 18 previous seasons as a head coach.

Prior to Stephen F. Austin, Kellogg spent two seasons at West Texas A&M where he compiled a 62-6 record and led the Lady Buffs to a Division II runner-up finish in 2014 and an Elite Eight appearance in 2015. His teams won the regular season and tournament championship of the Lone Star Conference in both seasons, and finished No. 2 and No. 6 in the final WBCA

See Sidelines, page 8



## MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Blacksburg girls down Radford



Blacksburg's Tea Bissel attempts to score off a corner kick during the first half at Radford. Behind goals by Kallan Malabad, Addison McSorley, and Claire Langlinais, the Blacksburg girls soccer team came away with a 3-0 road win over Radford on Monday night.



Radford's Abby Hodock blocks a shot by Blacksburg's Erin Bishop.



Blacksburg's Claire Langlinais launches a shot from 30 yards that would find the back of the net to close out the Bruins' scoring in a 3-0 win over Radford.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## VIRGINIA TECH SPRING FOOTBALL PREVIEW: OFFENSE

Riding a slew of momentum heading into the 2024 season, Virginia Tech football turns its attention to spring ball for the upcoming campaign.

The Hokies return the majority of their offensive production from a season ago, with plenty of firepower sprinkled across the board. Let's take a quick glance at what Tech could look like on that side of the ball.

### Quarterbacks

It's hard to talk about the success that Tech had in 2023 without mentioning incumbent starting quarterback Kyron Drones.

The Baylor transfer took over as the Hokies' starting signal-caller three games into the 2023 campaign, with the redshirt junior changing the direction of Tech's season in a big-time way.

Drones threw for 2,085 yards with 17 touchdowns in his first year at the helm, also taking off for 818 yards and five scores on the ground.

At 6-foot-2, 234 pounds, Drones' dual-threat ability changes Tech's dynamic on the offensive side of the ball, with the Pearland, Texas, native having sights set on another big year in 2024.

Tech also brings back the duo of Pop Watson and Dylan Wittke to serve in an understudy role. Watson saw action in two games a season ago, while Wittke still awaits his turn in the quarterback room.

### Running Backs

It's no secret that the Hokies were prepared to welcome back starting running back Bhayshul Tuten with open arms after making the decision to return in 2024.

The 2023 All-ACC Third Team running back rushed for a team-high 863 yards a season ago, finding the endzone 10 times, averaging an impressive five yards per carry.

Tuten also served as one of the top kick returners in the country last season, finishing the year as one of only five FBS players to return two-plus kicks

for touchdowns. Tuten also tallied 1,633 all-purpose yards, helping showcase how dynamic he can be when handling the rock in a multitude of ways.

You can't forget about redshirt junior Malachi Thomas as well. The Hartwell, Georgia native complimented Tuten nicely, scampering for 381 yards on 81 attempts a year ago, averaging 4.6 yards per carry and scoring twice during his time on the field.

Beyond that, redshirt freshmen Jeremiah Coney and Tralon Mitchell are waiting their turn to get a crack. Coney carried the ball 11 times for 32 yards a season ago, while Mitchell eyes his collegiate debut.

### Wide Receivers

Wide receivers coach Fontel Mines returns his most experienced and productive group yet heading into the 2024 campaign.

The Hokies have the luxury of returning their top four targets from a year ago, with Ali Jennings, Da'Quan Felton, Jaylin Lane and Stephen Gosnell all coming back for another go-around.

Jennings, a former standout receiver under Mines at Old Dominion, played in just two games before suffering a season-ending injury in his first year as a Hokie, hauling in two scores in his Tech debut. The former First Team All-Sun Belt selection caught 54 passes for 959 yards and nine touchdowns back in 2022, showing off his potential as he approaches his 6th collegiate season.

On the other end, Felton came into his own after coming over from Norfolk State. The 6-foot-5, 213-pounder brought in 38 catches for a team-high 667 yards in 2023, scoring eight times and displaying what a weapon he can be even after moving up to the Power Five ranks.

Lane also had a smooth transition to the Power Five level after transferring in from Middle Tennessee. The fifth-year senior caught a team-leading 41 pass for 538 yards and six touchdowns in his inaugural season in the maroon and orange.

Gosnell comes back for another year after catching 22 passes and three touchdowns a season ago, with the always dangerous Tucker Holloway, Xavion Turner-Bradshaw and Ayden Greene also returning to the fold.

The Hokies possess an additional quartet looking for a chance, with Takye Heath, Chance Fitzgerald, Keylen Adams and Chanz Wiggins hoping to play a role.

### Tight Ends

Sixth-year senior Nick Gallo returns to the tight ends room after being sidelined for the entire 2023 season with a knee injury. The Richboro, Pennsylvania native has been one of the staples of the group for quite some time, ranking second on the team in receptions in 2022, hauling in 30 catches for 256 yards as one of Tech's top weapons in the passing game.

The Hokies also bring back the likes of redshirt sophomores Benji Gosnell and Harrison St. Germain for 2024, with Gosnell having caught 12 passes for 137 yards and a touchdown season ago, while St. Germain finished with two catches and a score in a limited role.

Redshirt freshmen Zeke Wimbush and Ja'Ricous Hairston could also be a factor, as both seek to make their collegiate debuts.

### Offensive Line

Offensive line coach Ron Crook is set to bring everyone back in his second year in town.

Brothers Kaden and Braelin Moore, Parker Clements, Xavier Chaplin, Bob Schick and Brody Meadows all return to the starting rotation, while Tech adds the likes of Georgia State transfer Montavious Cunningham to the mix after a successful stint in the Group of Five ranks at Georgia State.

Johnny Garrett returns as well and should provide depth up front, while the duo of Layth Ghannan and Hannes Hammer are expected to compete to get on the field.

Virginia Tech Athletics

## Sidelines

from page 7

national rankings.

Indiana is into the Sweet 16 and was slated to play unbeaten South Carolina and is 26-5 on the season. Teri Marie Moren is the team's current head and was the head coach at Indianapolis from 2000-2007 and at Indiana State from 2010-2014. She became the head coach of the Indiana Hoosiers women's basketball team in 2014.

Moren's teams have acquired many championships and accolades. Her Hoosiers won the 2018 Women's National Invitation Tournament and in 2023 she became the winningest coach in program history. As an assistant coach, Moren won a gold medal at the 2022 FIBA Under-18 Women's Americas Championship. She was named the 2023 AP College Basketball Coach of the year and has twice been the Big Ten's Women's Basketball Coach of the Year.

10-seeded University of Richmond women's basketball team ended its historic 2023-24 campaign at the hands of No. 7 Duke in the NCAA Tournament First Round, ending the year at 29-6. Aaron Roussell just finished his fifth season at Richmond and has 19 years of head coaching experience to match a career winning

percentage of .686 with an overall record of 377-173.

In 2022-23, Roussell led the Spiders to a record-breaking season, including a record-breaking victory over Longwood on Dec. 11, 2022, where the Spiders saw a 119-55 score line. The 119-point output marked a new women's basketball program record of points scored at the Robins Center, eclipsing the 115-point total against American, scored on Jan. 28, 2000.

Roussell had seven highly successful seasons at Bucknell, including a 102-30 (.773) mark over the final four years. He led Bucknell to six-straight winning seasons and four-straight years of 22 wins or more. The Bison's 102 wins from 2015-19 are the most in a four-year span in the history of the Patriot League and they also posted a 64-8 (.889) league record in that period.

During that time, Bucknell advanced to the postseason four-straight years with a pair of NCAA Tournament and WNIT appearances. Roussell guided Bucknell to a program-record 12-game winning streak in 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and a program-record 29-game home winning streak. His Bison teams posted a 84-20 (.807) record on their home court during his

seven-year tenure as head coach.

Roussell logged the most victories and highest winning percentage of any women's basketball coach in Chicago's 48-year history. He guided the Maroons to the only three University Athletic Association outright championships in program history. Two of those came in his last two seasons, both on perfect 14-0 league records. Roussell's Chicago teams made four NCAA Division III Tournament appearances and advanced to three Sweet Sixteen appearances and one Elite Eight showing.

Lindsay Edmonds led Rice to another NCAA tournament and is one of the leaders out of the barn for the job in Blacksburg.

In just her second season as head coach, the 2022-23 Owls had a historic season finishing with a 23-9 (13-7 C-USA) record. Rice had the best start in program history at 9-0 featuring back-to-back wins over Power 5 opponents at Texas A&M and against TCU. The Owls also earned their first postseason appearance and win under Edmonds in the 2023 WNIT against BYU.

In total, Rice defeated four current/future Power 5 schools on the season (Texas A&M, TCU, Houston, BYU).

She served as an assistant coach at N.C. State from 2013-18, adding Recruiting Coordinator duties in 2018, before being elevated to associate head coach prior to the start of the 2019-20 campaign.

Prior to her move to NC State, Edmonds was an assistant coach at James Madison University from 2009-13. In her four seasons with the Dukes (as an assistant to some coach named Kenny Brooks), the team won two Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) championships, played in two NCAA Tournaments, and made two WNIT appearances, and her first collegiate coaching stop came at her alma mater, Appalachian State, from 2007-09.

Edmonds (then Lindsay Smith) was a four-year starter and 1,000 point scorer at Appalachian State. She holds the school record for career three-pointers (177) and was a team co-captain in her final two seasons. She led the Mountaineers in assists during her junior and senior years.

Brooks apparently mentioned her name as he exited the door.

Tech Athletic Director Whit Babcock has done a great job in the past to find the diamond in the rough. One more time.